

Research Briefing

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Accessing higher education in the UK's Overseas Territories



Summary

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- 2 Territory and UK roles in education
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- 4 Overview: University provision, attendance and scholarships
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Summary

There are 14 UK Overseas Territories (OTs) across the globe, of which 10 are permanently inhabited by British nationals. [They have a collective population of around 270,000](#), of whom around 27% are aged under 24 (73,500).

As predominately small island communities, access to wide-ranging education and professional development in each Territory can be limited, particularly in access to higher education. This affects economic development, attempts to diversify OT economies away from one or two economic sectors, and the retention of young people and a skilled workforce.

This briefing paper describes the education systems in the Territories, the provision of higher education facilities, and access of Territory inhabitants to UK-based higher education institutions. It does not consider related issues, such as access to vocational education or life-long learning.

Territories are responsible for education

As UK Overseas Territories, the [UK Government has responsibility for their defence and managing external relations](#). Most other issues are generally devolved to locally elected Territory Governments and UK-appointed Governors. This includes immigration policy, the environment, and social policy including health and education (though the UK can provide support).

For more on the UK responsibilities towards the Territories and the role of Governors, see the Commons Library research briefings on [The UK OTs and their Governors](#) and the [UK OTs: An introduction](#).

Either under Territory constitutions or local legislation, education is compulsory in all Territories, generally between the ages of 5 and 17/18. While government schools are free, the private sector does play a significant role in provision at the primary level in several Territories. This partly reflects budget pressures on delivering education in small communities.

Challenges and benefits to establishing universities in the Territories

A 2011 study for the Commonwealth Secretariat [on delivering education in small states](#) (PDF) notes that while education providers in small communities have benefitted from new technologies and the internet, there are still challenges to establishing higher education bodies within them. These include:

- requirements for teachers and professionals to be more multifunctional than in larger polities
- accessing sufficient finance
- enrolling enough students to ensure the institutions are financially sustainable (given the small populations of the community)
- the potential for mobile and skilled populations to move away once qualified
- adapting educational curricula designed for large states to the needs of local communities.

Benefits of establishing higher education institutions include increased retention or attraction of a younger and skilled workforce, economic diversification, protection and awareness of local cultures and identities, and development of skills appropriate to local contexts.

Higher education provision in the OTs

There are a total of 14 universities across seven Territories.

The three inhabited Territories with no local provision are those with the smallest populations: The Falkland Islands, Pitcairn, and St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha (though Montserrat, with access to two institutions, has a similar population to the Falklands).

The Cayman Islands has the greatest number of providers, at six, followed by the Turks and Caicos Islands, at five. The [University of the West Indies](#) (UWI) operates in six Overseas Territories in the Caribbean/North Atlantic through its Open Campus. However, [in 2021/22, the number of OT students at the UWI Open Campus varied](#), from around 5 for Bermuda to 290 for Montserrat.

Common courses in OT higher education are management, law, business, health, the environment, and education. Four institutions ([two](#) in [Anguilla](#), and one in [the Cayman Islands](#), and [Montserrat](#)) specialise on medicine/health, and one each on [law](#) and [theology](#) (in the Cayman Islands).

Where do Territory students study?

There is no systematic data on where students from the Territories study. Caribbean, North American and UK institutions are the primary destinations for students from the Caribbean. For other OTs, the UK is the major or only university destination.

In academic year 2021/22 [there were just over 2,200 students from the OTs studying at UK universities](#): 80% were studying at the undergraduate level. In the UWI, [there were around 600 students from the OTs in 2021/22](#).

OT Government scholarships

All Territory Governments aside from St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha provide formal scholarships for “belongers” (Gibraltar also provides scholarships for EU and UK nationals, and St Helena does provide some other financial support). [“Belongership” is a separate status to nationality or citizenship](#) and is generally associated with being assessed as “sufficiently indigenous” to a Territory, being granted the status by residing in the OT for a set length of time or marrying a believer.

Scholarships generally provide sufficient funds to meet tuition fees and living costs.

The rate of which students return to the Territory once studying overseas varies. While this is a reported issue in some, such as St Helena, [other Territory officials note a higher rate of return](#).

In response to these concerns, for 5 of the 9 Territory Government scholarships offered, students sign what is termed a “bond” on accepting it. This means they commit to return to the Territory once their studies have completed. This is primarily to work for the public sector for a set period but can also include the private sector in some.

Access to UK institutions

Within the UK, higher education is a devolved matter. This means each part of the UK publishes its own regulations relating to tuition fees.

Generally, to qualify for ‘home’ tuition fee status and the lowest level of tuition fees, students must be resident and ‘settled’ in the UK on ‘the first day of the first academic year’ of their course and must generally also have been ‘ordinarily resident’ in the UK for the three years before that date.

Across the UK, however, there are arrangements in place that allow students from the OTs to pay lower levels of tuition fees when studying in the UK. For example, at undergraduate level in England, [OT students are eligible for home fee status if they have:](#)

- [settled status when in the UK;](#)
- Been ordinarily resident in the UK, the Islands, or the specified OT throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- have been ordinarily resident in the specified OT for at least part of the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course

Details for other parts of the UK are set out in section 16 of this briefing paper.

People coming from the Overseas Territories to study in the UK will not need a visa if they are British citizens and hold a British passport. However, the UK Government [acknowledges challenges for those holding a British OT passport, and says it is seeking to resolve the issue.](#)

While Territory students are eligible for tuition fee loans in England, they do not currently have access to maintenance loans. In the May 2023 Joint Ministerial Council held between UK and Territory Governments, [Ministers “acknowledged a concern” in Territory ineligibility for maintenance loans.](#)

How this briefing is structured

This briefing paper covers four main themes.

Introduction and background to education in the OTs

- A background to the Overseas Territories, including Territory citizenship and UK Government responsibility towards the Territories (section 1)
- UK undertakings to support education in the OTs and legislative provision for primary and secondary education, as introduced by local governments and legislatures (section 2)

Delivering and arranging higher education in the OTs

- Discussion of the challenges in establishing universities in small communities, and the benefits of doing so (section 3.1)
- Debate on the “brain drain” of students from the Territories and small island communities to larger states, and the response of Territory Governments to this potential challenge (section 3.2)

Higher education provision in the Overseas Territories

- A high-level summary of higher education provision in the inhabited Territories, OT student destinations (including the UK), and high-level summary of scholarships available from Territory Governments to support university study overseas (section 4)
- Discussion of provision in each inhabited Territory (sections 6 to 15), including that of the University of the West Indies (section 5)

Territory access to UK universities

- Discussion of how OT students interact with the university system across the UK, including tuition fee levels, eligibility for funding and scholarships, and visas (section 16).

1

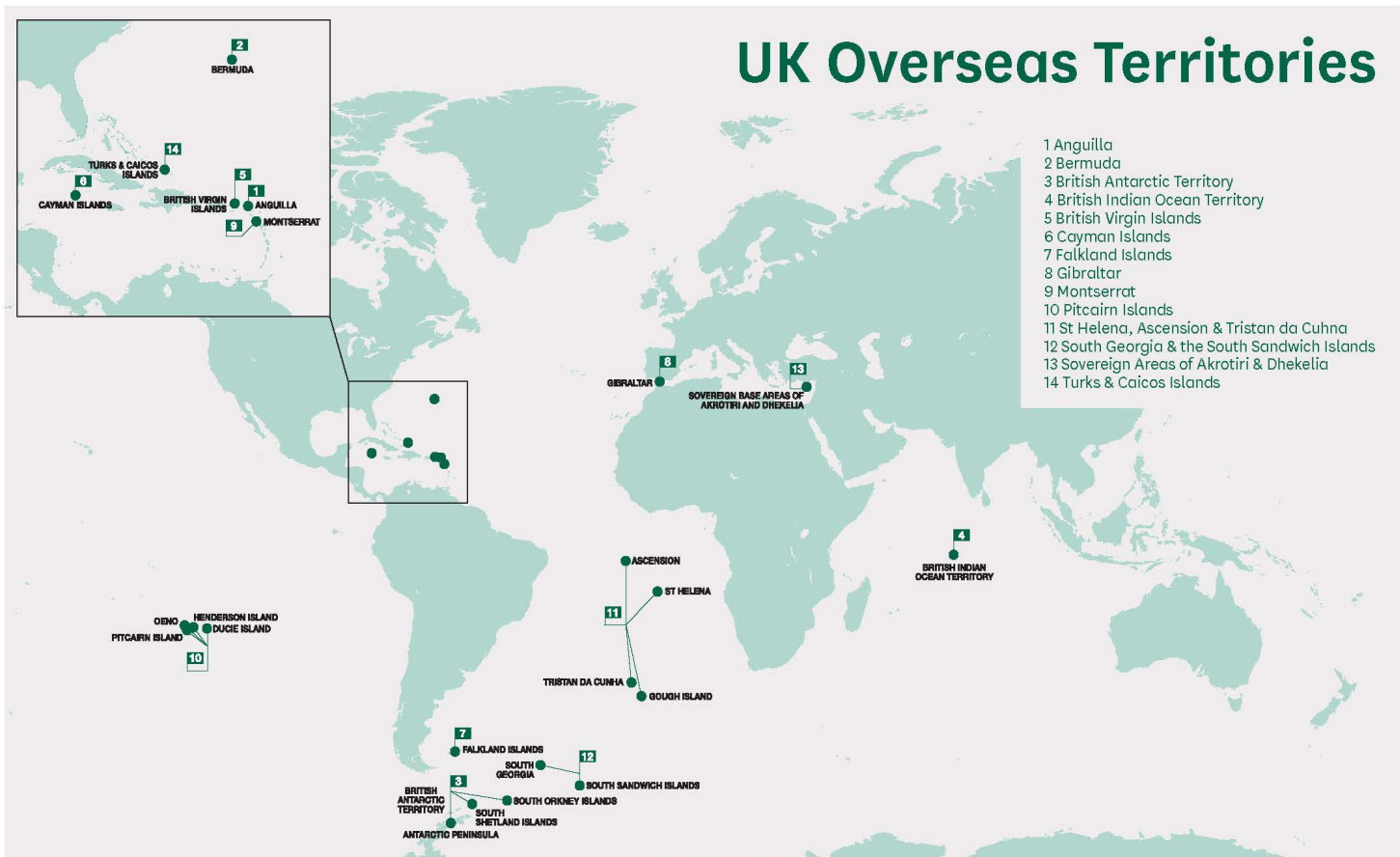
Background: The UK's OTs

There are 14 UK Overseas Territories (OT) across the globe, of which 10 are permanently inhabited by British nationals. All the Territories have historic links to the UK and, together with the UK and Crown Dependencies like Jersey and Guernsey, form one undivided realm where the King is sovereign. This means they have no separate international representation.

The Territories also have no representatives in the UK Parliament.

The Commons Library briefing, [The UK OTs: An introduction](#), provides an overview of the Territories and their relationship with the UK.

Aside from Gibraltar, the Antarctic Territories, and the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus, they are all small islands or archipelagos. The following map shows their position.



Map adapted from 'Overseas Territories Security, Success and Sustainability', Foreign and Commonwealth Office, June 2019, Cm 8374, 21 November 2019

Population and age profile

The ten inhabited OTs have a population of 270,000 (2021).

Akrotiri and Dhekelia (Cyprus) has a resident population of 12,000 Cypriots and 4,000 UK service personnel.¹

Pitcairn is the populated Territory with the smallest population of 40 people, while the Cayman Islands and Bermuda have the largest.

Around 16% people in the Territories are under the age of 15 (44,000 people in total) and 27% under the age of 24 (around 73,500).

Aside from Pitcairn, which currently has no school-age children, the lowest proportion of under-24s are found in St Helena (22% of the 2021 population) and the highest in Montserrat (around 31% of the population).

The Overseas Territories: UN estimates of population, 2021

Territory	Population under 15	Population under 24	Total population
Mediterranean			
Gibraltar	5,600 (17%)	9,400 (28%)	33,000
Caribbean/North Atlantic			
Anguilla	2,800 (17%)	4,500 (28%)	16,000
Bermuda	9,800 (15%)	16,500 (26%)	64,000
British Virgin Islands	4,700 (15%)	9,000 (29%)	31,000
Cayman Islands	11,300 (17%)	17,800 (26%)	68,000
Montserrat	600 (15%)	1,200 (31%)	4,000
Turks and Caicos Islands	7,600 (16%)	13,000 (27%)	45,000
South Atlantic			
Falkland Islands	700 (17%)	1,100 (27%)	4,000
St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	750 (15%)	1,100 (22%)	5,000
Pacific Ocean			
Pitcairn	No school-age children	No data	circa. 40

Note: figures rounded to nearest 50 (except Pitcairn).

Source: UN Population division, [Data portal: Population by sex](#), accessed 16 March 2023 and Pitcairn Immigration, [Life on Pitcairn](#)

¹ Strategic Command, [Overseas bases in focus: Cyprus](#), 9 February 2021. All sources in this section accessed 16 March 2022.

“Belongership” and access to Territory Government scholarships for higher education

While British citizenship is determined in UK legislation, [local immigration and “belonger status”](#) is determined locally by Territory constitutions or laws.²

This is a separate status to nationality or citizenship as no Territory has this. Belongership is generally associated with being assessed as “sufficiently indigenous” to a Territory or being granted the status by residing in the OT for a set length of time or marrying a believer.

Despite opposition from the [Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in its 2019 report on the Territories](#), Territory Governments have defended the status as a means to maintain community cohesion and their distinct identities.³

In most Territories, believer status is required in order to register to vote. It is also a requirement to access many of the scholarship schemes provided by Territory Governments to support study in higher education institutions, set out in sections 4 and 6 to 15, below.

This means those considering university who reside in an OT but do not have believer status are ineligible for funding from Territory government scholarship schemes.

The proportion of the population with believer status in many Territories is uncertain but can be as low as a third of the population.

Further reading on the Overseas Territories

- Commons Library, [The UK Overseas Territories: An introduction and relations with the UK](#). Provides an overview of the Territories and UK responsibilities.
- Commons Library, [Aid to the UK Overseas Territories](#). Three Territories—Pitcairn, Montserrat, and St Helena and Tristan da Cunha receive budgetary aid from the UK.

² This section is taken from Commons Library, [The UK OTs: An introduction and relations with the UK](#), section 3.3

³ Foreign Affairs Committee, [Global Britain and the British OTs: Resetting the relationship](#), February 2019, para 67

2 Territory and UK roles in education

2.1 A responsibility of Territory Governments

The provision of education is a responsibility of elected Territory Governments, rather than the [UK or UK-appointed Governor](#), alongside related services such as local government, sport, health, and culture.⁴

However, as the administering power for the Territories, the UK has a responsibility under the [UN charter to promote their political, economic, social, and educational advancement](#).⁵

Three Territories—Montserrat, Pitcairn and St Helena and Tristan da Cunha (though not Ascension)—are [also in receipt of UK aid](#).⁶ In its 2012 White Paper on the Territories, [the UK Government said education was a “priority” for aid assistance](#). This included teacher training, UK-Territory partnerships, and related infrastructure improvements, such as schools and internet access.⁷

2.2 UK-OT undertakings

In its 2012 [White Paper on the Overseas Territories](#), the UK Government said it and Territory governments shared a vision of “well-educated societies,” rising standards of educational achievement, and closing the achievement gap between rich and poor in Territory schools.⁸

The UK Government White Paper notes that in the 2011 consultation that preceded it, education was identified as “one of the main areas where the UK could provide further assistance to the Territories.”⁹

In 2012, the [UK Department for Education \(DfE\) published its “offer” to the Overseas Territories](#). This said Territories could contact the Department to request support such as technical advice, training information, voluntary inspection of British schools overseas, short-term secondments for Territory officials, and advice on the registration of independent schools and home

⁴ For UK/UK-appointed Governor responsibilities, see the Commons Library briefing on the [UK OTs and their Governors](#). Sources in this section accessed March 2023

⁵ Charter of the UN, [Chapter XI—Declaration regarding non-self governing territories](#), Article 73

⁶ Commons Library, [UK aid and the OTs](#)

⁷ UK Government, [The OTs White Paper](#), Cm 8374, June 2012, p66

⁸ As above, p66

⁹ As above, p66

education.¹⁰ The DfE says it does not currently provide support to universities located in the Territories (as of March 2023).¹¹

2.3

Right to primary and secondary education

Constitutional rights

The right to education appears in all but three Territory constitutions. It is absent in the two oldest constitutions: [Bermuda](#) (1968) and [Anguilla](#) (1982), as well as [Gibraltar](#) (2006). Most Territory constitutions also provide protections for private schools.

Only in Montserrat does the right to free education extend to both primary and secondary education. No constitution extends this right to tertiary level.

Additional rights in legislation

All Territory legislation provides for a compulsory school age, generally from the age of 5 to 17 or 18. Gibraltar has the lowest compulsory leaving age, at 15 (though legislation allows a Minister to increase this to 16). Further details are set out in the table on the following page.

Most Territory constitutions or legislation also provide for free tuition in public/government schools.

While education is free in the Cayman Islands in public schools, its constitution only requires the Government to provide this “within available resources.”¹² The right to receive schooling appropriate to an individual’s needs is also “subject to available resources” in British Virgin Islands law.¹³

Private education in the Overseas Territories

The private sector plays an important role in the provision of early years and primary education in many OTs, partly reflecting wider budget pressures.

For example, around half of school-age children attend private schools in the Cayman Islands (2021 data) and 40% in Montserrat primary schools (2014 data). Over half of education institutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands are in the private sector.¹⁴ This is a similar situation to many small island states, where 60% of pre-primary enrolment was in the private sector (2012).¹⁵

¹⁰ UK Department for Education, [British OTs: Department for Education support](#), December 2015

¹¹ PQ 153712 [[Universities: British OTs](#)], 7 March 2023

¹² [The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009](#), Part 1, Paragraph 20

¹³ [Virgin Islands Education Act 2004](#), section 15

¹⁴ Government of the Cayman Islands Economics and Statistics Office, [2021 population and housing census report: Education](#), Section 1.4; Montserrat Department of Education, [Statistical digest](#) (PDF), 2014, p2; Turks and Caicos Islands Government, [Education statistics digest 2017-2018](#), 2018, p10

¹⁵ UNESCO, [Small island developing states overview](#), 2015, p2

Constitutional and legal rights to primary and secondary education in the Territories

Territory	Constitutional rights	Additional rights in legislation
Anguilla	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory from ages 5 to 17 • Tuition is free
Bermuda	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16, and parents have a duty to arrange this • Every child has the right to free education from primary to senior school level (5 to 19)
British Virgin Islands	Each child is entitled to free primary school education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory from ages 5 to 16 • There are no charges to attend public schools
Cayman Islands	The Government is required to “achieve the progressive realisation, within available resources, of providing every child with primary and secondary education” which is free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory from ages 5 to 17
Falkland Islands	Children are entitled to free primary school education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 to 16 • Parents have a duty to ensure their child receives education • Public schooling is free
Gibraltar	No right but does set out a protections for private schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between ages 5 and 15 • No fees are chargeable for Government schools
Montserrat	Provides the right to primary and secondary school education for free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16 • Legislation reemphasises that no tuition fees are payable in public schools
Pitcairn	Right for children to receive free primary school education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no published education/schools legislation, though local policy states education is compulsory from the ages of 5 to 16 years of age
St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	Children are entitled to free primary education in all three parts of the Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 to 16 • Public schooling is free
Turks and Caicos Islands	Every child has the right to free primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is compulsory between ages of 4 to 16

Sources for the preceding table:

Constitutions: [Anguilla Constitution Order 1982](#); [Bermuda Constitution Order 1968](#); [The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007](#), Chapter 2, Article 22; [The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009](#), Part 1, Paragraph 20, [Falkland Islands Constitution Order 2008](#), Chapter 1, Paragraph 12; [Gibraltar Constitution Order 2006](#), Section 12; [Montserrat Constitution Order 2010](#), Part 1, Article 12; [Pitcairn Constitution Order 2010](#), Part 2, Paragraph 17; [The St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009](#), Part 2, Paragraph 16 and Part 2, [Paragraph 198](#) and [Paragraph 132](#); [Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011](#), Part 1, Article 12.

Legislation (as amended): [Anguilla Education Act 2012](#), sections 106 and 117; [Bermuda Education Act 1996](#) (PDF), sections 40, 42 and 51 and [Bermuda Government school system](#); [Virgin Islands Education Act 2004](#), sections 17 and 28; [Cayman Education Law 2016](#) (PDF), sections 2 and 11; [Falklands Education Ordinance 1989](#), sections 17 and 19 and [Falkland Islands community school](#); [Gibraltar Education and Training Act 1974](#), sections 49 and 73; [Montserrat Education Act 2009](#) (PDF), sections 15 and 26; Pitcairn, [Government of Pitcairn education policy](#) and [Pitcairn laws](#); [St Helena Education Ordinance 2008](#) (PDF), as amended, sections 34 and 44; [Turks and Caicos Education Ordinance 1989](#), sections 40

Further information on primary and secondary education in the OTs

UNESCO (the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation) has published profiles of education in the Caribbean/North Atlantic Territories, and links to relevant legislation and policies:

1. [Anguilla](#)
2. [Bermuda](#)
3. [British Virgin Islands](#)
4. [Cayman Islands](#)
5. [Montserrat](#)
6. [Turks and Caicos Islands](#)

The University of Bristol's School of Education [held a seminar on education in the Overseas Territories](#) in January 2023.

3

Delivering education in small island communities

A shift towards a focus on post-16 education

Globally, around 1% of primary and secondary school children are educated in small island developing states (SIDS), which share many characteristics with the UK's Overseas Territories.¹⁶

Like many Commonwealth SIDS, in general the OTs have made significant advancements in increasing enrolment at primary and secondary level¹⁷ and gender parity in educational participation, as well as being aided by the growth of the internet and new technologies.

Much policy focus now lies on retention, quality and inclusion at all levels, and skills training beyond the age of 16.¹⁸

3.1

Establishing HE institutions: Challenges and benefits

The approach to higher education in small states

Analysis has [traditionally focused on higher education in more heavily populated states](#). Some small sovereign states such as Cyprus and Luxembourg also did not have universities until quite recently (in 1992 and 2003, respectively).

Small states have generally banded together to create regional institutions such as the University of the West Indies (created under British administration to support the Federation of the West Indies—see below, section 5) and the University of the South Pacific (founded 1968).¹⁹

¹⁶ UNESCO, [Education in SIDS](#), April 2015, p1

¹⁷ See World Bank, [Enrolment, primary % gross](#) (Bermuda, Cayman, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, and The Turks and Caicos)

¹⁸ M. Crossely et al for the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Education in small states \(PDF\)](#), 2011, pxvii

¹⁹ G. Baldacchino, [The small state in higher education: A conceptual assessment](#), Teaching in higher education, 2011, vol 16, pp547-67

For Commonwealth states, collaboration includes the [Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth](#), established in 2004. This shares resources in 17 institutions across 12 Commonwealth countries.²⁰

Challenges

In 2009, Commonwealth education ministers commissioned a study into education in small state-members of the Commonwealth (defined as those with a population of less than 2 million). Anguilla and Montserrat, although not states or members of the Commonwealth in their own right, contributed to the report.²¹

While noting that the small size of communities can make them more reactive and adaptable than larger ones, and that the internet has played an important role in strengthening access to education, this report and others noted several challenges to delivering education in small communities:

- A demand for professionals, teachers, and providers to be more multifunctional than in larger polities, where specialisation is easier
- Access to finance (which is partly reflected in the high proportion of private schools at primary level) and achieving economies of scale
- General vulnerability to external shocks, undermining public finances and economies
- Mobile and skilled populations moving away from the state or Territory, potentially for career development or to find work.²²
- Creating and adapting educational curricula designed for large states to the needs of Territory communities and contexts and recruiting staff (often internationally) to do this.²³

Why establish higher education institutions?

Establishing higher education institutions can support:

- The retention or attraction of a younger and skilled workforce, leading to greater local ownership of development
- Economic diversification (many Territories are dominated by one or two economic sectors, such as tourism)

²⁰ Commonwealth of Learning, [Virtual university for small states of the Commonwealth](#). See also P. West and J. Daniel, [The virtual university for small states of the Commonwealth](#), Open Learning, 2009, volume 24, pp85-95

²¹ M. Crossely et al for the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Education in small states \(PDF\)](#), 2011, p1

²² As above, p5

²³ G. Baldacchino, [The small state in higher education: A conceptual assessment](#), Teaching in Higher Education, 2011, volume 16, pp457-67, at p463

- Further opportunities for global and regional connection and raising the profile of a state or Territory.
- Awareness of local culture and society through study
- Development of skills appropriate to local needs and context, rather than those developed for use in urbanised or larger states²⁴
- To address the education gap between “belongers” and non-belongers. Data suggests belongers are less likely to have degrees (see section 4.3).

3.2 Do students return from studying overseas?

The “brain drain”—the loss of skilled workers overseas—has been identified as a [challenge facing many small island communities](#).²⁵

Population movements are complex, and not driven solely by economic pull factors from the destination country. But academics have noted the dilemma facing many communities that as they “invest in education and more people receive higher education [this] becomes an incentive [...] to migrate.”²⁶

The vulnerability of small islands is linked to their susceptibility to external economic shocks or natural disasters, which disrupt their economies, and the relatively few opportunities for skilled workers in economies often dominated by one or two sectors, such as tourism. This affects the human resource capacity of the community and impacts on its future development (though workers can send remittances from overseas to support origin communities).

In a 2016 overview of the issue, the Inter-American Development Bank cited data that [estimated an average of 70% of the workforce educated to tertiary level \(eg university\) left 15 small states in the Caribbean from 1965 to 2000](#).²⁷

However, [some academics have also argued that “brain drain” is also complemented by “brain circulation,”](#) or return circulation, where individuals work abroad on only a temporary basis and return to share skills, technology, and capital.²⁸ How far this applies to the OTs is uncertain.

²⁴ The Conversation, [Seven ways universities benefit society](#), 11 August 2017 and G. Baldacchino, [The small state in higher education: A conceptual assessment](#), Teaching in Higher Education, 2011, volume 16, pp457-67, from p461

²⁵ Inter-American Development Bank, [Brain drain: A curse of small states?](#), 2016

²⁶ N. Johnson, [Analysis and assessment of the “brain drain” phenomenon and its effects in Caribbean countries](#) (PDF), Florida Atlantic Comparative Studies Journal, volume 11, 2008-9, pp1-16, at p11

²⁷ Inter-American Development Bank, [Brain drain: A curse of small states?](#), 2016. See also, The Voice, [Can the Caribbean end its brain drain?](#), February 2020

²⁸ G. Baldacchino, [The brain rotation and brain diffusion strategies of small islanders](#), [Globalisation, Societies and Education](#), volume 4, 2006, pp143-54; L. Dawson, [Brain drain, brain circulation: Remittances and development: Prospects for the Caribbean](#) (PDF) Caribbean Paper no 2, 2007

“Bonded” (or “conditional”) scholarships in the OTs

To address the potential for OT students funded by OT Governments to remain in the countries of their study, 5 of the 9 inhabited Territories providing scholarships require students to sign an undertaking to return to the Territory for a set period following completion of their degree. Following the end of this period, graduates are free to emigrate or find alternative employment (see below, section 4.3).

These scholarships are not unique to the OTs: a 2009 literature review found [around 70 countries had implemented some form of mandatory medical service for medical graduates](#). These primarily focused on an enforced period of service in an underserved or rural community.²⁹

Rate of return to the Overseas Territories

There is no systematic data on whether OT students who study overseas return, though for some data and reporting is suggestive that most students do return in the initial period after completing their studies.

In the case of the Falkland Islands, the rate of return has been estimated at between 50% (data for 2015-2020) and 75% (data for 2019-2023).³⁰ The loss of students overseas is not reportedly an issue for Tristan da Cunha or the British Virgin Islands, according to local officials.³¹

St Helena, however, has recently identified struggles in encouraging students to return to the Territory.³² In a 2013 emigration report following its 2010 census, Bermuda officials also identified the departure of young degree holders: Nearly half of emigrants aged 16 or over had a degree. This was double the proportion of degree holders in the Territory in the year 2000.³³

This may suggest that, in some Territories, following the period of compulsory return, many graduates do choose to leave, though this is uncertain. Academic studies on the effectiveness of bonding argue this is because the root causes of emigration, such as pay and career opportunities, remain.³⁴

²⁹ S. Frehywot et al, [Compulsory service programmes for recruiting health workers in remote and rural areas: Do they work?](#), Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2010, volume 88, pp364-70

³⁰ Falkland Islands Government, [A draft workforce development strategy for the Falkland Islands](#) (PDF), March 2023, p3; B. Greene/Department for Policy and Development, [Labour force development in the Falkland Islands: Summary report of the labour force development project](#) (PDF), 2020, para 2.5.1

³¹ Bristol University School of Education, [Education in the British OTs: Policy and practice](#), 25 January 2023. Contributions from President of H. Lavitty Stoutt Community College, BVI, Director of Education of the Falkland Islands and Tristan da Cunha. [Zoom replay and transcript](#).

³² Bristol University School of Education, [Education in the British OTs](#), 25 January 2023, at 01:17:00

³³ Government of Bermuda Statistics Office, [Emigration: Bermuda's qualified human capital departments](#) (PDF), January 2013, p7

³⁴ A. Gowda et al, [Stemming the brain drain of medical graduates from developing countries: Controversies and solutions](#), International Journal of Travel Medicine and Global Health, 2022, volume 10, pp104-7

4 **Overview: University provision, attendance and scholarships**

4.1 **Higher education institutions in the OT**

The following table on pages 23 to 24 summarises higher education provision in the Territories. The below provides analysis of the main features.

Further details and sources on the situation in each Territory is provided in sections 6 to 15.

Seven inhabited OTs have some local provision

Gibraltar and the six Caribbean/North Atlantic Territories all have providers of higher education. These are: Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

There are a total of 14 providers across these Territories.

The three inhabited Territories with no local university provision are: The Falkland Islands, Pitcairn, and St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha. These are also the smallest OTs, by size of population, though Montserrat has a similar population to the Falklands.

The UWI provides access in six Overseas Territories

The University of the West Indies (UWI) operates its Open Campus (one its five campuses) in six Overseas Territories in the Caribbean/North Atlantic (though it has no physical campus in Bermuda). It generally provides professional development and continuing education courses at the local level, but students can access degree-level programmes at the wider university via it.

In Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands the UWI Open Campus is the only university-level institution. Bermuda has the lowest enrolment among the Territories, at less than five students, and Montserrat the highest, at 290 (data for 2021/22).

In Montserrat, the UWI Open Campus is complemented by a specialist medical school. Anguilla also has two medical schools.

Around 600 OT students were enrolled at the UWI Open Campus in 2021/22. For more on the UWI, see section 5.

Cayman has the most university providers

The Cayman Islands has six registered university-level education providers. Of those four institutions with published data on university-level study, all see fewer than 100 graduates each year. Three providers offer a limited range of degrees, being respectively schools of law, medicine, and theology.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has the second largest number of providers, at five. Only four are shown in the below table, all of which provide a wide range of courses. There is limited information available on the fourth registered provider, TCIPS High School and College. A further registered provider, the School of Field Studies, is not included in the table as it provides one-semester courses for universities overseas.

Territory colleges may provide some introductory degree-level study

Post-16 providers in Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, and the Cayman Islands are among those to have expanded to provide some degree-level courses. These are focused on two-year associate degrees, with the intention of preparing students for three- or four-year undergraduate study overseas or at local institutions.

This briefing paper does not detail providers of qualifications below what are termed level six qualifications in the UK (level six being bachelor's degrees).³⁵

Local provision is often focused on a few courses

Common courses in OT higher education institutions focus on management, business, health, the environment, and education. Four institutions (two in Anguilla, and one in Cayman and Montserrat) focus on medicine/health, and one each on law and theology (both in the Cayman Islands).

The cost of local HE courses varies

The cost of undergraduate degrees varies across the Territories. Tuition fees can be as low as US\$3,000 per year (around £2,400). UWI tuition fees for a 3-year undergraduate course are around US\$10,800 (£8,600). The University of Gibraltar's are the same as in England (£9,250 per year).

Many students study overseas, rather than in the OTs

The numbers of Territory students studying at institutions within the OTs is uncertain, but many have fewer than 100 graduates a year. This compares to the 2,200 students studying in the UK in 2021/22 (see section 4.2).

Data on degree costs does not take account of any scholarships or bursaries

³⁵ Gov.UK, [What qualification levels mean](#)

Higher education provision in the Territories			
University	Courses provided locally	Student numbers	Tuition fees
Anguilla			
St James School of Medicine	Doctor of Medicine (MD)	1,000 (Anguilla & St Vincent and the Grenadines campuses)	US\$103,250 over whole MD course
University of the West Indies	Continuing and professional education	66 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course
American University of Anguilla School of Medicine	Basic science (MD)	No data	US\$35,000 over MD (Basic Science) course (not including clinical clerkships)
Global Humanistic University	BA to PhD in law, business and finance.	No data	US\$13,900 for undergraduate course
Bermuda			
University of the West Indies	No information	Less than 5 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course
British Virgin Islands			
University of the West Indies	Continuing and professional education	140 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course
Cayman Islands			
University College of the Cayman Islands	Social work, nursing, computing, education, business, social sciences	1,259 students (all levels, 2019/20)	KYD\$15,000 per year for Caymanian (US\$18,000) (2-4 years duration)
Truman Bodden Law School	Bachelor and Master of Law, postgraduate diploma in international finance	90 students each year	KYD\$18,000 for 3-year Bachelor of Law degree for Caymanian (US\$21,600)
International College of the Cayman Islands	BA and MA degrees include business, finance, management, health, and horticulture	26 graduates (including 17 Caymanians) in 2021	Yearly tuition ranges from KYD\$5,760 to KYD\$7,200 (US\$6,900-US\$8,600)
St Michael's University	Doctor of Medicine (MD); Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	Annual average of 77 graduates since 1997	US\$190,000 (MD, whole course)

University	Courses	Student numbers	Tuition fees
Cayman Islands (continued)			
Northwestern Caribbean Baptist theological seminary	BA General Studies and MA Theology	No data	US\$18,000 (whole BA course)
University of the West Indies	Continuing and professional education	100 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course
Gibraltar			
University of Gibraltar	Health, education, management, environment	473 graduates in 2021/22	£27,750 for 3-year undergraduate course (US\$34,500)
Montserrat			
University of Science, Arts and Technology	Medicine and related sciences	Around 20 (2018)	US\$66,000 for 4-year Doctor of Medicine course
University of the West Indies	No details	290 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course
Turks and Caicos Islands			
Turks and Caicos Community College	Bachelor's degrees in areas including business, education, tourism and hospitality, social work, and management	Bachelor of Science or Arts: 52 (2016/17)	US\$12,000 for 3-year undergraduate course
Charisma University	BA, MA and Doctorates in areas including business, finance, philosophy, psychology, law, education, and health	No data	Bachelor's degree payments are US\$300/month (equivalent of US\$3,600 per year)
TCIPS High School and College	No details	No data	No details
University of the West Indies	No details	Around 20 (2021/22)	US\$10,800 for 3-year undergraduate course

Notes: UWI: Cost figure based on a standard 90-credit undergraduate course and course information relates to its local Open Campus. Currency conversion: Cayman [based on \\$1.25 US Dollars to \\$1.00 Cayman Islands Dollar](#). Gibraltar on [US\\$ to UK£ at around US\\$1.20 to £1](#) Sources: see below, sections 6-15 for individual Territories.

4.2

How many OT students study in the UK?

In academic year 2021/22 there were just over 2,200 students from the OTs studying at UK universities. Their numbers are given below. All data are rounded to the nearest five which can make the numbers rather imprecise for those OTs with very small numbers of students in the UK.

Students from OTs are not concentrated in particular UK universities. Among the OTs with the most students in the UK, there were 85 students from Gibraltar at Liverpool John Moores University and 25 from Bermuda at the University of Kent.³⁶

The table shows that most OT students at UK universities were studying at undergraduate level; around 80% overall. The Higher Education Statistics Agency does not break down this data by subject of study.

Students from the Overseas Territories at UK higher education institutions, 2021/22			
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
Gibraltar	810	160	970
Bermuda	390	95	485
Cayman Islands	340	70	410
British Virgin Islands	95	65	160
Turks and Caicos Islands	70	20	90
Anguilla	25	10	35
Falkland Islands	25	10	35
Montserrat	15	5	20
St Helena and Tristan da Cunha	15	5	20
Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands	0	0	0
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	0	0	0

Source: HESA, [Non-UK domiciled HE students by HE provider and country of domicile 2014/15 to 2021/22](#)

The UK is the leading destination for OT students

An increasing number of Territory students attend universities in the UK: From 1997/98 to 2005/6, there were less than 50 entrants each year.³⁷

There is no systematic data on where Territory students study overseas.

³⁶ HESA, [Non-UK domiciled HE students by HE provider and country of domicile 2014/15 to 2021/22](#)

³⁷ HC Deb, [6 December 2007](#), c1373W

Students attending Territory universities from outside the OT are therefore important to the financial viability of local institutions: The University of Gibraltar, for example, told the House of Lords European Union Committee in 2017 that “the small pool of Gibraltar students” means [the university is “heavily reliant on international recruitment.”](#)³⁸

Leading university destinations for Territory students Based on correspondence/statements of Territory governments*

Anguilla	UK (around 50%), US (25%), Caribbean (25%) (data for 2008 to 2018)
Bermuda*	US, Canada, and the UK
British Virgin Islands	US, UK, Caribbean (including the UWI) and Canada
Cayman Islands	“Mostly” in UK, US, and Canada
Falklands	“Vast majority” in the UK
Gibraltar	“Majority” in the UK
Montserrat	Jamaica (around 50%), the UK (21%), Barbados (11%) (data for 2007/8 to 2021/22)
St Helena	UK only
<i>Incl.</i> Ascension	No data
<i>Incl.</i> Tristan da Cunha	No data
Turks and Caicos Islands	UK, US, Caribbean and Canada

Notes: Data generally relates to those in recipient of government scholarships. See appropriate sections of this briefing paper for further detail. No data/information for Pitcairn.

*Exception of Bermuda. Bermuda data refers to a survey of students attending Bermuda College only.

Sources: See below in this briefing paper, sections 6-15

³⁸ [Written evidence: University of Gibraltar, GLT0006](#), 17 January 2017

4.3

Proportion of the OT population with university or tertiary level education

In the 2021 census for England and Wales, the highest qualification held by 34% of people was a higher education qualification.³⁹

There is no single set of statistics on the proportion of OT inhabitants who have completed university education. Data is instead collected by local censuses. The below figures should not be compared directly.

Tertiary education is a general term covering post-secondary education and refers to education in both non-university and university settings.

In several Territories, including Anguilla, Bermuda, Montserrat and the Falklands, more women have university-level qualifications than men.⁴⁰ In Territories where data is available, a greater proportion of non-belongers also had degree-level or tertiary qualifications (see below bullet-points). There is no data for Pitcairn.

- **Anguilla:** Proportion completing tertiary education: 27% (2005).⁴¹
- **Bermuda:** 36% of the population aged 25 to 64 have a university degree (2016). 52% of non-Bermudians had a university degree, compared to 30% of Bermudians.⁴²
- **British Virgin Islands:** Of those that completed education, 10% had a Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD (or similar) qualification in 2010. A slightly higher proportion of those born overseas had these qualifications: 12% versus 9%.⁴³
- **Cayman Islands:** Proportion of the working-age population who attended college/university: 30% (2021). This included 24% of Caymanians and 36% of non-Caymanians.⁴⁴

³⁹ Commons Library, [Educational qualifications, 2021 census](#), February 2023. This includes all Level 4 qualifications and above: degree (BA, BSc), higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ level 4 to 5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy). HNC and HND are higher education qualifications below degree level.

⁴⁰ See Anguilla Statistics Department, [Adult tertiary needs survey 2005](#) (PDF), 2005, p8; Bermuda Government, [2016 population and housing education brief](#), 2016, p2; Statistics Department Montserrat, [Labour force census 2018](#), 2018, p26 and Falkland Islands Census, [2016 census report](#) (PDF), 2016, ppxii

⁴¹ Anguilla Statistics Department, [Adult tertiary needs survey 2005](#) (PDF), 2005, p8

⁴² Bermuda Government, [2016 population and housing education brief](#), 2016, pp5, 8

⁴³ British Virgin Islands Government, [Virgin Islands 2010 population and housing census report](#) (PDF), Tables 130 and 132

⁴⁴ Cayman Government Economics and Statistics Office, [2021 population and housing census report: Education](#), p31

- **Falkland Islands:** Proportion with tertiary education: 19% (2016). Around 15% of those with Falkland Islands status or Permanent Residence Permit had completed tertiary education, compared to 30% of those holding work permits for the Territory or their dependents in 2016.⁴⁵
- **Gibraltar:** Proportion with a degree, professional qualification, or national vocational qualifications: 18% (2012). Around 17% of Gibraltarians had a degree or similar qualification, compared to 28% of other Britons in the Territory in 2012.⁴⁶
- **Montserrat:** Proportion of the population aged over 25 completing a university-level of education: 21% (2018).⁴⁷
- **St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha:** Proportion of post-secondary school population with a Bachelor's degree or above in St Helena: 6.6% (2021). This was the case for 3.7% of the 3,400 St Helenians and 46% of the 245 non-St Helenians.⁴⁸
- **Turks and Caicos Islands:** Of those that had completed education, 8% had a Bachelor/Graduate/Professional degree (2012). 24% of non-belongers had completed some post-secondary education, compared to 20% of belongers.⁴⁹

4.4

Overview of scholarships in the OTs

The table on page 29 provides a summary of scholarship provision for undergraduate study arranged by OT Governments. This page provides analysis of the main trends. Further information on each Territory scheme can be found in sections 6 to 15 of this briefing.

Almost all OTs provide scholarships for belongers

All inhabited Territories aside from St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha provide some degree of scholarship support to help those considered “belongers”/Islanders to study overseas at universities (for belongership, see above, section 1, page 12). St Helena instead provides small stipend for some maintenance/living costs. Gibraltar provides funding to UK and EU nationals, if they have studied in the Territory.

⁴⁵ Falkland Islands Census, [2016 census report](#) (PDF), 2016, ppxii, xxi

⁴⁶ Gibraltar Government, [Census 2012](#), table 1.18 and table 1.21 Defined as those with a Degree (BA, BSc, LLB), Higher Degree (MA, PhD), NVQ Levels 4-5, HNC, HND, Professional qualifications (eg teaching, nursing, accountancy)

⁴⁷ Statistics Department Montserrat, [Labour force census 2018](#), 2018, p26

⁴⁸ St Helena [Population Census 2021](#), 2021, B17 (based on 244 people with a Bachelor's degree or above and post-secondary population of 3,699)

⁴⁹ Turks and Caicos Government Statistics Department, [2012 population census and housing](#), 2012, Table 3.2.7

There are no details on the scheme provided in Pitcairn.

In addition to being a “belonger” and having recently studied in the Territory, eligible scholarship candidates must also meet certain academic criteria. These are not detailed in the below table or briefing paper.

Generally, prospective applicants must also be applying for subject areas deemed “priorities” by Territory Governments. These vary between the Territories but include areas such as health, management, and education.

Scholarships meet the costs of tuition and maintenance

The level of financial support provided by the Territory governments vary, but in general they are intended to meet the costs of tuition and living costs in UK, Caribbean, or North American universities. Students are also often entitled to one return trip to the Territory each year under these funding arrangements.

Around half of schemes require students to return

In 5 of the 9 areas with scholarships, students sign what is termed a “bond” on accepting a scholarship, meaning they commit to return to the Territory once their studies have completed. This is primarily to work for the public sector for a set period but can also include the private sector in some (such as the British Virgin Islands).

Territory Government scholarships and financial support for undergraduate study				
	Scholarship title	Eligibility	Annual funding	Bonded?
Anguilla	Anguilla Island scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Studied for in OT for 3 years 	Determined annually	✓
Bermuda	7 types including Government scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Studied in OT for 5 years 	Up to BMD\$35,000 a year for up to 4 years (US\$35,000)	X
British Virgin Islands	Virgin Island scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Resident for previous 5 years 	Up to US\$20,000 a year for up to 4 years (standard degree)	✓
Cayman Islands	Overseas scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander 	KYD\$30,000 a year for up to 4 years (US\$36,000)	✓
Falkland Islands	Higher Education funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Resident for 12 months 	£22,000 a year for 3 years or more (US\$27,500)	X

	Scholarship title	Eligibility	Annual funding	Bonded?
Gibraltar	Scholarships School award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK or EU national Studied in OT/UK 	UK tuition fees and maintenance grant	X
Montserrat	Montserrat Island scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Studied in OT for 3 years 	Determined annually	✓
Pitcairn	Untitled	No data	No data	No data
St Helena	None		Some maintenance stipends Students expected to apply for tuition fee loan from Student Finance England	N/A
<i>Incl.</i> Ascension	None			N/A
<i>Incl.</i> Tristan da Cunha	None			N/A
Turks and Caicos Islands	National education financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islander Worked/ studied in the OT 	Up to US\$35,000 a year for length of degree	✓

Sources: Sections 6 to 15, below, for information on each Territory scheme.

5

The University of the West Indies

Background: The creation of the UWI

The University of the West Indies (UWI) was founded in 1948 as The University College of the West Indies, in Jamaica. It initially granted University of London degrees.⁵⁰

The college gained independent university status in 1962. This followed the dissolution of the West Indies Federation (1958-62) and when Jamaica became an independent Commonwealth state.⁵¹

The UWI was created following the Asquith Commission that published its [Report on Higher Education in the Colonies](#) (PDF) in 1945, which noted that higher education in the region was open to only a “select few” due to the need to travel overseas and despite the “high standard” of many schools.⁵²

The UWI supports six OTs in the Caribbean

The University of the West Indies provides higher education in six Overseas Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.⁵³

In 2021/22, there were around 600 OT students enrolled at the UWI open campus, and 106 OT graduates (see section 5.1, below)

The Open Campus

The UWI is formed of five campuses, including the Open Campus. It is this that which has a physical presence in five of the six Territories (not Bermuda).⁵⁴

⁵⁰ Clover, D, [Special relations: The University of London and the University College of the West Indies](#) (PDF), 2012, p5. Sources in this section accessed 28 March 2023.

⁵¹ UWI, [Timeline](#)

⁵² [Report of the commission on higher education in the colonies](#) (PDF), Cm 6647, 1945, p94

⁵³ UWI, [Open campus](#)

⁵⁴ UWI, [Campuses](#)

The Open Campus is an online institution and has around 16,500 students enrolled across the region (2020 data).⁵⁵

The Campus also works in 11 Commonwealth states, including Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.⁵⁶

Courses

Local courses in the Territories primarily focus on continuing and professional development. This includes in topics such as finance, social care, healthcare, business, education, and languages.⁵⁷

The UWI provides around 400 programmes in total, including a wide range of degree-level courses across the sciences and humanities.⁵⁸

Fees and access

A [range of tuition fees are payable](#), dependent upon the course and length of study. A three-credit cost at undergraduate level is around US\$360.⁵⁹

Most undergraduate degrees require around 90 credits (30 courses), or US\$10,800. This does not take account of any financial support available.

5.1

OT student attendance

OT enrolment in continuing and professional education

In 2021/22, there were 12,300 students enrolled across the region in the Open campus. This included around 600 students from the OTs:

- Anguilla: 66 students
- Bermuda: less than 5
- British Virgin Islands: 140 students
- Cayman Islands: Around 100 students
- Montserrat: 290 students

⁵⁵ UWI, [About the UWI, Open campus](#)

⁵⁶ UWI, [Open campus](#)

⁵⁷ UWI, [Open campus in Anguilla](#); [Open campus in BVI](#), [Open campus in Cayman Islands](#); [Open campus in Montserrat](#); [Open campus in Turks and Caicos Islands](#) (no page for Bermuda).

⁵⁸ UWI, [Open campus: Find your course](#)

⁵⁹ UWI, [Tuition and other fees 2020/21](#)

- Turks and Caicos Islands: Around 20.⁶⁰

Overseas Territory graduates from the UWI

In 2021/22, there were around 1,060 graduates from all Open Campus countries and Territories. This was up from around 800 in the previous three years. This broke down as follows for the OTs.

OT graduates from the UWI open campus			
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Anguilla	-	-	50
British Virgin Islands	9	7	7
Cayman Islands	11	7	26
Montserrat	5	6	7
Turks and Caicos	4	9	6
Total	29	29	106

Sources: UWI, [Open campus annual report 2020-2021](#), p77, 2021, and [Open campus annual report 2021-22](#), 2022, p85

⁶⁰ UWI, [Open campus annual report 2021-22](#), 2022, p89

6 Anguilla

Education structure and summary

- **Primary and secondary school pupils:** There are around 1,460 students in the primary system and 1,062 in the secondary system.⁶¹
- **Schools:** There are six government primary schools and one secondary school, alongside several pre-schools operated by local churches.⁶²
- **Post-16 education:** Provided by [Anguilla community college](#). This provides some associate degrees, such as in education.⁶³
- **Universities:** The UWI, St James School of Medicine, American University of Anguilla School of Medicine, and Global Humanistic University.
- **Scholarships:** The value of the Anguilla Island Scholarship is determined annually. Under the terms of the scholarship, students are required to return on completion of their degree.

6.1 HE providers

1) University of the West Indies

The University of the West Indies (UWI) operates one of its Open Campus sites in Anguilla: see section 5 of this briefing paper for more. Locally, it provides courses in continuing and professional education, including management, finance, languages, social care, health, and business.⁶⁴

⁶¹ Government of Anguilla, Department for Education, [Schools](#). Sources accessed 29 March 2023

⁶² As above

⁶³ Anguilla Community College, [Courses](#)

⁶⁴ UWI, [Anguilla: Open campus](#)

2) Saint James School of Medicine

Saint James School of Medicine is a private medical school headquartered in Illinois, in the United States. It [has two campuses in the Caribbean](#): In Anguilla and St Vincent and the Grenadines.⁶⁵

What courses does it provide?

Students graduate with a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.⁶⁶

What are the costs?

Tuition per semester is around US\$10,150 for the basic science programme (the MD program is ten semesters). Based on this, standard total tuition and enrolment costs are around US\$103,250.⁶⁷

Attendance

There are currently 1,000 students across the two St James campuses.⁶⁸

3) American University of Anguilla School of Medicine

What courses does it provide?

Students graduate with a Basic Science (MD) degree.⁶⁹

What are the costs?

Tuition per semester is around US\$7,000 for the basic science programme (the MD Basic Science program is five semesters). Based on this, standard total tuition costs are around US\$35,000. To graduate with a MD degree, individuals must also complete 76 weeks of approved clinical clerkships/rotation and other requirements (not included in these figures).⁷⁰

⁶⁵ Saint James School of Medicine, [Our history and mission](#)

⁶⁶ Saint James School of Medicine, [MD program](#)

⁶⁷ Saint James School of Medicine, [Tuition fee](#)

⁶⁸ Saint James School of Medicine, [Our history and mission](#)

⁶⁹ American University of Anguilla School of Medicine, [\(MD\) Basic science programs; Graduation requirements](#)

⁷⁰ As above and American University of Anguilla School of Medicine, [Tuition and fees](#)

4) Global Humanistic University

What courses does it provide?

The University is a private provider of part-time online study programs. Its main offices are in Anguilla and in Curaçao. In Anguilla, the University has the power to grant Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees in business administration, finance, and law. This includes some fully online courses, such as Bachelor of Science.⁷¹

What are the costs?

A Bachelor of Science programme covers six semesters and costs US\$13,900.⁷²

6.2

University destinations

Anguilla Government data

Data provided by the Government of Anguilla shows that from 2008 to 2018 that the leading destinations for the 159 students in recipient of Island scholarships were the UK, the United States, and the Caribbean region, including Jamaica and the UWI Open Campus.

Country/Territory of study of Anguillan scholarship students, 2008 to 2018	
United Kingdom	67 (42%)
United States	39 (25%)
Other (Caribbean)	27 (17%)
Jamaica	12 (8%)
Canada	7 (4%)
Online/Distance*	6 (4%)

Notes:

*online/distance will be based at an institution overseas

Other (Caribbean) includes the UWI, Antigua, Barbados, St Kitts, St Lucia, Trinidad and the US Virgin Islands.

One location is unspecified

Source: Correspondence from the Government of Anguilla, 20 April 2023

⁷¹ Global Humanistic University, [‘About’](#); [Official letter from Anguilla Higher Education licencing board](#) and [Explore our programmes](#)

⁷² Global Humanistic University, [Bachelor of Science \(BSc\)](#)

Student in receipt of scholarships studied a range of subjects between 2008 and 2018:

- **Health:** Including medicine, nursing, public health and social care
- **Finance and Business:** Including accounting, human resource management, hospitality management
- **Education**
- **Environment and planning:** Including environmental health, construction, surveying, civil engineering,
- **Law.**⁷³

Survey of intentions of students to study overseas

Data from a [2004 survey of students at Anguilla's Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School](#) suggested that around 46% intended to study overseas upon completion of their initial college study, and 61% intended to return to Anguilla after completion of their study.⁷⁴

However, the survey of those that had left high school found that only around 7% of recent leavers had studied overseas.⁷⁵ Of the 16% of school leavers that were studying at the time of the survey (26 people), they were attending courses in the humanities, hospitality, commerce, computer science, and health. This data includes those studying both in Anguilla and overseas.⁷⁶

6.3

Support for HE study overseas

Commitment to provide scholarships

Section 9 of [The Anguillan Education Act 2011](#), as amended, provides for scholarships to study overseas.

Funding and eligibility for Anguilla Island scholarships

Anguilla Island scholarships are tenable at the University of the West Indies or any other institution approved of by the Anguillan Executive Council (Cabinet). The Council determines the number of scholarships to be awarded each year, and their value.⁷⁷

⁷³ Correspondence from the Government of Anguilla, 20 April 2023

⁷⁴ Anguilla Statistics Department, [Tertiary education survey report](#), 2004, pp11, 13

⁷⁵ As above, p15

⁷⁶ As above, p18

⁷⁷ [Anguilla Education Act 2011](#), as amended, sections 167-168

To be eligible, a student must have studied in Anguilla in the previous three years and is considered a “belonger” under the Anguillan constitution.⁷⁸

Scholarships are tenable for three to seven years.⁷⁹

Required to sign a bond to return

Those in recipient of scholarships must sign a bond to return to Anguilla for a period of at least four years if the individual is offered an appointment appropriate to their qualifications in the public service of Anguilla.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ [Anguilla Education Act 2011](#), as amended, section 169

⁷⁹ As above, section 168

⁸⁰ As above, section 173

7

Bermuda

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and middle school pupils:** There are around 2,400 primary school aged-children, 950 at middle schools, and 1,200 in senior school. There is a total student population of 5,000 (2021).⁸¹
- **Schools:** 18 elementary schools, five middle schools and two high schools.⁸²
- **Post-secondary education:** Provided by Bermuda college. It provides some two-year associate degrees and related programmes to support student transition to university study overseas.⁸³
- **University:** UWI Open Campus (though it has no physical presence).
- **Scholarships:** The Government provides seven scholarships. This includes the Bermuda Government scholarship for BMD\$35,000 for up to four years of undergraduate study. Students are not required to return.

7.1

HE provision

UWI Open Campus

Bermuda is part of the UWI Open Campus but does not host a physical campus. Students are eligible for subsidised rates of tuition fees.⁸⁴

There are no published details on courses specific to Bermuda. Section 5, above, provides more on UWI provision.

⁸¹ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [Plan 2022: Bermuda's strategic plan for public school education](#) (PDF), July 2021, p7. Sources in this section accessed 29 March 2023.

⁸² Bermuda Ministry of Education, [Schools list](#)

⁸³ Government of Bermuda, [Post-secondary school](#)

⁸⁴ UWI, [Bermuda: At a glance](#)

7.2

University destinations

Bermuda College undertakes an annual survey of its graduates. Generally, around 100 to 120 people graduate from the college in each year. These surveys find that:

- **Around 50-55% intend to go overseas after graduation** (2016-2021 data). The exception was the 2019 cohort, where this fell to 33%. This lower figure was attributed to several graduates intending to continue in work or to seek employment.
- **Primary intended destinations for further study were the United States, Canada, and the UK.** From 2017 to 2021, the proportion intending to study in the US was around 31% to 42% each year, Canada 24% to 44%, and the UK 15% to 33%.⁸⁵

7.3

Support for HE study overseas

Commitment to provide scholarships

The Government of Bermuda provides a range of scholarships to support further study at further and higher education levels.

Funding and eligibility

In 2022, seven types of scholarships were awarded. Individuals must be Bermudian and have been educated in the Territory for at least five years to be eligible. Those relevant to post-secondary education are:

- **Bermuda Government scholarships:** Valued up to BMD\$35,000 towards the cost of tuition and accommodation at an overseas institution or overseas program of study at Bermuda college, for up to four years. Two awards were given in 2022.⁸⁶
- **Minister's achievement scholarship:** Valued up to BMD\$25,000 for overseas education, for up to four years of study. Two awards were given in 2022.⁸⁷

The Bermuda Dollar (BMD) is pegged to the US Dollar at a ratio of 1:1

BMD\$1 is equal to around £0.80 ([April 2023](#))

A Bermuda Government scholarship is valued at around £28,000 per year (BMD\$35,000)

⁸⁵ Bermuda College, [Annual report, 2021-2022](#) (PDF), 2022, p22 and Bermuda College, [Annual report, 2020-2021](#) (PDF), 2021, p20

⁸⁶ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 Bermuda Government scholarships guide](#)

⁸⁷ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 Minister's achievement scholarship guide](#)

- **Minister's exceptional student award:** Valued up to BMD\$5,000 for local education and BMD\$25,000 for overseas education, for up to four years of study. One award was given in 2022.⁸⁸
- **Further education award:** For students attending graduate or college study in financial need. This is for one-year, providing BMD\$10,000.⁸⁹
- **Minister's technical and vocational award:** Valued up to BMD\$5,000 for local and BMD\$25,000 for overseas post-secondary study. The student must be pursuing a subject of need in Bermuda, such as nursing, construction, or computing. One award was given in 2022.⁹⁰
- **Non-traditional student award:** Up to BMD\$20,000 for four years. This is for those aged 25 and over seeking their first undergraduate degree. Two awards were given in 2022.⁹¹

In 2022, supported student destinations included the UK, the US and Canada. Students were seeking degrees in education, engineering, and health.⁹²

⁸⁸ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 Exceptional student award guide](#)

⁸⁹ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 Further education award guide](#)

⁹⁰ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 Minister's technical and vocational award](#)

⁹¹ Bermuda Ministry of Education, [2023 non-traditional student award guide](#)

⁹² Bermuda Ministry of Education, [Congratulates the 2022 scholarship recipients](#), 24 August 2022

8

British Virgin Islands

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** 3,300 (primary) (2016 data) and around 2,000 in secondary school (2013/14 data).⁹³
- **Schools:** 27 primary (11 are private) and seven secondary schools (3 are private), one private post-secondary institution, and one institute for vocational qualifications (2016 data).⁹⁴
- **Community college:** The H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) provides two-year associate arts and science degrees, as well as certificates and other development training. Tuition is free to belongers and naturalised citizens of the Territory, which constitute around 80% of its students (679 of 812 in 2016).⁹⁵
- **Universities:** The UWI is the sole provider.
- **Scholarships:** The Virgin Island Scholarship programme offers eligible belongers grants of up to US\$20,000 per year for four years. The funding is conditional on the individual returning to the Territory.

8.1

HE providers

University of the West Indies

The BVI participates in the Open Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). Local programmes focus on continuing and professional development, including finance, languages, social care, and auditing.

See above, section 5, for more on the UWI.⁹⁶

⁹³ Unicef, [Budget analysis for investment in children in the Virgin Islands \(UK\)](#) (PDF), 2017, p49 and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean states, [Virgin Islands educational digest 2014](#), October 2019. Sources in this section accessed 11 April 2023.

⁹⁴ Unicef, [Budget analysis for investment in children in the Virgin Islands \(UK\)](#) (PDF), 2017, p48

⁹⁵ HLSCC, [Tuition and fees](#) and Unicef, [Budget analysis for investment in children in the Virgin Islands \(UK\)](#) (PDF), 2017, p54

⁹⁶ UWI, [Open campus: British Virgin Islands local programmes](#)

8.2 University destinations

The BVI Government does not hold information on student destinations. In general, destinations reportedly include North America, UK, and the Caribbean, including the UWI.⁹⁷

8.3 Support for HE study overseas

The BVI uses the US dollar

US\$1 is equal to around £0.80 ([April 2023](#))

A Virgin Islands scholarship is valued at around £16,000 per year (US\$20,000)

The Government of the British Virgin Islands provides financial assistance to support study at universities overseas through its [Virgin Islands scholarship programme](#).

The programme was established in the 1980s to promote the development of the human resources of the Territory, improve training and skills, and support wider development.⁹⁸

Virgin Island scholarship: funding and eligibility

The [scholarship programme](#) is intended to help Islanders study in areas identified as a priority for the Territory's development and for those in financial need.

Priority areas include tourism, engineering, medicine, agriculture and fisheries, and financial services. Individuals must be a Virgin Islander and been a resident for at least five consecutive years before applying.⁹⁹

Generally, scholarships are for a maximum of four years at US\$20,000 per annum. They are not intended to meet the entire cost of study.¹⁰⁰

Requirements to enter into a bond agreement

Individuals are required to enter into a bond agreement with the government to return. These vary from 1 year (for less than 6 months of study) to 8 years (for 6 to 7 years of study). They can include being employed in either the private or public sector to fulfil this obligation.¹⁰¹

In 2019 the then Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Fisheries and Agriculture, Natalio Wheatley, said "it is rare that the bond is enforced."

⁹⁷ Correspondence with the FCDO and BVI Government, 17 April 2023. See also UNESCO Institute for Statistics, [Global flow of tertiary-level students](#)

⁹⁸ Government of the Virgin Islands, [Virgin Islands scholarship programme policy](#) (PDF), 2022, p6

⁹⁹ Government of the Virgin Islands, [Virgin Islands scholarship programme](#)

¹⁰⁰ Government of the Virgin Islands, [Virgin Islands scholarship programme policy](#) (PDF), 2022, paras 4.02, 5.04-5.06

¹⁰¹ Government of the Virgin Islands, [Virgin Islands scholarship programme policy](#) (PDF), 2022, section 12.06.02 and 20.06

However, he said from 2019 that “students on scholarship can expect for the bond they signed to be enforced,” with the government taking measures to increase employment opportunities in the Territory.¹⁰²

For more information, see the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs and Fisheries and Agriculture’s [Virgin Island scholarship programme policy](#) (PDF), May 2022.

Numbers awarded

The scheme was paused from 2017 following hurricanes Irma and Maria. The scheme was re-opened in 2020, when 32 scholarships were awarded.

These were in areas including medicine and health, engineering, social work, agriculture, construction, and teaching.¹⁰³

¹⁰² Government of the Virgin Islands, [Statement by Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley—Scholarship programme](#), 3 June 2019

¹⁰³ Government of the Virgin Islands, [Statement by Minister \[...\] scholarship programme](#), 22 September 2020

9

Cayman Islands

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** Around 4,500 attended primary school and 4,300 middle/high school in 2021.¹⁰⁴
- **Schools:** The Government provides 13 primary schools and five secondary schools. There are also 19 private schools covering primary and secondary levels.¹⁰⁵
- **Post-16 education:** Government-run Cayman Islands Further Education Centre, Cayman Prep & High School, and St. Ignatius Catholic School (the latter are both private).
- **Universities:** Six. University College of the Cayman Islands, Truman Bodden Law School, International College of the Cayman Islands, St Matthew's School of Medicine, Northwestern Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary, and the UWI.
- **Scholarships:** Cayman Government scholarships provide up to KYD\$35,000 per year for four years to study overseas. There is a requirement to return to the Territory upon completion of the degree.

9.1

HE providers

1) University College of the Cayman Islands

University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) was previously a community college. In 2004, the Cayman legislature renamed it the UCCI. It is a public university.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ Cayman Government Economics and Statistics Office, [2021 population and housing census report](#), 2021, table 1.4.D. Sources accessed 6 April 2023.

¹⁰⁵ Cayman Islands Government Ministry of Education, [Educational institutions register March 2023](#), 3 April 2023

¹⁰⁶ UCCI, [About and mission](#)

UCCI provides both undergraduate and graduate courses

At undergraduate level, the UCCI provides courses in six areas: Social work, nursing, computer science, primary education, business administration, and social sciences (eg management, psychology).¹⁰⁷

The UCCI also provides four graduate degrees in management and education.¹⁰⁸

Degree tuition is around KYD\$15,000 per annum for Caymanians

KYD\$1 is almost at parity with £1 ([April 2023](#))

In 2021/22, UCCI tuition fees are set at KYD\$200 per credit hour for Caymanian students and KYD\$300 per credit hour for international students for Bachelor's Degrees. Some financial aid and support is available.¹⁰⁹

Costs for 2021/22 are KYD\$15,000 per annum for Caymanian students and KYD\$21,000 per annum for international students.¹¹⁰

In 2020, the UCCI's annual accounts said around 30-40% of students accessed scholarships.¹¹¹

Around 1,200-1,300 study at undergraduate, diploma and certificate level

In 2019/20, there were 1,259 students undertaking undergraduate, diploma or certificate-level study. A further 30 were at graduate level. These figures were similar to 2018/19.¹¹²

2) Truman Bodden Law School

The law school has been open since 1982. It is affiliated with UK-based University of Liverpool and Oxford Brooks University, which validate and award its degrees.¹¹³

¹⁰⁷ UCCI, [Programmes: Undergraduate](#)

¹⁰⁸ UCCI, [Programmes: Graduate](#)

¹⁰⁹ UCCI, [Tuition fees](#)

¹¹⁰ UCCI, [Applying to UCCI: Financial](#)

¹¹¹ UCCI, [2020 annual report](#) (PDF), 2022, p23

¹¹² UCCI, [2020 annual report](#) (PDF), 2022, p92

¹¹³ Cayman Law School, [Homepage](#)

Provides law degrees

With the University of Liverpool, it provides Bachelor of Law degrees (LLB), Master of Law (LLM), and postgraduate diplomas in international finance.

With Oxford Brooks, the Law School provides a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice necessary to enter the legal profession in the Cayman Islands.¹¹⁴

Tuition fees are KYD\$6,000 per annum for LLB degree

LLB degrees are KYD\$6,000 per year for Caymanian students and legal residents, and KYD\$14,000 for non-Caymanians.¹¹⁵

LLM degrees are KYD\$12,000 per annum for Caymanian students and KYD\$16,000 for non-Caymanians.¹¹⁶

Attendance

There are around 90 students in each year group.¹¹⁷

3) International College of the Cayman Islands

International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI) is a private university.¹¹⁸

Provides undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

ICCI provides 11 Bachelor's degrees, including in business, accounting, finance, management, community health, and horticulture.

It also provides five Master's degrees in business, management, sustainable agriculture, and marine conservation.¹¹⁹

What are the costs?

Generally, tuition costs are KYD\$120-150 per quarter for each credit (there are four quarters in the academic year, and students should take a minimum of 12 credits per quarter). Each year, tuition would range from KYD\$5,760 to KYD\$7,200.¹²⁰

¹¹⁴ Cayman Law School, [Study programmes](#)

¹¹⁵ Cayman Law School, [LLB fees](#)

¹¹⁶ Cayman Law School, [LLM fees](#)

¹¹⁷ Cayman Law School, [About us: Mission statement](#)

¹¹⁸ ICCI, [History](#)

¹¹⁹ ICCI, [Undergraduate admissions information](#)

¹²⁰ ICCI, [2022-2023 catalogue, vol 40](#) (PDF), 2022, pp14-15

Attendance

In 2015, the ICCI anticipated enrolment of 220 students, up from 166 (when around 70% were from Cayman).¹²¹

In 2015, around 46 degrees were awarded, including 16 Bachelor's degrees and 12 Master's degrees.¹²²

In 2021, there were 26 graduates (including 17 Caymanians).¹²³

4) St Matthew's University School of Medicine

St Matthew's is a private medical school, based in the Islands since 2002.

Degrees in medicine and veterinary medicine

The University provides two degrees: Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).¹²⁴

Tuition fees begin at US\$14,500 per semester

For a DVM degree, fees per semester are US\$14,500, rising to \$24,200 (there are ten semesters in the degree, the higher figure relates to the final three).

The University provides some scholarships, including a scholarship for one qualified Caymanian citizen.¹²⁵

For MD programmes, tuition begins at US\$16,300 (semesters 1-5) and rises to US\$22,000 (semesters 6-10). The University also provides some scholarships for MD degrees, including one for a Cayman citizen.¹²⁶

Student body

An estimated 2,000 students have graduated with an MD from the university since 1997 (an average of 77 per year). Around 20% of the student body is Canadian.¹²⁷

¹²¹ Cayman Compass, [ICC celebrates 45th anniversary](#), 25 September 2015 and ICCI, [Student population](#)

¹²² Cayman Compass, [ICC celebrates 45th anniversary](#), 25 September 2015

¹²³ Cayman Compass, [ICCI class of 2021 to graduate 24 Feb](#), 16 January 2022

¹²⁴ St Matthew's, [Schools](#)

¹²⁵ St Matthew's, [Veterinary tuition and fees](#)

¹²⁶ St Matthew's, [MD tuition and fees](#)

¹²⁷ St Matthew's, [Discover our medical school in the Caribbean](#) and [Student experience](#)

5) Northwestern Caribbean Baptist theological seminary

Theological courses

The seminary provides a Bachelor's degree in General Studies and Master's degree in theological studies.¹²⁸

Cost

Tuition for is US\$150 per credit hour, or US\$18,000 for a BA in General Studies.¹²⁹

Student numbers

Its first cohort of 2022 had students from five Caribbean countries, and none from an OT.¹³⁰

6) University of the West Indies

The UWI provides an Open campus in the Cayman Islands: Section 5 provides more. In the Territory, the UWI provides programmes focused on continuing and professional education, such as management, finance, law, language and business.¹³¹

9.2

University destinations

The Government of the Cayman Islands states that the majority of students attended tertiary institutions mostly in the UK, US, Canada. They also attend institutions in the Caribbean region and a “few” in Asia.¹³²

¹²⁸ Northwestern Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary, [Degree programmes](#)

¹²⁹ Northwestern Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary, [Tuition/financial aid](#)

¹³⁰ Northwestern Caribbean Baptist Theological Seminary, [Our history](#)

¹³¹ UWI Open Campus, [Cayman Islands](#)

¹³² Correspondence with the FCDO/Cayman Islands Government, 25 April 2023. See also UNESCO Institute for Statistics, [Global flow of tertiary-level students](#)

9.3

Support for HE study overseas

KYD\$1 dollar is almost at parity with £1 ([April 2023](#))

Eligibility and funding levels

The Cayman Islands Government provides local and overseas scholarships to study undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

These are open to those meeting certain academic criteria and being Caymanian.¹³³ There are no public statements they must have studied in the Territory.

Overseas scholarship funding

Overseas undergraduate funding is up to KYD\$30,000 per year of up to four years. Overseas postgraduate study is up to KYD\$35,000 per year for up to two years (Masters) and up to four years (Doctorate).¹³⁴

Local scholarship funding

This is institution and course dependent. The funds are paid directly to institutions.¹³⁵

Requirement to return to Cayman Islands

Scholarship awards include an agreement for the recipient to return to the Cayman Islands for the length of time of the scholarship award after completion. This can be deferred for up to three years post-completion.¹³⁶

Around 550 study abroad on scholarships

The total numbers studying higher education overseas on an education council scholarship have averaged around 550 each year between 2016 and 2021.¹³⁷

As shown in the below table, social and business studies have an average of 206 students each year, followed by engineering, science and technology.

¹³³ Cayman Islands Government Ministry of Education, [Scholarship secretariat unit](#) and Ministry of Education, [Scholarship criteria and documents](#)

¹³⁴ As above

¹³⁵ As above

¹³⁶ Cayman Islands Government Ministry of Education, [Scholarship secretariat unit](#), 'local and overseas scholarships'

¹³⁷ As above

Subjects studied by scholarships (yearly average, 2016-2021)

Average number of scholarships	547
<i>Which includes the below:</i>	
Social and business studies	206
Engineering, science and technology	123
Medicine and veterinary studies	92
Education	63
Humanities subjects	36
Professional subjects	29

Source: Cayman Islands Government, [Compendium of Statistics 2021](#) (PDF), August 2022, p46

10

Falkland Islands

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** There are around 230 children in key stage 1 to 2 (ages 5 to 11) and 296 at key stages 3 and 4 (aged 11 to 16) (data for September 2022).¹³⁸
- **Schools:** There are two schools in Stanley, small settlement schools in rural areas, and a “travelling teacher” service in Camp (the countryside outside Stanley). Most teachers are trained in the UK.¹³⁹
- **Post-16 provision:** There are no post 16 schools on the Falklands. There are 34 students in further education and 21 higher education students (data for September 2022).¹⁴⁰ The Falklands has a long-standing relationship with Peter Symonds College in Hampshire and Chichester College of Further Education to provide post-16 education.¹⁴¹
- **Universities:** None
- **Scholarships:** The Falkland Islands Government provides two: One focused on undergraduate/first degree and a second for wider opportunities. Both are worth around £22,000 per year per student and are grants, not loans. Only the latter scheme is “bonded.”

10.1

University destinations

Primarily study in the UK

Speaking in 2021, the Falklands Director of Education, Marie Horton, said that the “majority of young people want to go to the UK and the [Falklands] Government is strongly committed to supporting that.”¹⁴²

Data on student destinations provided by the Falklands Island Government states the “vast majority” study in the UK. Canadian and Australian

¹³⁸ Falklands Executive Council, [Education annual report 2021/22](#) (PDF), 24 January 2023, Appendix 1. Sources accessed 3 April 2023.

¹³⁹ Falkland Islands Community School, [Education in the Falkland Islands](#)

¹⁴⁰ Executive Council, [Education annual report 2021/22](#) (PDF), 24 January 2023, Appendix 1

¹⁴¹ Falkland Islands Community School, [Education in the Falkland Islands](#)

¹⁴² Nicholas Roberts, [New options for Falklands post-16 education](#), January 2021

universities were also recent student destinations.¹⁴³ Financial support is primarily focused on the UK system.

Students study a range of subjects

Falkland students study a range of undergraduate subjects.¹⁴⁴

- **Agriculture and the environment:** Include courses on agriculture, veterinary science and biology, and marine science
- **Business:** Marketing, accounting, and media
- **Creative industries:** Fashion, music, media, and film
- **Education:** From early years to secondary teaching
- **Health:** Nursing, medicine, and physiotherapy
- **Humanities:** History, English language, politics, and journalism
- **Legal, emergency and security:** Including emergency planning and resilience, law, police and criminology
- **Construction:** Architecture, engineering, planning
- **Science, technology, engineering and mathematics** (including physics)
- **Tourism and legislature:** including hospitality.

10.2

Support for HE study overseas

Commitment to fund degree courses

The [Education Ordinance 1989](#), section 76, provides for bursaries and scholarships.

Sponsorship for first degrees

Current regulations are the Education (Financial Assistance for Higher Education and Post-graduate Qualifications) Regulations 2022.

This sponsorship is for first degrees, rather than postgraduate.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

¹⁴⁴ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

¹⁴⁵ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

Under the [Falkland Islands Government's higher education policy](#) (PDF), the Government commits to provide funding for:

- Full-time first-degree courses of three years or more
- Full-time foundation courses, HND and BNETC qualifications of two-years duration (covering the first stage of post-16 education)
- For two individuals only, to complete a postgraduate course in each academic year.¹⁴⁶

Eligibility

Funding is only available to those with Falkland Islands status who have been ordinarily resident in the Territory for a period of 12 months before the course starts. The Director of Education must also be satisfied the student is capable of completing a HE courses.¹⁴⁷

Funding can be for university courses anywhere in the world, including the UK. Funding covers tuition fees and provides for a student allowance.¹⁴⁸

Funding levels

The Falklands Education Department pays for tuition costs, up to the “UK home status” rate for a first degree, as well as maintenance, at a similar level to that set in the UK.¹⁴⁹ These are grants, not a loan. The current annual value is around £22,000 per year per student.¹⁵⁰

Postgraduate funding is issued on the evidence of a “clear commitment to return to the Islands.”¹⁵¹ There is no formal bonding, however.¹⁵²

Takeup

The Falklands Government state on average 10 a year begin university study (generally there are around 40 students in a year group at school).¹⁵³

¹⁴⁶ Falkland Islands Government—Higher Education policy, section 2.1 and 2.4 from Falkland's Executive Council, [Higher education funding regulations](#) (PDF), sections 3.1, 3.2

¹⁴⁷ Falkland Islands Government—Higher Education policy, section 2.1 and 2.4 from Falkland's Executive Council, [Higher education funding regulations](#) (PDF), 23 August 2022

¹⁴⁸ As above, section 4

¹⁴⁹ As above, section 5.1

¹⁵⁰ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

¹⁵¹ Executive Council, [Higher education funding regulations](#) (PDF), 23 August 2022, section 3.2.1

¹⁵² Bristol University School of Education, [Education in the British OTs: Policy and practice](#), 25 January 2023, at 1:06:00

¹⁵³ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

In 2022, seven students started their first year in higher education. The number of students starting university each year, funded by the Territory Government, has varied from 6 to 20 over the period 2015 to 2022.¹⁵⁴

Community Development Scheme

First degrees and postgraduate degrees can be sponsored for others through the Community Development Scheme. This is a discretionary scheme, which supports a wide range of career development activity.¹⁵⁵

Eligibility and funding

Individuals must have Falkland Islands status or a permanent residence permit. They must also be studying a course related to a skills priority or shortage in the Territory, and must commit to working in the Falkland Islands within 5 years of completing their course.

Funding levels are the same as for scholarships (see above, page 53).

Takeup

The scheme is currently in its early stages for supporting HE study. Currently around 20 people are undertaking undergraduate or postgraduate degrees funded under the scheme.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁴ Falkland Islands Government, [Draft workforce development strategy for the Falkland Islands](#) (PDF), March 2023, p3

¹⁵⁵ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023

¹⁵⁶ Falkland Islands Government correspondence, April 2023. For more, see Falkland Islands Executive Council, [Community Development Scheme review: Next steps](#) (PDF), 23 September 2020 and Falkland Islands Executive Council, [Community development scheme report](#) (PDF), 27 September 2022

11

Gibraltar

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils at government schools:** Around 3,400 enrolled at first and middle schools (ages up to 12) and 2,180 at secondary level (ages 12 to over 17) (data for 2016).¹⁵⁷
- **Schools:** There are 14 schools and one further education college in Gibraltar. All teacher training takes place in the UK.¹⁵⁸
- **University:** University of Gibraltar
- **Scholarships:** The Gibraltar Government provide scholarships and a maintenance grant for undergraduate students who have been continuously resident in the Territory for at least five years prior to application.

11.1

HE providers

University of Gibraltar

The University of Gibraltar was established under [local Act in 2015](#).¹⁵⁹

What courses does it provide?

The university provides 5 undergraduate, 9 postgraduate and 2 access to HE courses (as of March 2023):

- **Undergraduate** courses focus on business, computing, maritime science and nursing
- **Postgraduate** courses focus on education, marine and environmental science, climate change business, and leadership/management.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁷ Government of Gibraltar, [Abstract of statistics: 2016](#), p31. Sources accessed 27 March 2023

¹⁵⁸ Government of Gibraltar, [Education: Schools](#)

¹⁵⁹ [University of Gibraltar Act 2015](#)

¹⁶⁰ University of Gibraltar, [Courses: Undergraduate and postgraduate](#)

The University's Strategic Plan (2022-26) [commits to “incrementally” grow its provision](#) in line with priorities to respond to local, regional, and international need, and that which “build[s] upon the Rock's unique location and environment.”¹⁶¹

In evidence to the House of Lords EU Committee in 2017, the University said it expected most local students to attend university in the UK “since the range of courses available in the UK will always be much wider than can be provided in Gibraltar.” This means the university focuses on international recruitment.¹⁶²

What are the costs?

Tuition fees of £9,250 per annum for undergraduate courses are payable (the same level as in England).¹⁶³

The University of Gibraltar also provides, or is supported by, a [range of scholarships and bursaries](#).¹⁶⁴

Attendance

In the 2021/22 academic year, 473 students were enrolled on academic programmes, professional courses/certificates, and short/access courses. This was up from 446 in 2020/21.¹⁶⁵

In the 2015/16 academic year—the first year that the university was open—278 were students enrolled.¹⁶⁶

11.2

University destinations

The Gibraltar Government state the majority of degree-level students study in the UK.¹⁶⁷

Statistics from Gibraltar's Department for Education indicate that the number of Gibraltar students aged over 16 studying in the UK grew from 638 in 2001 to 765 in 2012.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶¹ University of Gibraltar, [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#), 2023, p9

¹⁶² [Written evidence: University of Gibraltar, GLT0006](#), 17 January 2017

¹⁶³ University of Gibraltar, [Courses](#)

¹⁶⁴ University of Gibraltar, [Scholarships and bursaries](#), accessed 27 March 2023

¹⁶⁵ University of Gibraltar, [Annual reports and financial statements, 2021-22](#), p10

¹⁶⁶ University of Gibraltar, [Annual reports and financial statements, 2015-16](#), 2016, p4

¹⁶⁷ Gibraltar Government, [Education system](#)

¹⁶⁸ Gibraltar Government, [Census report 2012](#), 2012, pxli

11.3

Support for HE study overseas

The Government of Gibraltar offer undergraduate scholarships to British or EU nationals ordinarily continuously resident in Gibraltar for five years and have attended a school in Gibraltar or the UK.¹⁶⁹

The Gibraltar Government provides both mandatory and discretionary scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students, though the latter were [reduced in number due to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021/22](#).¹⁷⁰

Funding awarded is capped at the home fee status for the UK (£9,250 in the case of tuition fees).¹⁷¹ A maintenance grant of around £16,000 is also provided.¹⁷²

Discretionary postgraduate funding prioritises courses that are “deemed to be critical to the future economic success of Gibraltar.”¹⁷³

In the 2021/22 academic year, 804 mandatory undergraduate scholarships were awarded, 176 postgraduate scholarships and 85 discretionary scholarships. A total of 1,065 students were in higher education.¹⁷⁴ This was similar to the 2020/21 academic year.¹⁷⁵

¹⁶⁹ Department of Education, [FAQs: Gibraltar scholarship award](#)

¹⁷⁰ Gibraltar Chronicle, [Scholarship awards open, but Govt to limit grants for postgraduates](#), 18 June 2021

¹⁷¹ Department of Education, [FAQs: Gibraltar scholarship award](#)

¹⁷² The Report, [Interview with Gilbert Licudi, Minister for education, justice and international exchange of information](#), 12 October 2015

¹⁷³ HM Government of Gibraltar, [Scholarship awards 2022](#), 31 March 2022

¹⁷⁴ Proceedings of the Gibraltar Parliament, [28 June 2022](#) (PDF), cc1925-30

¹⁷⁵ Proceedings of the Gibraltar Parliament, [20 July 2021](#) (PDF), cc1245-55

12

Montserrat

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** around 400-500 primary school children, and around 300-350 secondary school pupils (2008-2018 data).¹⁷⁶
- **Schools:** Four primary schools (including two private) and one secondary school.¹⁷⁷
- **Post-16 education:** One tertiary college, Montserrat Community College, with an enrolment of around 50-100 (2008-2018 data).¹⁷⁸
- **Universities:** UWI and the University of Science, Arts and Technology.
- **Scholarships:** The Island scholarship provides funding at levels set by the Territory Government to study at the UWI or another institution. Under the terms of the scholarship, students are required to return on completion of their studies.

12.1

HE providers

1) University of the West Indies

The University of the West Indies maintains its [Montserrat Open Campus](#). See above, section 5. There are no details on local programmes.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁶ Statistics Department Montserrat, [Enrolment data on primary schools, annual, 1998-2018](#); [Enrolment data on secondary school, annual, 1998-2018](#). Sources accessed 29 March 2023.

¹⁷⁷ Montserrat Ministry of Education, [Statistical digest 2014](#) (PDF), p2

¹⁷⁸ Statistics department Montserrat, [Enrolment data on tertiary education, annual 2005-2018](#)

¹⁷⁹ UWI, [Open campus: Montserrat](#).

2) University of Science, Arts and Technology

The [University of Science, Arts and Technology](#) (USAT) was established in 2003. It is a private institution.¹⁸⁰

What courses does it provide?

USAT provides courses at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level, focused on medicine and related sciences. These are generally 3 to 4 years in length for undergraduate students.¹⁸¹

What are the costs?

Tuition is US\$5,490 for 16 weeks of basic sciences.¹⁸² At [US\\$5,490 per term](#), tuition for a 12-term (4-year) MD course is US\$66,000.¹⁸³

Attendance

In 2018, university stakeholders signalled intentions to grow the number of students from 20 to 50-200 in the future.¹⁸⁴

12.2

University destinations

Jamaica, the UK and Caribbean are leading destinations

The 2018 economic growth strategy for Montserrat notes that many Montserrat nationals seek “free further education in the UK” and to obtain higher wages abroad.¹⁸⁵

Data provided by the Government of Montserrat provides the following breakdown of student destinations among the 142 students who have received “Learning and development” scholarships from the Government between 2007/8 to 2021/22 (this data covers students studying degrees and similar qualifications, such as nursing certificates).

¹⁸⁰ USAT, [About us](#).

¹⁸¹ USAT, [Courses: Instructional formats](#)

¹⁸² USAT, [Tuition and fees](#)

¹⁸³ USAT, [Courses](#) and USAT, [Tuition and fees](#)

¹⁸⁴ Mott Macdonald for the Government of Montserrat, [Economic growth strategy and delivery plan for Montserrat](#) (PDF), 2018, para 3.3.5

¹⁸⁵ As above, para 3.5

The greatest proportion attend institutions in Jamaica: either physically or remotely, primarily at the UWI, followed by the UK. Only small numbers attend institutions outside the Caribbean.

Country/Territory of study of learning and development scholarship students, 2007/8 to 2021/22	
Jamaica	71 (50%)
United Kingdom	30 (21%)
Barbados	16 (11%)
Trinidad	8 (6%)
Other (Caribbean)	11 (7%)
Other (world)	5 (4%)

Note: Data relating to Learning & Development - Scholarship Awards Only. One institution unidentified

Source: Correspondence from the Government of Montserrat, 14 April 2023

Additional data, relating to students in receipt of “other scholarships” over the 2008 to 2022/23 period suggests the UK is a significant destination at postgraduate level.¹⁸⁶

Students study a range of subjects

Data covering the 2007/8 to 2021/22 period suggests that students in recipient of Island scholarships study a range of topics, with a focus on health (39), construction/surveying/engineering (22), education (19 students), as well as social work, computing and the environment (less than 10 each).

The costs of study vary substantially, with an average cost across this period of US\$200,000 per student (for all subjects/levels of study).¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁶ Correspondence from the Government of Montserrat, 14 April 2023. Of the 31 recorded “other scholarship” recipients (excluding those with a stated length of less than a year), all but 2 were in the UK.

¹⁸⁷ Correspondence from the Government of Montserrat, 14 April 2023

12.3

Support for HE study overseas

Montserrat Island scholarships are legislated for under the Territory's Education Act 2003, as amended.¹⁸⁸

When providing support, the Government prioritises subject areas to help deliver education, health, infrastructure development and private sector growth in the Territory.¹⁸⁹

Funding and eligibility for scholarships

Scholarships are tenable at the University of the West Indies or any other institution approved by the Montserrat Legislative Council.¹⁹⁰

The value of scholarships is determined by the Governor in Council (cabinet), are tenable for three to seven years.¹⁹¹

To be eligible, students must have studied in Montserrat for the previous three years. They must be a Montserrat citizen (“belonger”) or a child of one.¹⁹²

Requirement to return to Territory

Any student awarded the scholarship must sign a bond to return to Montserrat and serve for at least three years in a Public Service post appropriate to their level of qualifications.¹⁹³

Number of annual awards has been 5 to 7 per year

- **2022:** Seven awards for undergraduate study overseas. These were in subject areas such as finance, civil engineering, health and agriculture.¹⁹⁴
- **2021:** Five awards to support undergraduate study overseas. Subjects included health, media, accounting, engineering, and marine biology.¹⁹⁵
- **2020:** Six awards to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate study overseas. These were in areas of health, market, education, computing, and psychology.¹⁹⁶

¹⁸⁸ [Montserrat Education Act 2003](#) (PDF) as amended, chapter 9; see also Government of Montserrat, [Scholarships and awards](#)

¹⁸⁹ Government of Montserrat, [Seven individual scholars awarded scholarships](#), 19 August 2022

¹⁹⁰ [Montserrat Education Act 2003](#) (PDF), as amended, section 145

¹⁹¹ As above, section 146

¹⁹² As above, section 147

¹⁹³ As above, section 151

¹⁹⁴ Government of Montserrat, [Seven individual scholars awarded scholarships](#), 19 August 2022

¹⁹⁵ Government of Montserrat, [Five individual scholars award scholarships](#), 31 August 2021

¹⁹⁶ Government of Montserrat, [Six individuals awarded scholarships](#), 24 August 2020

13

Pitcairn

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** There are currently no school age children on the Territory. Pitcairn has a total population of around 40. The curriculum is based on the New Zealand model.¹⁹⁷
- **Schools:** There is only one school: Pulau school. This provides education from age 5 to 13. Upper secondary education is usually provided through a New Zealand boarding school.¹⁹⁸
- **University:** None
- **Scholarships:** Commitment to provide when needed.

13.1

Support for HE study overseas

The Island Council intends to support the delivery of an education curricula that children prepare for life on Pitcairn and abroad.¹⁹⁹

The Council's education policy says the Territory will instigate a scholarship programme for overseas education and seeks to promote the benefits of tertiary education to the community.²⁰⁰

There are no further public details available.

¹⁹⁷ Pitcairn Immigration, [Life on Pitcairn](#), accessed 23 March 2023 and Pitcairn Island Council, [Education policy](#), pp1-2

¹⁹⁸ Pitcairn Immigration, [Life on Pitcairn](#), accessed 23 March 2023

¹⁹⁹ Pitcairn Island Council, [Education policy](#), pp1-2

²⁰⁰ As above

14

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha form part of the same Territory, though have their own governing assemblies/councils. There is no higher education provision in any part of the Territory.

14.1

St Helena

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** In 2021/22, there were 266 primary school children and 201 secondary pupils.²⁰¹
- **Schools:** There are four schools, including one secondary school.²⁰²
- **Post-16 education:** [St Helena Community College](#) provides some [post-16 education](#).²⁰³ In 2021/22, there were 27 St Helenian students in 16 to 18 education.²⁰⁴ A reported eight students were interested in attending higher education in 2023.²⁰⁵
- **University:** None
- **Scholarships:** Students apply through Student Finance England for a loan for tuition fees. The St Helenian Government provide some maintenance stipends.

²⁰¹ Government of St Helena, [St Helena in figures](#)

²⁰² St Helena Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, [Homepage](#)

²⁰³ St Helena Government, [Find our latest courses here](#)

²⁰⁴ Government of St Helena, [St Helena in figures](#)

²⁰⁵ Bristol University School of Education, [Education in the British OTs: Policy and practice](#), 25 January 2023, from 01:15:40

University destinations

St Helenians study in the UK

The St Helenian Government state all recent Territory students have studied in the UK. From 2002 to 2023, a total of 57 St Helenian students have been provided scholarships by the Territory government. They have studied multiple courses, including:

- Engineering
- Law
- The environment
- Sociology
- Media
- Teaching
- Tourism
- Veterinary medicine
- Construction skills.²⁰⁶

Estimated costs for three-years study are £68,000

The Territory Government estimate that the cost of a student studying a 3-year University degree to be in the region of £68,000. This includes the cost of tuition (currently £9,250 per annum), travel to and from the UK, a lump sum allowance to cover the cost of books and other essentials and a stipend to cover their accommodation and living expenses.²⁰⁷

Subjects of study according to the local census

The 2021 St Helenian census provides data on the highest level of qualifications held by the population, including what subjects they studied.

This data includes study up to Bachelor's degree level as well as university-level study. This shows that social sciences, business, and the law is the most common subject area (27% of post-secondary qualifications), with health, welfare, science and engineering, manufacturing and construction seeing substantial levels of study (around 15% each).²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ St Helena Government correspondence/FCDO, 14 April 2023 and 4 May 2023

²⁰⁷ St Helena Government correspondence/FCDO, 14 April 2023 and 4 May 2023

²⁰⁸ St Helena [Population Census 2021](#), 2021 Table B17

Post-secondary subjects of study among St Helena population, 2021

Subject	Number/%
Education	57 (11%)
Social sciences, business, and law	137 (27%)
Science	73 (14%)
Engineering, manufacturing, and construction	78 (15%)
Health and welfare	80 (16%)
Services	33 (6%)
Other (general, agriculture, humanities, arts)	36 (7%)
Not stated	19 (4%)

Source: St Helena Government, [Population Census 2021](#), 2021, B17. Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.

Support for HE study overseas

Commitment to support HE attendance

St Helena's education policy aims to provide access to higher education to learners on St Helena, allowing them to gain skills at affordable costs, and to provide a scholarship scheme to support St Helenian candidates to undertake university courses overseas and then return to St Helena to contribute to Territory development.²⁰⁹

Students now apply to student finance in the UK for a tuition fee loan

St Helena has provided some scholarships through the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio budget. However, due to budget reductions there is no longer funding to support new scholarships.

Students now apply through student finance England in the UK to obtain a loan for their tuition fees.

²⁰⁹ St Helena Education & Employment Directorate, [Strategic plan 2019-22](#) (PDF), section 2.1

The Government of St Helena currently provide a small stipend to meet the maintenance/living costs of ten students in 2021 and 2022.²¹⁰

Takeup

Since 2002, 57 students have been supported via scholarships.²¹¹

14.2

Ascension

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** Ascension has no permanent population, so most of the population are St Helenian. There are around 75 pupils of all ages.²¹²
- **Schools:** One: Two Boats School, covering ages 3 to 16. The curriculum is modelled on that in England.²¹³
- **University:** None
- **Scholarships:** None

University destinations

The Government of Ascension hold no data on Ascension students who have studied overseas in higher education.²¹⁴

Support for HE study overseas

The Ascension Island Government states that Ascension students do not have access to the scholarship trust in St Helena, unless they hold St Helena status and had studied A-Levels at the Prince Andrew School. Some students from St Helena have followed this route.

While the Ascension Island Government does not provide financial support for university-study, it does provide £1,000 per term for students aged 16 to 18 studying A-Levels in the UK, as well as other support such as work

²¹⁰ St Helena Government correspondence/FCDO, 4 May 2023

²¹¹ St Helena Government correspondence/FCDO, 14 April 2023

²¹² Ascension Government/FCDO correspondence, 18 April 2023

²¹³ Ascension Island Government, [Working for the Ascension Island Government](#), pp13-14

²¹⁴ Ascension Government/FCDO correspondence, 18 April 2023

placements. The numbers receiving funds to study in the UK are small: Between 1 and 3 a year from 2015/16 to 2022/23.²¹⁵

14.3

Tristan da Cunha

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** In 2018, there 26 school age children and five infants.²¹⁶
- **Schools:** One: St Mary's School (ages 5 to 16)²¹⁷
- **Post-16 education:** Via the UK, at Peter Symonds College, in Hampshire. In 2018, three students were studying A-levels.²¹⁸
- **University:** None

Post-16 study overseas

The Tristan Department of Education is responsible for continuing education of Tristan students overseas. This is primarily in the UK or South Africa.²¹⁹

Over the last ten years, five Tristan students have travelled overseas for further education. The majority of these costs were funded by Capacity Building from the Department for International Development (DFID), now the FCDO. Students have undertaken post-16 education at Peter Symonds College, Hampshire, and Silvermine Academy in South Africa.²²⁰

The Department of Education is responsible for continuing education of Tristan students overseas.²²¹

²¹⁵ Ascension Government/FCDO correspondence, 18 April 2023

²¹⁶ FCDO, [Tristan da Cunha: Provision of technical assistance and capacity building](#), 2018, p2

²¹⁷ Tristan da Cunha Government, [School](#)

²¹⁸ FCDO, [Tristan da Cunha: Provision of technical assistance and capacity building](#), 2018, p11

²¹⁹ Tristan da Cunha Government, [Government departments](#)

²²⁰ Correspondence with FCDO/Government of Tristan da Cunha, 3 May 2023

²²¹ Tristan da Cunha Government, [Government departments](#)

15

Turks and Caicos Islands

Education structure and summary

- **Registered primary and secondary school pupils:** 4,600 (primary) and 2,400 (secondary) (2017/18 data).²²²
- **Schools:** There are ten primary schools and five secondary schools provided by the Government, and 24 private schools and educational bodies.²²³
- **Universities:** Five. Turks and Caicos Community College, Charisma University, TCIPS High School and College, the School for Field Studies and the UWI.
- **Scholarships:** Up to US\$35,000 per annum, for four years. Students must return to the Territory upon completion of their study.
- **University destinations:** UK, Canada, United States, Caribbean.

15.1

HE providers

1) Turks and Caicos Community College

Found in 1994. In 2017/18, the Turks and Caicos Government said the Community College was the “key provider” of tertiary and continuing education.²²⁴

Provides five undergraduate courses

It offers courses at several levels of study, including A-level and bachelor’s degrees. In 2016/17, there were five BA/BSc courses: Business, education, tourism and hospitality, social work, and management.²²⁵

²²² Government of the Turks and Caicos, [Education digest statistics 2017-18](#), section 2. Sources accessed 6 April 2022

²²³ Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, [Schools](#) and Government of the Turks and Caicos, [Education digest statistics 2017-18](#), section 1

²²⁴ Government of the Turks and Caicos, [Education digest statistics 2017-18](#), p32

²²⁵ As above, p32

Annual tuition is around US\$4,00 for a BA degree

Turks and Caicos Island citizens pay annual tuition fees of US\$4,000 for BA/BSc courses.

Less than 50 graduate each year

- **Total enrolment for Bachelor of Science or Arts:** 52 (2016/17)
- **Number of degrees awarded:** 31 (2015/16), 26 (2016/17) and 18 (2017/18).²²⁶

2) Charisma University

The university was established in 2011.²²⁷ There is no public information on enrolment.

Range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses

The university provides Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorates along with certificate programs. This includes in areas of business, finance, philosophy and theology, psychology, law, education, nursing, and health.²²⁸

Annual tuition is around US\$3,600 for BA degree

Fees vary according to degree level. Bachelor's degree payments are US\$300/month (US\$3,600 per year) and Masters's degrees are US\$325 per month (US\$3,900 per year).²²⁹

3) TCIPS High School and College

While registered as a provider of tertiary education by the Turks and Caicos Government, there is no public information on the college.²³⁰

²²⁶ Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, [Education digest statistics 2017-18](#), pp32, 34

²²⁷ Charisma University, [History](#)

²²⁸ Charisma University, [2022-23 course catalogue](#), 2022

²²⁹ Charisma University, [Tuition and fees: payment plans](#)

²³⁰ Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, [Education system](#)

4) The School for Field Studies (SFS)

The SFS is a US-based environmental programme, which supports undergraduate study abroad programmes. It has a campus in the Turks and Caicos Islands.²³¹

The Center for Marine Resources in the Turks and Caicos Islands allows students to spend a term in the Territory to assess marine life and conservation. Credits gained can count towards degree courses.

Basic program costs for a semester (term) are US\$27,100.²³²

5) University of the West Indies

The UWI's open campus provides continuing education and professional development courses.²³³ Section 5, above, provides more on the UWI.

15.2

University destinations

Students primarily study in the UK, United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.²³⁴ In 2023, there were around 90 students studying at BA, MA and PhD level in the UK, 60 in the US, 25 in the Caribbean region, and five in Canada.²³⁵

Students are studying a range of topics, including hospitality and business, medicine, nursing, and related sciences, law, education and construction/engineering.²³⁶

²³¹ SFS, [The history of SFS](#)

²³² SFS, [SFS program costs: Turks and Caicos](#)

²³³ UWI, [The Open campus in the Turks and Caicos Islands](#)

²³⁴ Turks and Caicos Island Government, [National education financial assistance policy](#), March 2022, pp46-7

²³⁵ Correspondence with the FCDO, 16 May 2023

²³⁶ Correspondence with the FCDO, 16 May 2023

15.3

Support for HE overseas

Commitment to support HE study

The Turks and Caicos Government provides scholarships to Islanders to study overseas to address the skills gaps of the Turks and Caicos Islands.²³⁷

Scholarship eligibility and funding levels

The National Financial Assistance Policy is open to Turks and Caicos Islanders who have worked or attended school in the Territory. They must also not be applying for a course of study that is offered at sixth form or similar institutions in the Turks and Caicos Islands.²³⁸

Eligible Islanders can apply for the following financial assistance:

- **Full financial assistance awards (FFAA).** This is up to US\$35,000 a year and covers all expenses (including tuition, travel, and accommodation). The area of study must be identified as a priority one and at a university approved for study by the Turks and Caicos Government.
- **Partial financial assistance awards (PFAA).** This is set to a maximum per region: Caribbean and Canada: US\$17,500; UK and US: US\$25,000. As with FFAA funding, there are priority courses and approved institutions.

The Government also provides one-off funding, distance learning assistance, and financial assistance for low-income students.²³⁹

Eligible institutions and funding limits

The list of eligible institutions includes six institutions in Canada, ten in the US, 53 in the UK, and nine in the Caribbean.²⁴⁰

For those applying for FFAA, the average costs of yearly tuition fees cannot be more than US\$20,000.²⁴¹

Priority subjects

Priority subjects for the FFAA include education, sports, health, disaster management, project development, marine and coastal studies, and technical vocational education (including plumbing and electrical).

²³⁷ Turks and Caicos Islands' Scholarship Secretariat, [2022 TCI education financial assistance policy](#), 2022

²³⁸ Turks and Caicos Island Government, [National education financial assistance policy](#), March 2022, section 3

²³⁹ As above, section 2

²⁴⁰ As above, pp46-7

²⁴¹ As above, p50

Applicants for PFFA should be an area of study “identified as important to the growth and development of the country.”²⁴²

Must sign a bond to return

Those in recipient of full or partial assistance for international or local studies must sign a bond agreement with the Turks and Caicos Government. For courses of 1 to 4 years, the bond period lasts three years.

For courses of over 5 years, the bond service is five years. Employment can be either in the public or private sector in the Territory.²⁴³

²⁴² Turks and Caicos Island Government, [National education financial assistance policy](#), March 2022, pp9-10

²⁴³ As above, p31

16

Access to UK institutions

16.1

UK tuition fees

Higher education is a devolved matter in the UK. This means each part of the UK publishes its own regulations setting out tuition fee status categories and the students eligible for each category. Eligibility is largely determined by residency and immigration status.

Generally, to qualify for 'home' tuition fee status and the lowest level of tuition fees, students must be resident and 'settled' in the UK on 'the first day of the first academic year' of their course. They must generally also have been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for the three years before that date.

Most students who do not meet these conditions will only be eligible for 'overseas/international' fee status, which means they will pay much more for their course. Across the UK, however, there are arrangements in place that allow students from the British Overseas Territories to pay lower levels of tuition fees when studying in the UK.

Being 'settled'

A settled person is someone ordinarily resident in the UK without any immigration restriction on the length of their stay. The regulations take this definition from immigration law ([section 33\(2A\) of the Immigration Act 1971](#)). Students with [right of abode](#) in the UK or indefinite leave to remain will meet the criteria.

Being 'ordinarily resident'

A person is ordinarily resident if they normally and lawfully live in an area from choice. Temporary absences, including for work, are permitted.

In reaching a judgement about whether a student fulfils the ordinarily resident criteria, assessors rely on [case law from UK courts and tribunals](#). It is possible for higher education providers and student finance bodies to reach different conclusions.

‘The first day of the first academic year’

The official first day of an academic year is [defined in regulations](#) and is determined by a student’s course start date. It is:

- 1 September for courses that start between 1 August and 31 December;
- 1 January for courses that start between 1 January and 31 March;
- 1 April for courses that start between 1 April and 30 June;
- 1 July for courses that start between 1 July and 31 July.²⁴⁴

The [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) (UKCISA) provides specialist information and advice to international students and education providers on fees and funding.

It has produced [guides for students](#) explaining the eligibility criteria for tuition fee categories. UKCISA also has a [student advice line](#) for any students who want to discuss their personal circumstances and eligibility for both home fee status and student support.

England

Higher education providers in England allocate their students ‘home’ or ‘overseas/international’ status for the purpose of charging tuition fees.

Undergraduate home fees are currently capped by the UK Government at £9,250. Postgraduate course fees are not regulated. Overseas fees are set by providers and can be much higher depending on the course and provider.

Students from Overseas Territories will be eligible for home fee status in England if they:

- have settled status when in the UK;
- have been ordinarily resident in the UK, the Islands, or the specified British Overseas Territories throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course;²⁴⁵

²⁴⁴ Guidance is available on GOV.UK at ‘[Understanding academic years](#)’.

²⁴⁵ The specified British Overseas Territories are Anguilla; Bermuda; British Antarctic Territory; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; St Helena and Dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha); and Turks and Caicos Islands.

- have been ordinarily resident in the specified British Overseas Territories for at least part of the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course;²⁴⁶

The **main** purpose of the three-year residence must not have been to receive full-time education. Family members of all persons settled when in the UK are also eligible for home fee status.

Wales

In Wales, [tuition fees for full time undergraduate courses are capped at £9,000](#) per year for 'home' students. Fees for 'international' (or 'overseas') students are determined by providers and vary by course.

Students from Overseas Territories will be eligible for home fee status in Wales if they:

- have settled status when in the UK;
- have been ordinarily resident in the UK, the Islands, or the specified British Overseas Territories throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course;²⁴⁷
- have been ordinarily resident in the specified British Overseas Territories for at least part of the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course.²⁴⁸

The **main** purpose of the three-year residence must not have been to receive full-time education.

Scotland

Universities and higher education providers in Scotland allocate their students one of three levels of fee status for the purpose of charging undergraduate tuition fees. These are:

- a 'home' fee for students who live in Scotland;
- a 'rest of UK' (rUK) fee for students who live elsewhere in the UK or Ireland;

²⁴⁶ [The Education \(Fees and Awards\) \(England\) Regulations 2007 \(as amended\), Schedule 1, 9C](#); Department for Education, [Student finance eligibility for people from the British overseas territories for the 2022 to 2023 academic year](#), 13 December 2022

²⁴⁷ The specified British Overseas Territories are Anguilla; Bermuda; British Antarctic Territory; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; St Helena and Dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha); and Turks and Caicos Islands.

²⁴⁸ [The Higher Education \(Qualifying Courses, Qualifying Persons and Supplementary Provision\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2015 \(as amended\), Schedule 1, 9C](#)

- an ‘overseas’ fee for all other students.

Undergraduate home fees are currently capped by the Scottish Government at £1,820. The RUK fee is currently capped at £9,250. Overseas fees are set by institutions and can be much higher depending on the course and institution.

Students from the British Overseas Territories should be charged the ‘rest of UK’ fee.²⁴⁹

16.2

Support to study in the UK

[UK Visas and Immigration](#) has recommended the minimum cost of living for studying in the UK outside London is £1,023 per month, and £1,334 per month for studying in London.

Access to student finance

While Territory students are eligible for tuition fee loans, they do not currently have access to maintenance loans. In the May 2023 Joint Ministerial Council held between UK and Territory Governments, [Ministers “acknowledged a concern” in Territory ineligibility for maintenance loans.](#)²⁵⁰

England

In 2022, the UK Government announced students will be eligible for tuition fee loans in England if they:

- have settled status on arrival in the UK
- come to the UK from specified British Overseas Territories
- are starting full-time and part-time undergraduate courses
- are starting postgraduate master’s degree courses and postgraduate doctoral degree courses.²⁵¹

To qualify, students will need to satisfy the three-year ordinary residence requirement in the UK, Islands, or specified British Overseas Territories. Historically, tuition fee loans were only made available if the student had three-year residence in the UK prior to attending an undergraduate course.

Tuition fee loans are not dependent on household income. Students repay this loan when they earn more than the loan repayment threshold.²⁵²

²⁴⁹ As confirmed in correspondence with Student Awards Agency Scotland

²⁵⁰ FCDO, [2023 UK and OTs Joint Ministerial Council communiqué](#), 12 May 2023, para 28

²⁵¹ Department for Education, [Student finance eligibility for people from the British overseas territories for the 2022 to 2023 academic year](#), 13 December 2022

²⁵² GOV.UK, [Repaying your student loan](#)

Wales

In Wales, students from the British Overseas Territories might be able to get a tuition fee loan if they have settled status in the UK and have been living in the UK, Islands, and/or the specified British Overseas Territories for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course.²⁵³

Scotland

Students from the British Overseas Territories are not eligible for funding from the [Student Awards Agency Scotland](#).

Commonwealth scholarships

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#). Through the [Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme](#), it provides academic and professional scholarships and fellowships to Commonwealth citizens to study in the UK, on the basis of merit and potential to contribute to the needs of their home countries.

All Commonwealth Scholarships which are funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Department (FCDO) are offered under six CSC development themes:

- Science and technology for development
- Strengthening health systems & capacity
- Promoting global prosperity
- Strengthening global peace, security & governance
- Strengthening resilience & response to crises
- Access, inclusion & opportunity.²⁵⁴

Chevening scholarships

[The Chevening Scholarships Scheme](#) is the UK Government's global scholarships programme.

Established in 1983, these scholarships support study at UK universities (mostly one-year Masters' degrees) for students with "ambition, leadership qualities, and a passion for influencing positive change in their home countries."²⁵⁵ These scholarships are fully funded, with flights, accommodation, and course fees all included.

²⁵³ Student Finance Wales, Full-time undergraduate, EU students, Who qualifies

²⁵⁴ Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, [CSC development themes](#)

²⁵⁵ Chevening, [Who can apply for a Chevening Scholarship?](#)

Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree and have at least two years (equivalent to 2,800 hours) of work experience. If successful, they must return to their country of citizenship for a minimum of two years after their award has ended.²⁵⁶ Recipients are personally selected by British embassies and high commissions throughout the world.

The Chevening programme also offers fellowships to mid-career professionals who have reached a position of influence and want to increase their knowledge and networks through short courses or research and professional placements at UK institutions.²⁵⁷

16.3

Visas

People coming from the Overseas Territories to study in the UK will not need a visa if they are British citizens and hold a British passport. Students who only have British Overseas Territory Citizenship (BOTC) and a BOTC passport, and who are coming to study in the UK for longer than six months, will require a visa, normally a student visa.

In May 2023, the Minister for the OTs, Lord Goldsmith, acknowledged the challenge of British OT passports applying for visas. He said the FCDO had [written to the Home Office on the topic in order to “resolve that issue.”](#)²⁵⁸

Student visas

In July 2020, the Government [announced a new ‘student route’](#) for international students applying for visas to study in the UK.²⁵⁹ The student route opened on 5 October 2020 and replaced the previous Tier 4 (General) student visa.²⁶⁰ There were few substantive changes to the old rules.

Students from the Overseas Territories will need to apply through the student route unless they:

- hold a full UK passport;
- hold Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK;
- hold Settled or Pre-Settled Status in the EU Settlement Scheme;
- already have a different type of visa that allows them to study for the full length of their course.

²⁵⁶ Chevening, [Eligibility](#)

²⁵⁷ Chevening, [Chevening Fellowships](#)

²⁵⁸ HL Deb, [25 May 2023](#), c199GC

²⁵⁹ Home Office, [The UK’s Points-Based Immigration System: Further Details](#), CP 258, July 2020, paras 78-92

²⁶⁰ Home Office, [Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules](#), HC 707, 10 September 2020

Applicants for a student visa must:

- have been offered a place on [a course by a licensed student sponsor](#);
- have enough [money to support themselves and their course](#) – students must demonstrate they have £9,207 for studying outside London and £12,006 for studying in London;
- be able to [speak, read, write, and understand English](#).

How long students can stay depends on the length of their course and what study they have already completed in the UK. If they are 18 or over and studying a degree-level course, international students can usually stay in the UK for up to five years.

It currently costs £363 to apply for a student visa from outside the UK.²⁶¹ Students will also have to [pay the healthcare surcharge](#) of £470 per year as part of their application.²⁶²

Graduate visas

In April 2012, the Tier 1 Post-Study Work Visa, which had allowed students, including those from Overseas Territories, to stay on and work for two years after their studies, was abolished.

International graduates remained eligible to apply for a skilled work visa if they had secured a graduate level job or training offer from an approved employer before the end of their student visa. The change in visa policy was controversial, however, and a report by the Higher Education Policy Institute in January 2017 said [it had resulted in a 20% reduction in enrolments](#) at UK higher education providers.²⁶³

On 11 September 2019, the Government announced the introduction of a new two-year post-study work visa for international students, the '[Graduate route](#)'.²⁶⁴ International graduates can apply for a graduate visa if all the following are true:

- they are currently in the UK;
- their current visa is a [Student visa or Tier 4 \(General\) student visa](#);

²⁶¹ UK Visas and Immigration, [Home Office immigration and nationality fees](#), 6 April 2023

²⁶² GOV.UK, [Pay for UK healthcare as part of your immigration application](#)

²⁶³ Higher Education Policy Institute, [The determinants of international demand for UK higher education](#), January 2017, p9

²⁶⁴ British High Commission New Delhi, [UK announces 2-year post-study work visa for international students](#), 11 September 2019

- they studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree, or other eligible course for a minimum period of time with their student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa;
- their education provider has told the Home Office they have successfully completed their course.²⁶⁵

The graduate visa gives international graduates permission to stay in the UK for two years after successfully completing a course in the UK. For graduates who completed a PhD or other doctoral qualification, the visa lasts for three years. The graduate visa cannot be extended, but graduates may be able to switch to a different visa, for example a [skilled worker visa](#).

Unlike a sponsored work visa, there are no restrictions on what jobs someone on a Graduate visa can do.

It currently costs **£715** to apply for a graduate visa.²⁶⁶ Graduates will also have to [pay the healthcare surcharge](#) of £624 for each year they will be in the UK as part of their application.²⁶⁷

²⁶⁵ GOV.UK, [Graduate visa](#)

²⁶⁶ UK Visas and Immigration, [Home Office immigration and nationality fees](#), 6 April 2023

²⁶⁷ GOV.UK, [Pay for UK healthcare as part of your immigration application](#)

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