

Recognition of UK degrees in Singapore

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The Education UK Unit of the British Council is glad to provide impartial advice to the general public. The Unit offers assistance to students with their applications and provides an up-to-date collection of reference materials that include institutional prospectuses, reference books and CDs.

Opening hours

Monday - Friday: 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

We also offer group presentations on studying in the UK. Please contact us to book an appointment.

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Singapore 258509
T 6473 4357
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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given here is correct and up to date, the British Council accepts no legal liability for its accuracy or completeness. Students are advised to always contact the relevant sources for the most updated information.

Recognition of UK degrees in Singapore

This information sheet reflects the British Council's understanding of the recognition issues relating to UK educational institutions and courses in Singapore. It is written in good faith, but students are encouraged to double-check the positions of professional bodies, scholarship bodies and prospective employers.

1 General

There is no single organisation in Singapore which has unique responsibility for the recognition of overseas institutions, and all the courses which they offer.

Therefore, in selecting an overseas institution at which to study, it is important to consider two questions relating to recognition:

- a Is the institution which I am considering a bona fide educational establishment?
- b If I intend to pursue a qualification in one of the professions, and wish to seek local professional registration, is there a local governing professional body which maintains a register of accredited overseas degrees and qualifications?

2 Bona fide status of institutions

To find out whether a UK institution is bona fide, students should contact the British Council to enquire whether the institution is properly accredited by the authorities in the UK, e.g. the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). If so, then its bona fide **status** will also be understood in Singapore.

2a Association of Commonwealth Universities

It is useful to mention here the Association of Commonwealth Universities (<http://www.acu.ac.uk/>), membership of which is popularly regarded by some as testimony to the status of a particular institution. In order to prevent misconceptions, the following comments from the ACU should help to clarify the position.

'Membership of the Association of Commonwealth Universities is open to all legally incorporated universities, university colleges, and certain other institutions of higher education in Commonwealth countries; however, membership is an entirely voluntary matter and if an institution which is eligible to apply chooses not to do so, this should in no way be seen as detracting from its status as a recognised institution. The Commonwealth Universities Yearbook lists those institutions that are eligible to join and those that have not. Further, it should be understood that the Association of Commonwealth Universities is not an accrediting body.'

3 Recognition by professional bodies

However, even if the institution is bona fide, it does not follow that all of its courses will be recognised by the respective professional bodies in Singapore. For certain professions, there are local lists of accredited overseas degrees and qualifications. These are described below.

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3a Accountancy

Students who have passed the final examination in accountancy of one of the following are eligible for registration as public accountants in Singapore, upon satisfying the other requirements pertaining to practical experience and professional membership under the Accountants Act, and will be deemed to have registrable qualifications for the purposes of practising as accountants in Singapore.

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI)
- The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) (formerly known as the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants)
- The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of the United Kingdom (CIMA), except that CIMA members shall have passed the following subjects:
 - (a) Financial Reporting Environment
 - (b) Accounting and Audit Practice
 - (c) Advanced Taxation
 - (d) Company Law and Corporate Governance

Contact:	Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (ICPAS) 20 Aljunied Road, #06-02 CPA House Singapore 389805 T 6749 8060 F 6749 8061 Email: cpasingapore@icpas.org.sg Website: www.icpas.org.sg	Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) 10 Anson Road #05 – 01/15 International Plaza Singapore 079903 T 6325 3731/32 F 6225 1676 Website: www.acra.gov.sg
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3b Architecture

Students who wish to practise as architects, must seek registration with the Board of Architects. For a list of UK qualifications that may be registered, please contact the Board of Architects.

Contact: Board of Architects
5 Maxwell Road
1st Storey Tower Block
MND Complex
Singapore 069110
T 6222 5295
F 6222 4452
Email: boarch@singnet.com.sg
Website: www.boa.gov.sg

3c Dentistry

Students who wish to practise dentistry will need to register with the Dental Council. The following UK degrees in Dentistry are registrable with the Singapore Dental Council:

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|-----------------------------|------|
| 1. University of Birmingham | BDS |
| 2. University of Bristol | BDS |
| 3. University of Dundee | BDS |
| 4. University of Glasgow | BDS |
| 5. University of Leeds | BChD |
| 6. University of Liverpool | BDS |
| 7. University of London | BDS |
| 8. University of Manchester | BDS |

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9. University of Newcastle upon Tyne	BDS
10. Queen's University of Belfast	BDS
11. University of Sheffield	BDS
12. University of Wales	BDS
13. University of Edinburgh	BDS

Contact: Singapore Dental Council
16 College Road #01-01
College of Medicine Building
Singapore 169854
T 6372 3076
F 6221 1275
Email: enquiries@dentalcouncil.gov.sg
Website: www.sdc.gov.sg

3d Engineering

Students who intend to seek registration as professional engineers in Singapore should familiarise themselves with the list of accredited degrees issued by the Professional Engineers Board (PEB). The Education UK Unit of the British Council holds a reference copy of this list, but students are advised to check with the PEB as the list is subject to change. Students who do not intend to seek registration with the PEB will be less concerned with this requirement, but should understand that the onus is on them to persuade their prospective employers of the relevance of their study.

Contact: Professional Engineers Board (Singapore)
1st Storey Tower Block
MND Complex
5 Maxwell Road
Singapore 069110
T 6222 9293
F 6222 9471
Email: registrar@peb.gov.sg
Website: www.peb.gov.sg

3e Land Surveying

Overseas graduates who wish to become registered surveyor in Singapore will need to apply to the Land Surveyors Board. Upon the Board's approval, the applicant becomes a registered surveyor and is issued with a certificate of registration.

List of Professional Qualifications in Land Surveying recognised by Land Surveyors Board, Singapore:

1. Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)	Professional Members who have passed final examinations of RICS
2. University of College London	Bachelor of Engineering in Geoinformatics
3. University of East London (Honours)	Bachelor of Surveying and Mapping Sciences
4. University of Newcastle upon Tyne	Bachelor of Science, Surveying Science (Honours)

Contact: Land Surveyors Board
c/o Singapore Land Authority
8 Shenton Way #26-01
Temasek Tower
Singapore 068811
T 6323 9797
F 6323 9791

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Email: mLaw_lsb_enquiry@mLaw.gov.sg

Web: www.mLaw.gov.sg/lsb

3f Law

In February 2009, the Ministry for Law has made changes to the legal education framework. Students will no longer be required to complete the year long Diploma in Singapore Law course and graduates with Second Lower Honours can now qualify for the Singapore Bar without having to fulfil a two year work requirement. The changes will allow more students to have the opportunity to practice the Singapore Law.

The key recommendations as they affect UK institutions were that:

- a. Law graduates from universities in the United Kingdom need not qualify as barristers or solicitors of England or equivalent but should satisfy the following conditions for the purpose of admission to the Singapore Bar:
 - i. they have obtained their law degrees from one of 15 'scheduled' universities (excluding degrees obtained under 'twinning schemes');
 - ii. they have to complete Part A and Part B of the Bar Examination
 - iii. they have to fulfil a 12 months training contract
- b. External law degrees obtained from any overseas university in or after 1996 should no longer be recognised for the purpose of admission to the Singapore Bar.
- c. Holders of Second Class Lower Division Honours or equivalent law degrees from the Scheduled Universities who were full-time internal candidates will no longer need to fulfil a two year legal work requirement in order to practise law in Singapore.
- d. The 15 'scheduled' universities are:

1. University of Birmingham	LL.B (Honours)
2. University of Bristol	LL.B (Single Honours)
3. University of Cambridge	BA Law
4. University of Durham	LL.B (Honours)
5. University of Exeter	LL.B (Honours)
6. University of Leeds	LL.B (Honours)
7. University of Leicester	LL.B (Honours)
8. University of Liverpool	LL.B (Honours)
9. University of London (from any of the following):	LL.B (Honours)
• King's College London	
• London School of Economics & Political Science	
• Queen Mary and Westfield College	
• School of Oriental and African Studies	
• University College London	
10. University of Manchester	LL.B (Honours)
11. University of Nottingham	LL.B (Honours)
12. University of Oxford	BA (Honours) Jurisprudence
13. University of Sheffield	LL.B (Honours)
14. University of Southampton	LL.B (Honours)
15. University of Warwick	LL.B (Honours)

Contact: Board of Legal Education
Conference Room (9th Floor)
Subordinate Courts

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1 Havelock Square, Singapore 059724

T 6534 1831/2

F 6538 7757

Email: blegale@singnet.com.sg

Website: www.lawsociety.org.sg/ble

3g Medicine

The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) would consider granting medical registration to any persons who possess basic medical degrees obtained from schools listed below, subject to an offer of employment with an approved healthcare institution in the public sector. Doctors who do not possess basic degrees that can be registered may apply for conditional registration if they have acquired a postgraduate qualification that is recognised by the Council, subject to a job offer by any of the healthcare clusters.

1. Faculty of Medicine and Medical Science, University of Aberdeen
2. College of Medicine and Health Sciences, The Queen's University Belfast
3. School of Medicine, University of Birmingham
4. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Bristol
5. School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge
6. Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Dundee
7. Medical School, University of Edinburgh
8. Faculty of Medicine, University of Glasgow
9. School of Medicine, University of Leeds
10. School of Medicine, University of Leicester
11. Faculty of Medicine, University of Liverpool
12. University of London
 - a. King's College London School of Medicine
 - b. Imperial College London
 - c. Barts and The London
 - d. Royal Free and University College Medical School
 - e. St. George's University of London
13. Faculty of Medicine, University of Manchester
14. Faculty of Medicine Sciences, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
15. Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, The University of Nottingham
16. Oxford University Medical School
17. Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Sheffield
18. Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton
19. Medical School, University of St Andrews
20. College of Medicine, University of Wales

Contact: Singapore Medical Council
16 College Road, #01 – 01
College of Medicine Building
Singapore 169854
T 6372 3073/4
F 6221 0558
Email: moh_smc@moh.gov.sg
Website: www.smc.gov.sg

3h Nursing

The Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) does not hold a list of accredited universities in the UK. Students who wish to practise nursing and/or midwifery in Singapore must be registered with the SNB and possess a valid practising certificate. Graduates of UK nursing degrees must first seek registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in the UK, and SNB will require verification of registration from the NMC. Students need to be aware of the selection of nursing courses and the eventual registration on the type of registration with the NMC.

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Contact: Singapore Nursing Board
16 College Road
#01-01, College of Medicine Building
Singapore 169854
T 6732 3082/3/5
F 6221 1160
Email: snb_contact@snb.gov.sg
Website: www.snb.gov.sg

3i Optometry

As of 1 January 2008, all optometrists and opticians providing eye care services will need to be registered with the Optometrists & Opticians Board to continue practising or working as an optician or optometrist. The following UK degrees in Optometry may be registered with the Optometrists & Opticians Board:

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|--|-----|
| 1. Aston University | BSc |
| 2. Glasgow Caledonian University | BSc |
| 3. The City University, London | BSc |
| 4. The University of Manchester
Institute of Science and Technology | BSc |
| 5. University of Bradford | BSc |
| 6. University of Wales, Cardiff | BSc |

Contact: Optometrists & Opticians Board
Ministry of Health
Level 2, College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
Singapore 169854
T 6325 2945
F 6325 9211
Email: moh_oob@moh.gov.sg
Website: www.oob.moh.gov.sg

3j Pharmacy

The Pharmacy Board, Singapore recognises a degree in pharmacy awarded by any university or tertiary institution in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom, United States of America, provided it is recognised by the state or country in which the degree was obtained for the purpose of registration as a pharmacist. Overseas graduates who wish to practise as pharmacists in Singapore will need to register with the Board.

Contact: Singapore Pharmacy Board
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
Singapore 169854
T 6325 1615
F 6325 1618
Email: moh_spb@moh.gov.sg
Website: www.spb.gov.sg

3k Veterinary Science

Graduates of veterinary science will need to apply for a veterinary licence from the licensing authority, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), in order to practise veterinary medicine in Singapore. Veterinary science degrees awarded by veterinary universities in the United Kingdom which are recognised by the Royal College of

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Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) are currently accepted by AVA for consideration of a licence to practise veterinary medicine in Singapore. These include all the UK degrees awarded in Veterinary Science or Medicine, which may be pursued at the following universities:

1. University of Bristol
2. University of Cambridge
3. University of Edinburgh
4. University of Glasgow
5. University of Liverpool
6. University of London (Royal Veterinary College)

Contact: Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
5 Maxwell Road
#18-00 Tower Block
MND Complex
Singapore 069110
T 6325 7625/6222 12111
F 6220 6068
Email: ava_email@ava.gov.sg
Website: www.ava.gov.sg

4 Employers

Even though a student pursues a course at a bona fide educational institution, and satisfies the academic requirement for registration with the relevant professional body (if appropriate), they should also be aware prospective employers have different needs and interests.

Individual employers will each have an idea of the kind of person they wish to recruit for particular jobs. Academic criteria may be an important factor, but employers may also consider other factors such as an applicant's experience and personal qualities.

5 Scholarships

Some employers may also offer scholarships as a means of attracting talent to their workforce. In so doing, they may have a specific idea of the courses/universities which satisfy their academic requirements. These criteria will differ from one employer to another, so it is important that prospective scholars have an understanding of the interests of the respective scholarship bodies and employers.