

# Universities

## I. Brunel University

## II. Notes

### I. Brunel University

Read the information from Brunel University's website and the following notes. Where necessary, discuss the vocabulary and the facts that may need more explanation with your colleagues and your teacher.

#### Topics to be discussed when you have finished reading the text:

1. How would you translate the terms "school" and "department" as used at Brunel University into Czech?
2. Describe the differences between Brunel University and your University in
  - governance,
  - structure,
  - types of courses and degrees.
3. Would you have taken a MRes degree had it been available at your University when you studied for the Master's degree?
4. Did your postgraduate course provide you with the skills necessary for writing and presenting the Master's thesis? If not, when and how did you learn such skills?

### Brunel

is a campus-based university situated in Uxbridge, West London, and is home to nearly 15,000 students from over 100 countries worldwide. Founded in 1966, our distinctive mission is to combine teaching and research excellence with the practical and entrepreneurial approach pioneered by its namesake, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

#### A Research Intensive University

We place great value on the usefulness of our research, which improves our understanding of the world around us and informs up-to-date teaching. Research is responsible for much of our collaborative work with business, industry and the public sector, providing opportunities for work experience, and demonstrates our commitment to producing professionally-minded graduates that employers want to recruit.

#### Governance and Constitution

The University exists by virtue of a Royal Charter first granted in 1966. Its governing body is called the Council and comprises a mix of independent members and staff and students of the University. The Council appoints the Vice-Chancellor and other senior officers:

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Strategy and Development,

Pro-Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Teaching Quality,

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research,

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Experience and Staff Development.

### Academic schools

The University comprises 8 academic schools two of which offer engineering disciplines:

**School of Engineering and Design,**

**School of Information Systems, Computing and Mathematics.**

## School of Engineering and Design

The School of Engineering and Design consists of the following departments:  
Advanced Manufacturing and Enterprise Engineering,  
Civil Engineering,  
Design,  
Electronic and Computer Engineering,  
Mechanical Engineering.

## The University awards the following degrees in engineering sciences:

**BSc** = Bachelor of Science,  
**BEng** = Bachelor of Engineering,  
**MSc** = Master of Science,  
**MEng** = Master of Engineering,  
**MRes** = Master of Research,  
**MPhil** = Master of Philosophy,  
**PhD** = Doctor of Philosophy.

## Bachelor course structure

Brunel's course structure is based on three periods of study per year. There are two teaching terms of 12 weeks each – the first runs from September to December, and the second runs from January to Easter. There is then a third, shorter term for revision, examination and assessment.

The University offers three types of Bachelor courses:

**Three-year course** (students study for six academic terms, each followed by an assessment term and a standard summer vacation),

**Four-year thick sandwich** (students spend the whole of year 3 on work placement),

**Four-year thin sandwich** (students spend two academic periods and one summer vacation on work placements).

The tutors and the Placement and Careers Centre help students in their search for suitable work placements. The placement should be relevant to the student's degree and appropriate to his/her level of ability. It should also provide as much variety of experience as is practicable.

## Master course structure

Full-time Master's programmes last approximately one year, part-time programmes last a minimum of two years. The courses are made up of self-contained modules with a set number of credits. Usually you can expect to take the taught modules during the first two thirds of your course and move on to the dissertation for the latter part.

The title of your dissertation is usually agreed between you and your supervisor and will relate to your chosen course of study, but you can also draw on your work experience if you are in relevant employment.

Your postgraduate course will provide you with the skills you need to undertake a project or dissertation in your chosen field. These may include research methods, use of relevant software packages, communication and presentation skills.

## The Brunel MRes

This degree can be taken either as a stand-alone Master's taught course or as the foundation year for PhD study. If you pursue the latter option, your marks in all the taught modules as well as the dissertation must be at least 50%.

## Chartered Engineers

Students following the four-year or five-year sandwich programme courses gain a fast track route to **chartered engineering status**. For more information see Note 7. below.

For information on doctoral study see PhD study.

## II. Notes

1. **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** (1806 – 1859) – famous British engineer who designed the first steamship to cross the Atlantic (the Great Western); his next ship was the Great Britain (1845), the first large ship to be constructed of iron and to have a screw propeller.

2. **Vice-Chancellor** – executive head of a British university (**Rector** at a Czech university).  
**Chancellor** – formal head of a British university, a person who represents it on special occasions, usually a well-known public figure (has no equivalent in the Czech system).  
**President** – head of a university or a college in the USA.

3. At some **British universities** a group of departments is called a **school**, while others use the word **college** (Oxford, Cambridge, University of Birmingham) or **faculty**. **School** is also sometimes used to denote a part of the college, i.e. a **department**, or even a **whole university** (e.g. London School of Economics and Political Science). In the **US**, **faculty** refers to the teaching and research staff at a college or university.

In the **US**, **college** is an institution of **general education** in liberal arts and sciences, which grants Bachelor's degrees. A college can be independent or also part of a university. A **university/An institute** comprises both a **college** and several **professional schools**, each with several **departments** (e.g. the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; one of its schools is the School of Engineering, one of the departments of the School is the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science). A university/An institute grants both **undergraduate and postgraduate degrees**, i.e. Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees. The American word for postgraduate degrees is graduate degrees. **Postdoctoral** relates to study done after a PhD (e.g. postdoctoral research).

In **Central Europe** (including the Czech Republic), it is safer to use the word **faculty** and not college as colleges in the UK or in the US are also institutions that offer work-related courses (e.g. Further Education Colleges and Community Colleges) and do not award academic degrees.

4. Besides the MSc degree, which is a taught degree, some universities also offer a **MRes degree (Master of Research)**. In comparison with the MSc degree course, the MRes course is designed to prepare students for doctoral studies, i.e. there are fewer taught courses and emphasis is on a larger thesis.

5. The English word **credit** is used in Czech in two different meanings in connection with higher education: - a unit which represents a successfully completed part of an educational course (**kredit**),  
- recognition of successful completion of a course without which the

student cannot sit for the examination in that course (**zápočet**).  
Some courses may require only a credit or a graded credit  
(not an examination).

To avoid confusion, it is advisable to put an asterix \* after the word “credit” in the meaning of “zápočet” and add a footnote providing an explanation of the term.

**The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)** is a standard for comparing the study attainment and performance of higher education students across the European Union and other collaborating European countries. For successfully completed studies, ECTS credits are awarded. One academic year corresponds to 60 **ECTS-credits** that are equivalent to 1500 – 1800 hours of study in all countries irrespective of standard or qualification type. The system is used to facilitate transfer and progression throughout the Union.

The **Diploma Supplement (DS)** is a document attached to a **higher education diploma** aiming at improving international ‘transparency’ and at facilitating the academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.).

(Adapted from Wikipedia)

6. The money universities charge for teaching is called the **tuition fee**. In Great Britain, in the academic year 2012/2013, the maximum was set at 9,000 pounds/year. Fees are payable after graduation, contingent on attaining a certain level of income. Students are also entitled to student loans for maintenance. **Bursaries** are awarded to low income applicants, to help them pay undergraduate fees. **Scholarships** are awarded competitively and are available to graduates. In the US, graduate students receive **fellowships** or **stipends**.

7. Chartered status

**Chartered engineers (CEng)** are professional engineers registered with the Engineering Council UK (ECUK). For registration, it is necessary for candidates to demonstrate that they are professionally competent through education, training and professional practice. According to the Engineering Council UK, Chartered Engineers are characterised by their ability to develop appropriate solutions to engineering problems, using new or existing technologies, through innovation, creativity and change. They might develop and apply new technologies, promote advanced designs and design methods, introduce new and more efficient production techniques, marketing and construction concepts, pioneer new engineering services and management methods. Chartered Engineers are variously engaged in technical and commercial leadership and possess interpersonal skills.

8. **The European Engineer (Eur Ing, EUR ING)** is an international professional qualification for engineers used in many European countries. It is granted by the **European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI)**.

9. **Engineering institutions:** Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE),  
Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers (IEEE),  
Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET),  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE),  
Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE).

## EXERCISES

I. This exercise will help you revise the vocabulary concerning secondary education. Fill the gaps with the words given below.

universities  
secondary technical schools  
obligatory  
complete/finish/conclude  
grammar schools  
general  
secondary vocational school  
levels  
subjects  
secondary trade/industrial school

school-leaving examination  
attendance  
oral  
admission  
entrance  
written  
tertiary technical school/college  
practically orientated  
business academies  
academic technical school

1. In our country, school ..... has been ..... for more than two hundred years.
2. Besides four-year secondary schools we also have eight-year secondary schools similar to the British ..... (for children over the age of 11 who have passed an ..... examination).
3. While some of the four-year secondary schools provide ..... education and prepare students for universities, others, e.g. .... and ..... are more .....
4. Students ..... their secondary education by a ..... and an ..... examination in several .....
5. This examination (in Czech "maturita") is usually described as the .....
6. In the UK, this type of examination is offered at two .....: GCE (General Certificate of Education) and GCE A level (advanced level), which is used by ..... as an ..... guide.
7. "Vyšší odborná škola" can be translated into English as .....
8. "Střední odborná škola" is usually translated as .....
9. "Střední odborné učiliště" can be translated as .....
10. The English name for "Lyceum" is .....; it is, however, only a free translation.

II. The following expressions are connected with institutions of higher education. Use them to fill the gaps.

Office of Student Affairs  
institutions of higher education  
length/duration  
International Office

Career Guidance and Counselling Office  
study stays  
job fair  
recognition

**Bachelor's degree course**  
**job/career prospects**  
**Master's degree course**  
**diversification**  
**abilities**  
**Open Day (BE)/Open House (AE)**  
**diploma**  
**responsible**  
**work placements/internships**

**guidance**  
**recruit**  
**accreditation**  
**achievements/attainments**  
**postsecondary/higher/tertiary**  
**administrative**  
**graduates**  
**establishing**  
**employees**

1. The ..... advises students on what jobs and professional training might be suitable for them.
2. The three newly proposed courses received ..... last month.
3. Greater ..... of education would help to meet the requirements of students with different interests and .....
4. .... is an opportunity for the public to visit a university in order to see the work done there.
5. The standard ..... of a ..... is three years, of a ..... five years.
6. .... are terms used about education that follows the completion of a secondary school.
7. Academic ..... are the decisive factors in admitting students to a university.
8. The ..... provides ....., advice and ..... assistance for students.
9. Many countries require ..... of your degree and ..... before you are allowed to work in your field.
10. The ..... for our ..... are very good; most of them find jobs very easily.
11. The ..... is ..... for ..... contacts and developing cooperation with foreign .....; it also coordinates ..... and ..... abroad.
12. At the annual ..... students get an opportunity to meet representatives of both Czech and foreign companies and the companies use this opportunity to ..... prospective .....

**III. Complete the tables using the words/phrases below.**

a)

**brain circulation**  
**Higher Education Act**  
**(academic) senate**  
**President**  
**Rector's Office**  
**academics/academic staff**  
**institutions of higher education**

**admission requirements**  
**academia**  
**entrance examination**  
**education reform**  
**education system**  
**higher/tertiary (education)**

**Registrar**  
**Rector**  
**administrative staff**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**brain drain**  
**admissions procedure**  
**Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**

1. postsecondary (education)	higher/tertiary (education)
2. law governing higher education	
3. the way education is organized and managed	
4. changes that a government makes to the education system	
5. Czech ministry responsible for higher education	
6. generalizing term for universities, colleges, institutes	
7. head of a Czech university	
8. executive head of a British university	
9. head of an American university	
10. building/rooms where the Rector and his staff work	
11. person whose responsibilities include controlling a university's money, managing central administration and services, and cooperating with the Rector and Vice-Rectors on strategy and development	
12. elected governing body of a university (consisting of both students and staff)	
13. university community (both students and staff involved in the work done at the university)	
14. university employees engaged in teaching and research	
15. employees responsible for a university's operation, doing office work	
16. movement of highly educated people from one country to another country where they can earn more money	
17. staff and student mobility is sometimes called	
18. requirements students have to meet to be admitted to a university	
19. examination students have to pass to be admitted to a university	
20. process allowing people to enter a university	

**b)**

**postgraduates (BE)/graduates (AE); PhD/doctoral students**  
**semesters/terms**  
**bursary; scholarship; fellowship, stipend; loan**  
**hall of residence (BE)/dorm/dormitory (AE)**  
**student's (course ) record book**  
**refectory/food hall/cafeteria**  
**lifelong/continuing education**

**tuition fee**  
**undergraduates**  
**part-time study**  
**Open University**  
**full-time study**  
**prospectus**  
**distance study**

**university of the third age**

1. a small book giving details of a college/university	
2. form of study which involves studying for the whole of each week of the academic year	
3. form of study which involves studying for only part of each week of the academic year, i.e. at a slower pace; classes are offered one day a week or at the weekend or as intensive study periods	
4. form of study which involves studying at home and sending your work to your teacher; many of these programmes also require attendance at study weekends	
5. students studying for the first degree	
6. students studying for a postgraduate degree (Master's; PhD)	
7. a small book listing courses a student will take/has taken; successful completion is confirmed by the signature of the examiner	
8. an academic year consists of	
9. money some universities charge for teaching	
10. money available to students to help them pay their expenses	
11. building where students live	
12. place where students take their meals	
13. training and education for adults, usually in classes in the evening	
14. education for seniors	
15. university which runs undergraduate and postgraduate distance learning courses in Great Britain	

**Note:**

The Czech term **kombinované studium** can be translated as **part-time study** or as **distance study** as even this kind of study may require attendance at study weekends. If the term is translated as **combined study**, it is necessary to provide an explanation (= combination of distance study and intensive teaching programmes at weekends).

**IV. Can you fill the table with verbs having the same meaning as the verbs listed below?**

**take**  
**gain**

**receive**  
**be awarded**

**hold**  
**study for**

**obtain**  
**work for**

1. do a degree in (...)	
2. get a degree in (...)	
3. have a degree in (...)	

**V. Complete the sentences.**

1. He applied ..... admission ..... the University of West Bohemia.
2. She holds a degree ..... Mechanical Engineering ..... the University of Technology in Brno.
3. He graduated ..... the Czech Technical University.
4. John is a graduate ..... Brunel University.
5. Mary is now studying ..... a degree ..... Economics ..... the University of Nottingham.
6. This course provides you ..... the skills you need to give presentations and write papers.
7. The three engineering faculties are located ..... the campus.
8. The work placement should be relevant ..... the students' degree course and appropriate ..... their skills and abilities.
9. The course ..... Commercial Electrical Engineering is intended ..... students who prefer a career ..... business or industry ..... an academic career.
10. Students ..... the sandwich course spend two to three terms ..... work placement.

**VI. Correct the following mistakes. Read the following note before you start.**

Remember that in some meanings **study** is used in both its singular and plural forms, in others only one form is used. Examples:

*undergraduate study, postgraduate study, PhD study  
mode/form of study*

*He continued his studies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering. (use **studies** with my, your, his ...)*

*You are expected to use part of your free time for study.*

*A recent study on global warming shows .../Recent studies on global warming show ...*

*Linguistics is the study of language.*

*Environmental studies ....*

*You will find Professor Green in his study.*

1. He is an absolvent of our University.  
.....
2. I studied the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Pilsen.  
.....
3. I work on the Department of Mathematics.  
.....
4. At Brunel, most first-year students live in the University campus.  
.....
5. The percentage of 18-year olds entering high schools has grown rapidly in the last ten years.  
.....  
.....
6. On our University, most students choose the present form of study.  
.....

7. The Rectorate is the white building just across the street.

.....

8. I intend to complete my study as soon as possible.

.....

9. How is your engineering study progressing?

.....

10. She set aside a period of time specifically for studies.

.....

11. I take my lunch in the menza.

.....

12. I spend the weekends with my parents, but during the week I live in a college.

.....

### **VII. Topics for discussion**

1. The higher education reform is a hot topic these days. What changes in the higher education system do you consider important and necessary?

2. Are you in favour of tuition/registration fees?

3. Does teaching and research quality assessment work at your University?

4. Would you like to make any recommendations concerning student-teacher relationship and interaction?

5. Do you think that your University should also introduce some kind of sandwich courses? Why/Why not?