

ESL University Vocabulary List with Definitions

<https://www.excellentesl4u.com/esl-university-vocabulary.html>

The following is a list of vocabulary items all about universities and being a student at a university. The list has a definition for each word as well as its part of speech. You should try to learn the words now and also use the list as a reference source in the future.

- Assignment:** A homework given to university students. (*noun*)
- Academic:** Relating to schools, colleges, and universities. (*adjective*)
- Academia:** The academic community at universities whose main activities include learning, teaching, and research. (*noun*)
- Advisor:** A person who assists students in planning their educational programs. (*noun*)
- Audit:** To attend a course without getting a grade for the course. (*verb*)
- Bachelor's degree:** The first degree for people studying at a university. (*noun*)
- Bursar:** The treasurer at a college or university. (*noun*)
- Bursary:** An amount of money that is given to a person to allow him or her to attend university. (*noun*)
- Campus:** The buildings and the surrounding land of a university or college. (*noun*)
- College:** A higher education institution where you can study for an undergraduate degree (American English). (*noun*)
- College of further education:** A higher education institution or part of a university that provides vocational or specialized education. (*noun*)
- Community college:** A college that offers two-year programs for students from the local community (American English). (*noun*)
- Commencement:** A ceremony at which students formally receive their academic degrees (American English). (*noun*)
- Course:** A series of lessons on a particular subject, usually ended with an exam. (*noun*)
- Certificate:** An official document that proves you have passed an exam or completed a course. (*noun*)
- Credit:** Course unit. (*noun*)
- Curriculum:** The subjects that are included in a course of study in a college or university. (*noun*)
- Degree:** The qualification given to students who have completed their studies at a college or university. (*noun*)
- Dean:** A high-rank official in a university who is in charge of a department or group of departments. (*noun*)
- Department:** A section of a college or university that deals with a particular area of study. (*noun*)
- Dining hall:** A large room in a university building where people can eat together. (*noun*)
- Diploma:** A document given by a college or university that shows you have finished your studies or passed a certain exam. (*noun*)
- Dissertation:** The paper written at the end of a degree course. (*noun*)
- Distance course:** A course in which students learn on their own at home and communicate with faculty and other students via the internet. (*noun*)
- Dormitory:** A large building at campus where students live (American English). (*noun*)
- Education:** A particular kind of teaching or training that aims to develop knowledge and skills. (*noun*)
- Enroll:** To officially join in a course. (*verb*)
- Exam:** A formal test of a student's knowledge or skill in a particular subject. (*noun*)
- Faculty:** A group of departments in a college or university that focuses on an area of study or several related subjects. (*noun*)
- Fail:** To be unsuccessful in a test or exam. (*verb*)

Financial aid: The money that is given or lent to help a student at a university to pay the cost of his or her study. *(noun)*

First degree: The degree that undergraduates do. *(noun)*

Fraternity: A social organization for male university students (American English). *(noun)*

Freshman: A first-year student at school, college or university (American English). *(noun)*

Fresher: A student who is still in his or her first term at a university (British English). *(noun)*

Freshers' week: A week at the beginning of a new academic year at university that is organized to welcome new students. *(noun)*

Grade Point Average: The average of a student's grades during his or her studies at university (American English). *(noun)*

Graduate: To complete a degree at a university *(verb)*; a person who has a university degree. *(noun)*

Grant: An amount of money given by the government to allow a student to follow a course. *(noun)*

Halls of residence: A large building at campus where most students live in their first year of university. *(noun)*

Higher education: Education that is given at college or university. *(noun)*

Homecoming: A celebration for former students, held annually by a university or college (American English). *(noun)*

Instructor: A university teacher who ranks below assistant professor and teaches a limited number of classes (American English). *(noun)*

Junior college: A college where students study for two years, which equals the freshman and sophomore years of a four-year undergraduate course (American English). *(noun)*

Law school: A higher education institution for postgraduates that trains students to become lawyers (American English). *(noun)*

Lecture: An activity when students make notes and listen to the lecturer. *(noun)*

Lecturer: A person who teaches in a university but not a professor. *(noun)*

Major: The main subject that a student studies at college or university. *(noun)*

Master's degree: A university degree that you get after studying for one or two years after your first degree. *(noun)*

Matriculate: To officially begin studying at a university; to attend the academic standard required for a course. *(verb)*

Matriculation: The process of matriculating. *(noun)*

Medical school: Another name for medical faculty. *(noun)*

Minor: The second most important subject that a student studies at college or university. *(noun)*

Pass: To succeed in an exam or test. *(verb)*

PhD: An abbreviation for Doctor of Philosophy, the highest university degree, which is obtained by doing advanced research. *(noun)*

Polytechnic: A college which offers vocational courses or focuses on teaching scientific and technical subjects. *(noun)*

Postgraduate: A university student who has completed a first degree and is studying for a more advanced degree. *(noun)*; more advanced level than a first degree. *(adjective)*

Prerequisite: A class that must be taken before another class. *(noun)*

Professor: A university teacher of the highest rank. *(noun)*

Qualification: A course of study that you have completed or an exam that you have passed. *(noun)*

Quiz: A short test given to students. *(noun)*

Register: To record a name on an official list. *(verb)*

Registrar: The administrator who is responsible for student records. *(noun)*

Registration: The act of enrolling. *(noun)*

Research: A careful and detailed study of a subject in order to discover new facts or test new ideas. *(noun)*

Room and board: A room to sleep in with food provided. *(noun)*

Roommate: Someone who you share a room with for a period of time during your study at

university. *(noun)*

Sandwich course: A course which includes periods of study with periods of work between them to provide students with practical experience. *(noun)*

Semester: One of the two periods into which a year is divided at university. *(noun)*

Seminar: A course offered for a small group of students. *(noun)*

Session: A school or university year. *(noun)*

Scholarship: An amount of money that a student gets from an individual or organization to help pay for his or her education. *(noun)*

Sophomore: A student who is in the second year of a university study (American English). *(noun)*

Sorority: A social organization for female university students (American English). *(noun)*

Spring break: A two-week holiday from college or university in the spring (American English). *(noun)*

Student loan: An amount of money that you borrow from the government or a bank to fund your study at a university and which you must pay back after you completed your study. *(noun)*

Student union: An association of students at a university that is concerned with students' rights, living conditions, etc. *(noun)*

Syllabus: A list of topics or books that are planned to be studied in a particular subject. *(noun)*

Term: One of the three periods into which a year is divided at university. *(noun)*

Textbook: A book that contains detailed information about a subject that people study at university. *(noun)*

Theological college: A college where students are trained to become priests or church ministers. *(noun)*

Thesis: The paper written at the end of a doctorate degree. *(noun)*

Training college: A college for adult learners that gives training for a particular profession. *(noun)*

Transcript: An official record of the courses that a student has taken and the marks received (American English). *(noun)*

Tuition: The teaching given to a small group or one person in a college or university. *(noun)*

Tuition fees: The money that a student pays to get an education at a university. *(noun)*

Tutor: A teacher who works with one student or a small group of students. *(noun)*

Tutorial: A one-to-one teaching activity with a tutor. *(noun)*

Undergraduate: A college or university student who is studying for a first degree. *(noun)*

University: A higher education institution where people study or do research for a degree. *(noun)*

Varsity: The main team that represents a college or university in sports competitions (American English). *(noun)*