

Hospitality and tourism

Tourism and hospitality are among the growth industries of the world, with more and more jobs on offer. Covering a wide range of occupations in different organisations – many of them overlapping – they offer you the chance of an interesting career with many opportunities to progress.

Checklist: Why study Hospitality and Tourism in the United Kingdom?

- United Kingdom (UK) courses, teaching staff and work placements can take advantage of some of the best practice in the world because of the UK's large and world-renowned hospitality and tourism industry
- UK institutions teaching these subjects have close links with the industries
- the skills, training and qualifications gained will be in demand all over the world
- the only global professional hospitality qualification is offered by a UK organisation, the Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA)
- the UK tourism industry is one of the longest established in the world and tourism training and education has a rigour that is widely respected
- you will have the opportunity to improve your skills in the English language, which will also help in your future career.

1 What can I study?


Can I take a degree in tourism or hospitality?

Yes, in both cases you can take a first degree, a postgraduate degree or study for a doctorate. For more information, refer to *Choosing your degree course and institution* and *Choosing your taught postgraduate course and institution* in this series.

Are there practical qualifications available?

Yes. Courses available include General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), Scottish National Qualifications and Standard Group Awards. Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNCs and HNDs) are also available. For more information on these qualifications please refer to *Choosing a career-based training course* in this series. You can also take qualifications leading to membership of, or recognition from, the relevant professional bodies:

- the Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA)
- the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA)

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- the International Air Transport Association (IATA)
 - the Institute of Travel and Tourism (ITT)
 - the Tourism Society.

The main examinations/examining bodies (which also provide courses) are:

- General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) in Leisure and Tourism or Hospitality and Catering
- the more specialised National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and their Scottish equivalent, Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- City & Guilds certificate, diploma and advanced diploma
- Edexcel and SQA National Diploma/Certificate, Higher National Diploma/Certificate
- the Wine and Spirit Education Trust
- the Travel Training Company (TTC training), (air fares and ticketing course, approved by IATA)
- British Airways' Chameleon Training & Consulting (fares and ticketing courses, accredited by IATA)
- the British Institute of Innkeeping.

IATA fares and ticketing courses are generally available.

What is the difference between hospitality and tourism courses?

As a general rule, hospitality courses prepare you to work in the catering and accommodation industries: from hotels and restaurants to leisure centres and hospitals. Tourism courses enable you to work in hotels, restaurants, travel companies as a tour operator or travel agent, guide, rep and manager.

Where can I study?

Most UK universities and colleges of further and higher education have a department dedicated to hospitality and tourism. You therefore have a wide choice of locations and types of study.

Would I have to attend an institution to study?

No. Tourism, in particular, has a history of expertise in delivering distance-learning courses, part-time courses and self-study courses. For more information, refer to *Distance learning* in this series.

It may be possible to take the exams for some of the qualifications listed here at your local British Council office. Contact your local office for more information or go to:

www.britishcouncil.org/learning-exams.htm

Short courses

Several institutions offer short courses in tourism and in aspects of hospitality. More details on the tourism courses can be found in the Directory of Further Education (your local British Council office should have a copy). The Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA) lists accredited institutions on its web site www.hcima.org.uk.

Vocational qualifications for both new entrants and experienced professionals

- General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) at all levels. (Also Scottish SGAs)
- City & Guilds Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma
- National Diploma/Certificate, Higher National Diploma/Certificate.

General qualifications covering all aspects of the industry

Typical specialised qualifications include:

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|---|--|
| • Cooking and rooms division | • Hospitality and tourism |
| • Culinary arts with management | • Hospitality management |
| • European hotel and tourism administration | • Hospitality operations |
| • Food and drinks service | • Hotel, catering and institutional operations |
| • Food preparation and cooking | • Licensed house operations |
| • Food and beverage service | • Licensed retail |
| • Hospitality and leisure | • Professional cookery |
| • Hospitality | • Professional patisserie |
| • Hospitality front office | • Reception and accommodation operations and services. |

2 Entrance

What qualifications will I need?

You will be able to improve your skills and take qualifications whatever your current level of education – from a general education without qualifications to a postgraduate diploma or master's degree.

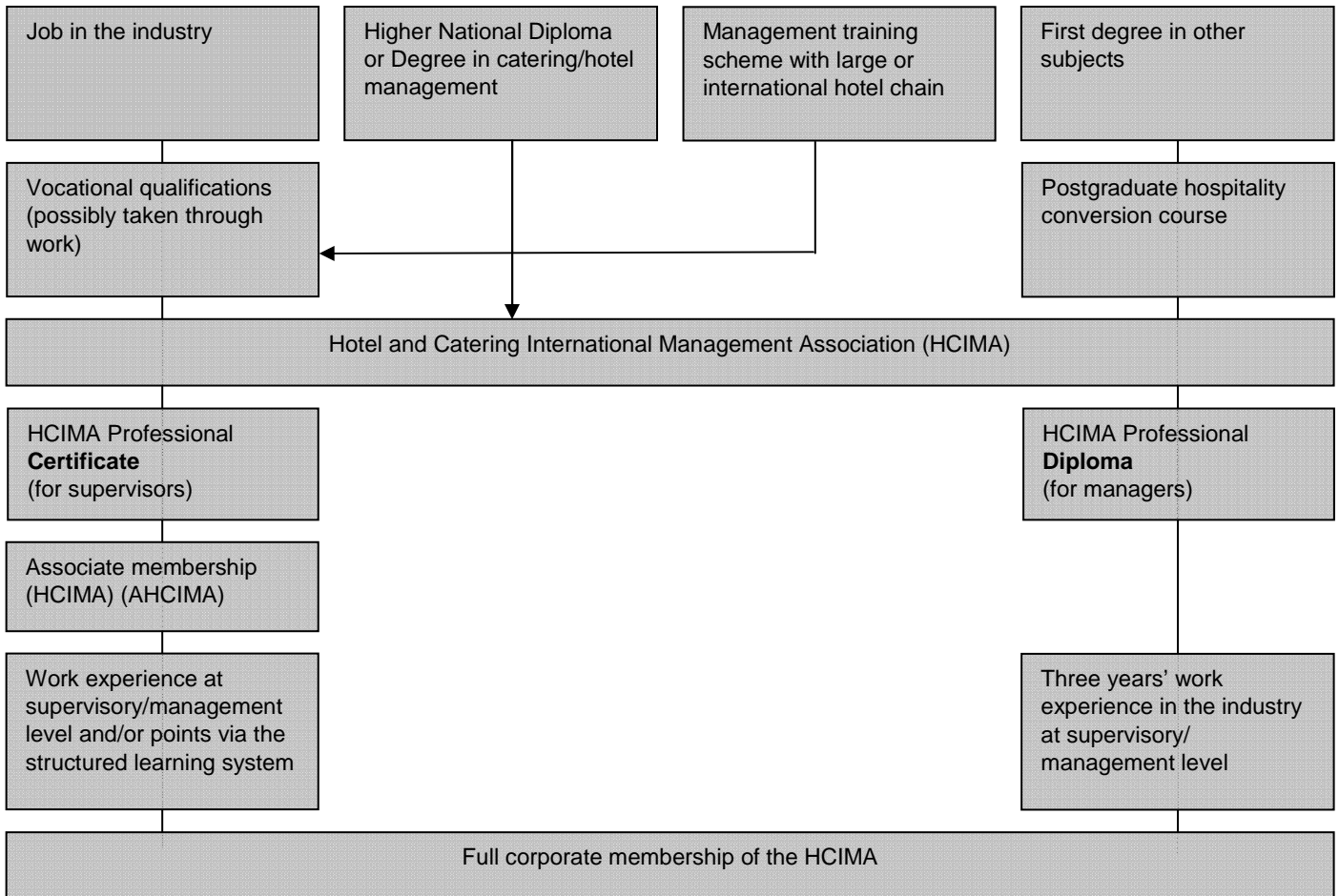
Are courses very competitive?

Yes. However, these fields are expanding areas of further education, and many new courses are launched every year.

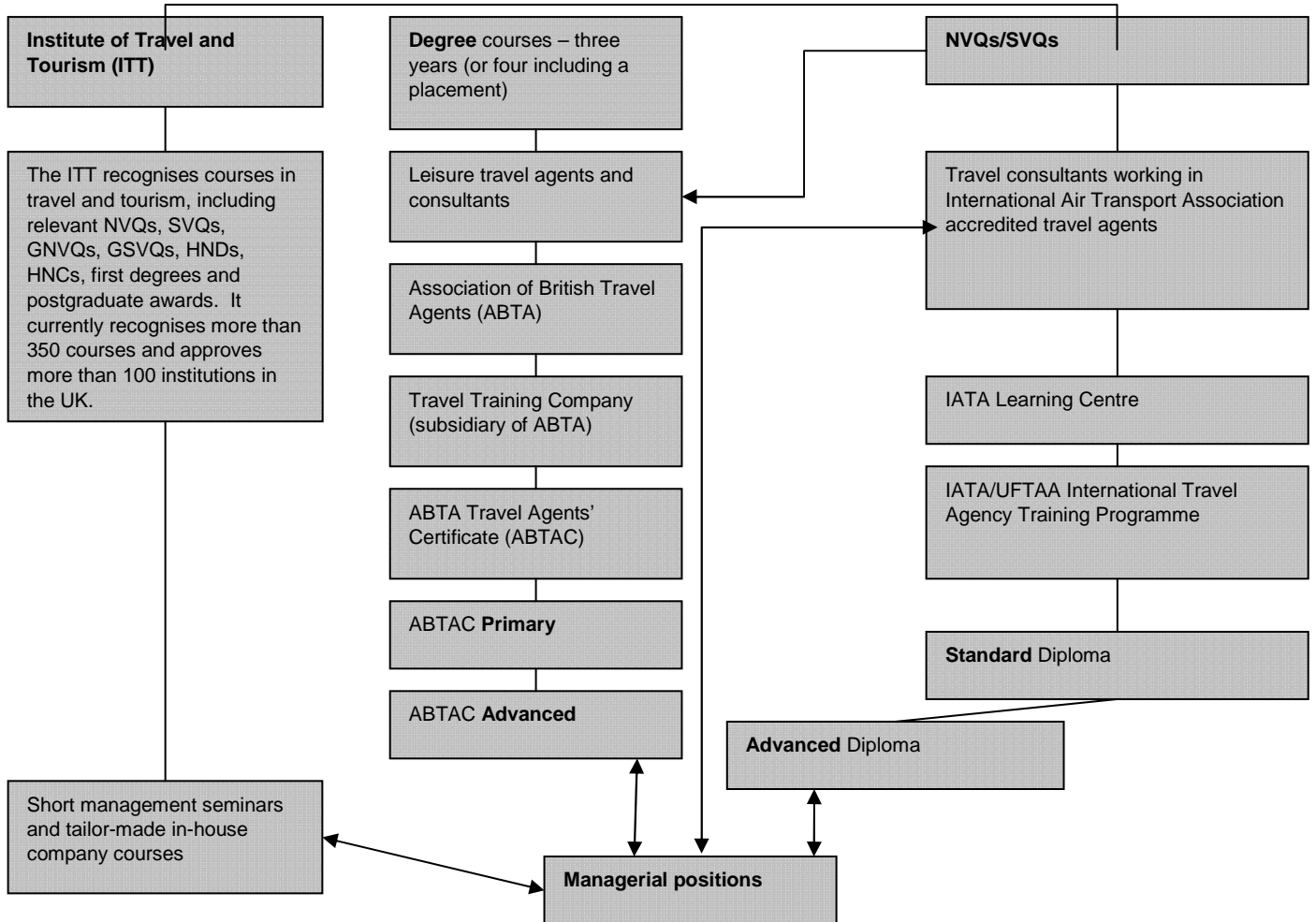
3 How can I register as a professional?

Although both these professions attach considerable importance to experience, there are both academic and career-based routes.

Routes to qualification in hospitality



Routes to qualification in tourism



Would I need an English language qualification to study these subjects?

Different courses demand different abilities. As a general rule you should have the equivalent of IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 550.

4 Next steps

Checklist: Your next steps

- 1 If you know the career you want to go into, ask for advice on the recommended educational route from sources in your own country.
- 2 Start to research courses. Remember that there is a vast range, and give yourself time to look through the reference books listing them.
- 3 Make a shortlist of your preferred institutions, and ask all of them for a copy of their prospectus. Most institutions now have web sites with brief details of courses.
- 4 You can apply to up to six courses on one form through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) www.ucas.com. Applications for other courses should be made direct to the institutions. For more information, refer to *Applications* in this series.

5 Where can I find more information?

British Council Education information

Website www.educationuk.org

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices.

EducationUK Scotland

Website www.educationukscotland.org

Association of British Travel Agents Ltd (ABTA)

68 – 71 Newman Street
London W1T 3AH
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7637 2444
Fax +44 (0) 20 7637 0713
E-mail abta@abta.co.uk
Website www.abtanet.com

Chameleon Training and Consulting

PO Box 67
Virginia Water, Ascot
Surrey GU25 4BF
Telephone/Fax +44 (0) 1344 843 344
E-mail info@chameleon.training.co.uk
Website www.chameleontesting.co.uk

British Institute of Innkeeping

Wessex House
80 Park Street
Camberley
Surrey GU15 3PT
Telephone +44 (0) 1276 684449
Fax +44 (0) 1276 23045
E-mail reception@bii.org
Website www.bii.org

Visit Britain

Thames Tower
Black's Road
London W6 9EL
Telephone +44 (0) 20 8846 9000
Fax +44 (0) 20 8563 0302
Email blvc@visitbritain.org
Website www.visitbritain.org

Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA)

Trinity Court
34 West Street
Sutton
Surrey SM1 1SH
Telephone +44 (0)20 8661 4900
Fax +44 (0)20 8661 490161
E-mail information@hcima.org
Website www.hcima.org.uk

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

IATA London Office
Central House
Lampton House
Hounslow
Middlesex TW3 1HY
Telephone +44 (0)20 8607 6200
Fax +44 (0) 20 8607 6350
Website www.iata.org
(Offices around the world- check website)

Institute of Travel & Tourism

Studio 3
Mill Studio, Crane Mead
Ware
Herts SG12 9PY
Telephone +44 (0) 870 770 7960
Fax +44 (0) 870 770 7961
E-mail enquiries@itt.co.uk
Website www.itt.co.uk

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

St Anne's Court
59 North Street
Belfast BT1 1NB
Telephone +44 (0) 28 9023 1221
Fax +44 (0) 28 9024 0960
Website www.discovernorthernireland.com

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

Customer Relations
83 Piccadilly
London W1J 8QA
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7509 5556
Fax +44 (0) 20 7509 6666
Website www.qca.org.uk

Scottish Qualifications Authority

24 Douglas Street
Glasgow G2 7NQ
Telephone +44 (0) 84 5729 1000
Fax +44 (0) 14 1242 2244
Email customer@sqa.org.uk
Website www.sqa.org.uk

The Tourism Society Ltd

1-2 Queen Victoria Terrace
Sovereign Court
London E1W 3HA
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7488 2789
Fax +44 (0) 20 7488 9148
E-mail admin@tourismsociety.org
Website www.tourismsociety.org

TTC Training

Chertsey House
Chertsey Road
Woking
Surrey GU21 5BN
Telephone +44 (0) 1483 727321
Fax +44 (0) 1483 756698
E-mail info@ttctraining.co.uk
Website www.ttctraining.co.uk

Visit Scotland

Fairways Business Park
Deer Park Road
PO Box 121
Livingston EH54 8AF
Telephone +44 (0) 845 225 5121
Website www.visitscotland.com

**Wales Tourist Board**

Brunel House
2 Fitzalan Road
Cardiff CF24 0UY
Telephone +44 (0) 29 2049 9909
Fax +44 (0) 29 2048 5031
Website www.wtbonline.gov.uk

Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET)

Five Kings House
1 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1QS
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7236 3551
Fax +44 (0) 20 7329 8712
E-mail wset@wset.co.uk
Website www.wset.co.uk

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

PO Box 28
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ
Telephone +44 (0) 870 1122211
Fax +44 (0) 1242 544961
Email enquiries@ucas.ac.uk
Website www.ucas.com

City and Guilds

1 Giltspur Street
London EC1A 9DD
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7294 2800
Fax +44 (0) 20 7294 2400
Email enquiry@city-and-guilds.co.uk
Website www.city-and-guilds.co.uk

Other useful resources

British Qualifications 34th ed. (Kogan Page, 2004, ISBN 0 7494 4138 0) – lists every qualification on offer in the UK, by schools, colleges, universities, business schools, learned societies, trade and professional bodies and associations.

Careers in Travel & Tourism (Kogan Page, Collins, V.R., 2004, ISBN 0 7494 4205 0) This is a practical guide with useful information and sound advice on Travel and Tourism.

Occupations 2004 (DfES 2003, ISBN 0 8611 0864 7) Connexions compilation, an in-depth guide of over 600 career choices of all types from unskilled to professional work, also list prospects and qualification for each occupation.

NB. Please note these books may not be available at your local British Council office.

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, currency or completeness.

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