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Types of institutions

Institutions which provide higher education in the UK encompass universities, colleges of further education and colleges of education (teacher's training) and the Open University.

The first ancient universities, those of Oxford and Cambridge, evolved as private bodies during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield founded in the 19th and early 20th are referred to as red brick universities. Colleges of further education (CFE) offer courses of study leading to A-levels and also training for professional qualifications. The Open University (OU) builds on the principle of equal educational opportunities and brings the idea of distance