

Building the Secure Foundations for a Future-Fit University

How AWS helps universities attract students, and the foundations that keep it safe

Mike Pegg

Senior Architect, Cloudscaler

Peter Sandford

Senior Solutions Architect, AWS

OPEN DAY

2026

Visitor

Prospective student

- ☐ AI on my course
- ☐ Open 24/7
- ☐ Job-ready skills

Three questions applicants now ask



Can I study, submit and get help at any hour, from anywhere?



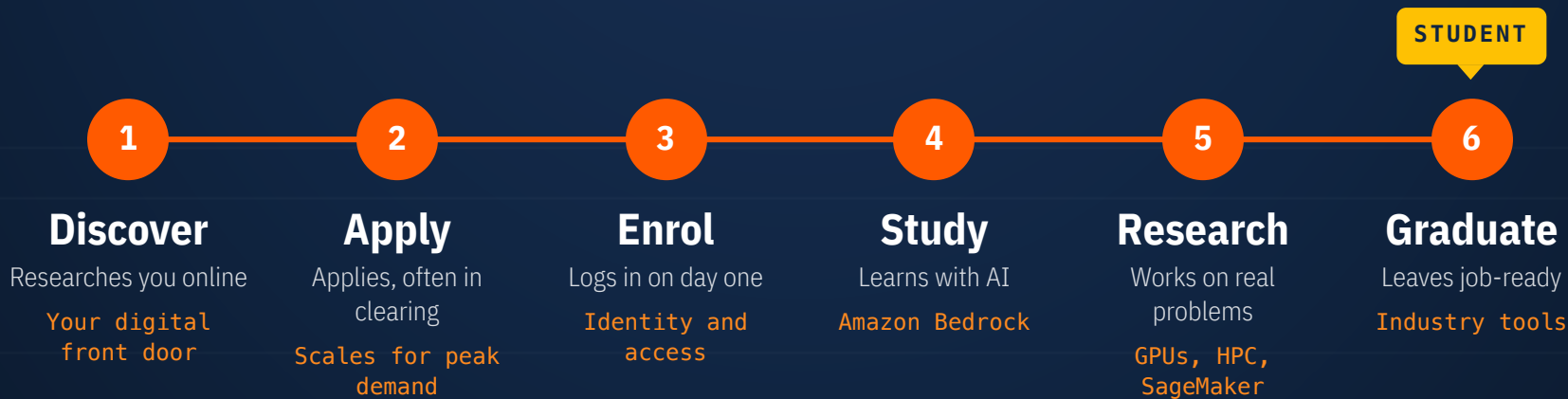
Will I be able to use AI on my course, properly and safely?



Will I learn on the tools employers actually use?



Six steps. Your platform is at every one.



STEP 1 · DISCOVER

38% of prospective international students actively research how a university uses AI and technology.

Your platform is now part of the prospectus.

QS International Student Survey 2024, Destination UK

01

What applicants are looking for

Three upsides, in the order a student meets them.

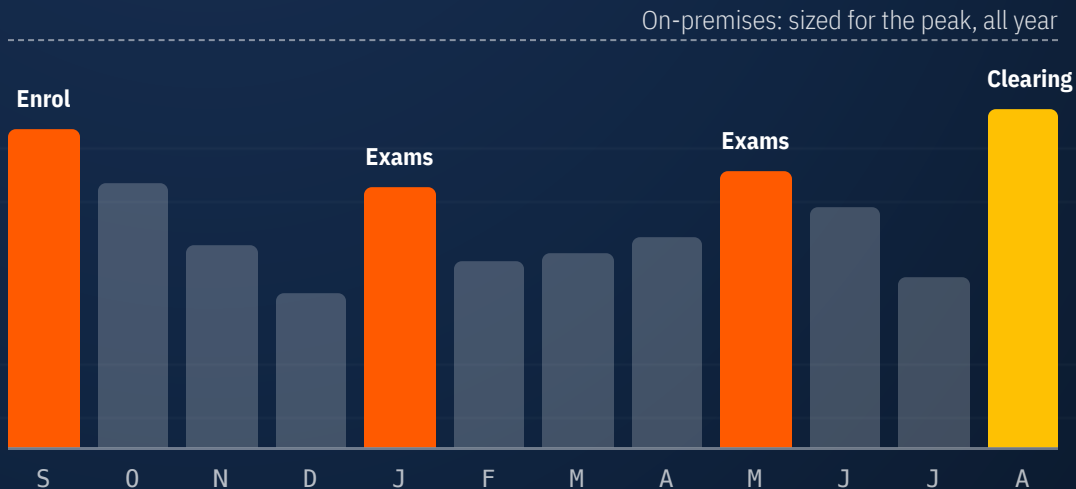


A digital campus that stays open

48%

of UK higher education students
prefer online or blended learning

Jisc Digital Experience
Insights 2024/25



Capacity follows the academic calendar.



AI support students can rely on

95%

of UK undergraduates now use AI in some form

HEPI Student Generative AI Survey 2026

Only 38% are given tools

The rest bring their own.

An institutional assistant

Amazon Bedrock in AWS London, inside your account.

Safe by design

Student data never trains public models.





The tools on campus are the tools at work

Students learn and research on the same cloud native tooling industry uses, so their first job is familiar ground.

CAPABILITY	USED FOR	ON CAMPUS	AT WORK
Cloud native tooling	Containers, serverless and managed services, deployed through pipelines	✓	✓
Machine learning operations	Build, train and deploy models with Amazon SageMaker	✓	✓
Generative AI engineering	Build applications on foundation models with Amazon Bedrock	✓	✓
High-performance computing	GPU clusters for research and simulation on Amazon EC2	✓	✓
Data engineering and analytics	Data lakes and pipelines on Amazon S3 and AWS Glue	✓	✓



02

The risks behind the brochure

Cloud transformation rarely stalls on technology. It stalls on foundations.



IN-DEPTH · FINANCIAL ISSUES

81%

of organisations across the industry exceeded their cloud budgets,
with 47% going over by 25% or more

Flexera 2024 State of the Cloud Report

Cloudscaler keeps you inside budget.

FinOps guardrails, budgets and alerts per faculty and per grant, built into the platform.





IN-DEPTH · SECURITY ISSUES

\$4.44M

average cost of a data breach

IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report 2025

Without consistent controls, every team becomes a possible breach surface.





IN-DEPTH · OPERATIONAL ISSUES

96%

of global IT decision-makers have experienced at least one outage
in the past three years

LogicMonitor 2024 IT Outage Impact Study

An outage in clearing week costs you applicants.





IN-DEPTH · HARDWARE COST AND SCARCITY

36-52

weeks' lead time on data-centre GPUs, with Blackwell-class delivery slipping into 2027

Industry supply analyses, 2026 (VEXXH0ST; Arc Compute)

A procurement cycle longer than the grant it serves is not a plan.



03

Secure foundations for **bold innovation**

A control framework, an operating model and a platform.



Governed AI, not blocked AI

UK data residency

London and Ireland regions

Guardrails by policy

Approved models and data only

Evidence on demand

Audit trails from the platform

Budgets per grant

Spend stays inside the envelope

Compliance answered once, in the platform.



Discover

Apply

Enrol

Study

Research

Graduate

A Cloud Centre of Excellence



Clear ownership of **who decides what**.



Discover

Apply

Enrol

Study

Research

Graduate

One control framework

476

controls, five pillars,
one standard for
every team

Security



Data



Operations



Finance



AI



Discover

Apply

Enrol

Study

Research

Graduate

One platform, built bottom up

Workloads

Teaching, research, student services

Specialist platforms

Data · AI · Containers

Central services and guardrails

Compliance by default

Landing zone

Billing, identity, network, security

AWS

Anglia Ruskin University

Context

AWS research credits for ML and AI programmes, including cancer detection and misinformation analysis.

Solution

A multi-account landing zone for research, with each project in its own isolated, preconfigured account.

Benefits

Researchers start quickly, automated budgets prevent overspend, and new projects onboard consistently.

“

This project has created a solid foundation for the future of research at ARU. By combining security, cost control, and ease of access, we can empower our researchers to take full advantage of AWS services with confidence.

Brian Best

Head of Core Infrastructure, Anglia Ruskin University



A free, **AWS-funded** landing zone

For higher education institutions attending Higher Education 2026. Start your secure foundations at no cost.

01

Funded by AWS

02

Built by Cloudscaler

03

**Ready for your
first workloads**

Speak To An Expert

Eligibility criteria apply

THANK YOU



Secure foundations make a better open day.

Mike Pegg

Senior Architect, Cloudscaler

mike.pegg@cloudscaler.com

Peter Sandford

Senior Solutions Architect, AWS

sandforp@amazon.co.uk