

THE DECISION-MAKING GUIDE • 2026-27 EDITION

Cranfield University vs University of Warwick

A postgraduate industry specialist vs. a comprehensive Russell Group brand —
which one actually fits your course, budget and career plans?

● CRANFIELD

● WARWICK

What's inside this decision guide

A side-by-side comparison of two UK universities frequently shortlisted together by Indian MBA and postgraduate applicants — Cranfield University and the University of Warwick. Built from official rankings, fee pages, real student discussion, and third-party study-abroad sources current for 2026-27.

- 01 At a Glance
- 02 MBA Fees & Scholarships
- 03 Course Strengths & Career Outcomes
- 04 Which One Fits You?
- 05 Get Free Counselling from Shiksha

Postgrad-only

Cranfield offers no undergraduate degrees — a structural difference from Warwick

33 vs 18

Nationalities represented — Warwick's MBA cohort is more diverse

Rs. 65–85L

Typical all-in MBA cost at Cranfield, broadly similar at Warwick

Want a personalised answer instead? Talk to Shiksha — for FREE

■ Click here to chat on WhatsApp

<https://www.wa.link/fgitij>

■ For FREE counselling, register here

<https://u.shiksha.com/SHKSHA/seSIYaWQ>

1

At a Glance

A postgraduate STEM/industry specialist vs. a comprehensive Russell Group brand

■ Cranfield ■ Warwick

Read this before comparing rankings: Cranfield has been exclusively postgraduate since 2003 — it offers no undergraduate degrees at all, which is also why it's excluded from THE, the Complete University Guide, and the Guardian's university tables (these focus on institutions with significant undergraduate cohorts). Warwick is a full, comprehensive Russell Group university with undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes across almost every discipline. This is a genuine 'specialist vs comprehensive' comparison, not two similar institutions.

Parameter	● Cranfield	● Warwick
Institution type	Postgraduate-only since 2003; originally founded as the College of Aeronautics	Russell Group, comprehensive research university, founded 1965
QS World Rank 2026	#69	Consistently ranked well ahead of Cranfield; among the UK's most recognised global brands
QS Global MBA Rank 2026	Top 20% worldwide; FT MBA Rank #55 (2026)	Global top-30 for European MBAs (per third-party rankings roundups)
Business school accreditation	Triple accredited: AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS; GMAC member	Triple accredited: AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS; first UK business school with Athena SWAN Silver (gender equality)
Acceptance rate	~68% — moderately accessible	More selective for flagship MBA/Management programmes
Campus character	Its own on-site airport, 2 hotels, apartment blocks, and an adjoining Technology Park	Self-contained campus town near the countryside — banks, supermarkets, theatres and sports facilities all within walking distance

Warwick holds the clearer overall global brand and ranking position, and is often described as one of the most popular UK universities among Indian applicants for Economics and Management — second only to Oxbridge and LSE in some student surveys. Cranfield counters with deep, specific industry placement strength and genuinely lower cost, at the expense of broader name recognition, especially outside the UK.

2

MBA Fees & Scholarships

Genuinely close on cost; the scholarship strategy differs more

Parameter	● Cranfield	● Warwick
MBA tuition (full programme)	Among the more affordable triple-accredited UK MBAs; total all-in cost typically Rs. 65–85L including living costs	~£59,500 (Rs. 76.8L)
MBA scholarship (Indian-specific)	Regional India Scholarship: £10,000, named specifically for Indian applicants (Rs. 12.9L)	Warwick MBA Scholarship: up to £29,750, from a broader £2M scholarship kitty (Rs. 38.4L)
GMAT requirement	Can be waived for strong work experience and academic record (e.g. Chartered Accountants)	Average MBA GMAT ~650 (Focus Edition-era figures may differ — confirm current requirement)
Average work experience (MBA)	6–8 years, sometimes more	Broadly comparable, 6–8 years
Cost of living	Comparable to Warwick; on-campus accommodation slightly cheaper by some student accounts	Comparable to Cranfield; on-campus accommodation reported slightly higher by some student accounts

Conversion used: £1 ≈ Rs. 129 (indicative rate, August 2026) — rates fluctuate daily.

Both MBAs land in a broadly similar total-cost band once living expenses are included — this is not a case where one is dramatically cheaper. The more useful difference is in scholarship strategy: Cranfield's Regional India Scholarship is specifically reserved for Indian applicants, while Warwick's larger £2M scholarship kitty is open more broadly and, by some accounts, under-applied-for relative to its value.

■ Not sure whether your profile qualifies for Cranfield's India-specific award or Warwick's broader scholarship pool? Let's check together — [WhatsApp us](#) | [Register free](#)

3

Course Strengths & Career Outcomes

Deep industry placement vs. broad brand recognition

CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY

Genuinely deep, direct industry links in Aerospace, Automotive and Logistics — 88% of its research is rated world-leading (REF 2021), and its MBA topped Bloomberg's Best B-Schools 'learning' category for Europe in 2024-25. Popular Indian-applicant courses include MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management and MSc Global Product Development and Management. Its QS subject rank of #5 in the UK for Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering is genuinely competitive against Imperial or Bristol in this specific field.

Some student discussion threads note that Cranfield's placement record leans heavily toward automotive, aerospace and logistics roles, and is comparatively weaker for candidates specifically targeting Management Consulting — worth factoring in if consulting is your primary post-MBA goal.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

One of the UK's most recognised university brands among Indian applicants, particularly for Economics and Management — some student surveys rank it as the most popular UK university for Indians after Oxbridge and LSE. Warwick Business School's MBA draws from 33 nationalities (nearly double Cranfield's 18), and its broader Russell Group research base gives it wider name recognition with employers and family alike.

Some informal student discussion has also raised concerns about programme content depth and faculty engagement relative to Cranfield, and about a large concentration of Indian students within specific Warwick programmes reducing cohort diversity — these are subjective, anecdotal accounts rather than official findings, and worth weighing alongside more rigorous sources.

4

Which One Fits You?

Matching the decision to your priorities

Targeting Aerospace, Automotive, Manufacturing or Logistics careers specifically

→ Choose Cranfield

Genuinely deep, direct industry links and a UK-leading engineering subject rank, at a lower all-in cost with an India-specific scholarship.

Want the broadest brand recognition, especially for family or employer perception in India

→ Choose Warwick

A comprehensive Russell Group university with wide name recognition and a larger, more internationally diverse MBA cohort.

Targeting Management Consulting specifically post-MBA

→ Weigh both carefully — neither is a clear consulting powerhouse

Cranfield's placement strength leans industry-specific; Warwick's broader brand doesn't automatically translate into stronger consulting recruitment either.

Still unsure which fits your specific goals and budget

→ Talk to Shiksha before you decide

A free 15-minute call can pressure-test your choice against your actual career goal and confirm current scholarship eligibility at both.

5

Get Free Counselling from Shiksha

Your next step starts here

Choosing between Cranfield and Warwick isn't about which is objectively 'better' — it's about matching your career goal, budget, and brand-recognition priorities to the right fit. Shiksha Study Abroad's counsellors can help you:

- Compare specific programmes (not just universities) across both shortlists.
- Check your real eligibility for Cranfield's Regional India Scholarship or Warwick's broader MBA scholarship pool.
- Understand each university's genuine placement strengths for your specific target industry.
- Plan your application, GMAT strategy, and visa timeline so nothing is left too late.

Tap below to get started — it's 100% FREE

■ Click here to chat on WhatsApp

<https://www.wa.link/fgitii>

■ For FREE counselling, register here

<https://u.shiksha.com/SHKSHA/seSIYaWQ>

Prefer email?

studyabroad@shiksha.com | www.shiksha.com/studyabroad

All figures in this guide are 2026-27 planning estimates from official university pages, QS/FT rankings, real student discussion threads, and third-party study-abroad sources, current as of mid-2026. Always verify current fees, entry requirements and course details directly with each university before applying.

Still torn between Cranfield and Warwick?

Our counsellors help Indian students match their course, budget and career goals to the right university — and flag anything you should double-check before applying. Completely free of cost.

■ Chat on WhatsApp →

■ Register FREE →

studyabroad@shiksha.com

www.shiksha.com/studyabroad

Follow us: Facebook • Instagram • YouTube

Figures in this guide are 2026-27 planning estimates compiled from official Cranfield University (cranfield.ac.uk) and University of Warwick (warwick.ac.uk) pages, QS World and Global MBA Rankings, Financial Times MBA Rankings, genuine student discussion on public forums, and third-party study-abroad sources, current as of mid-2026. Anecdotal student opinions are presented as such, not as verified fact. INR conversions use an indicative rate of £1 ≈ Rs. 129 (August 2026). Fees, entry requirements and scholarships vary by programme and change periodically — always verify current details with each university before applying.