Communication and Media Studies cont.

		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
45	Leeds Beckett	90.2	84.5	26.5	101	71.9	86.8
46	Staffordshire	81.2	76.1	31.5	116	77.9	86.7
47	Portsmouth	87.7	81.9	30.2	109	68.9	86.5
48	Sunderland	88.4	82.1	25.5	109	70.3	86.4
49	Birmingham City	83.8	75.1	40.8	121	65.1	86.3
=50	Sheffield Hallam	81.3	73.8	46	113	68.6	86.2
=50	East London	84.6	80.8	34.2	107	70.7	86.2
52	Huddersfield	81.4	74.5	49.8	115	64.3	86.1
53	Hertfordshire	82.9	79.9	24.2	98	82.7	86
54	London South Bank	91.3	80.9	35.8	93	65.5	85.8
55	Lincoln	85.3	77.3	33.5	117	65.3	85.7
56	Hull	87.4	81.6	35	124	54.4	85.4
57	Oxford Brookes	84.9	80	21.5	115	70.6	85.3
58	Derby	81.6	79.6	24	112	74.1	85.1
59	Bangor	87	83.9	33.2	123	53.3	84.9
60	Leeds Trinity	89.6	81.1	—	102	80.4	84.7
61	Bath Spa	85	76	42	109	59	84.6
62	York	78.4	72.9	—	148	76.9*	84.5
63	West of Scotland	86.1	75	19.2	131	61	84.4
64	Kingston	75.1	65.9	45	118	69.3	84.2
65	Solent, Southampton	90.2	85.6	9.5	107	65.4	84.1
66	Liverpool Hope	90.8	79.4	—	116	69.4	84
67	Roehampton	81.5	73.7	53	98	59.6	83.9
68	Queen Mary, London	80.9	71.8	—	147	69.4	83.4
=69	Kent	84.4	82.5	—	120	69.5*	83
=69	Falmouth	76.6	63.1	48.8	125	57.4	83
71	York St John	90.5	84.3	—	111	64.3	82.9
=72	Winchester	78.2	73.1	29.2	108	67.5	82.5
=72	Aberystwyth	89.4	85	—	125	57.0*	82.5
=72	Anglia Ruskin	80	73.9	53.8	101	53.1*	82.5
=75	Worcester	85.2	79.6	5.8	106	69.9	82.4
=75	Brighton	74.5	64.8	44.2	109	66.5	82.4
=75	South Wales	79.8	70.1	35.8	108	62.6	82.4
78	De Montfort	82.5	78.9	24	106	61.2	82.1
79	Chester	81.1	67.7	21	121	60.9	81.6
=80	Middlesex	75.5	71.3	26	109	66.7*	81.1
=80	Wolverhampton	80.3	82.5	31.5	87	—	81.1
82	St Mark and St John	79.9	66.8	—	119	73.5*	80.9
83	Brunel	77.4	75.2	—	105	71.6	79.4
84	St Mary's, Twickenham	79.6	72.1	—	104	54.8*	76.2
85	Bedfordshire	78.6	64.4	27	80	52.9	75.9
86	Northampton	83.2	70.5	—	99	48.7	75.3
87	Chichester	73.6	65.5	—	105	50.0*	73
88	London Metropolitan	72.6	64.1	—	109	49.2	72.9

Employed in high-skilled job	53%	Employed in lower-skilled job	26%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	2%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	3%	Unemployed	8%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£23,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£19,300

Computer Science

The fastest-growing subject area in the UK, the interest in computing degrees comes amid the rise in the popularity of AI and gaming, and with advances such as ChatGPT coming to the market. As a UCAS subject group computing received 195,690 applications in 2023, up 9% on 2022 and up 26% on 2021. Courses encompass a broad area, taking in everything from computer science and software engineering to AI, video games design and animation.

Job security in an evolving industrial landscape is part of the appeal. Thirty universities report at least 90% of their computer science graduates as being in high-skilled jobs or postgraduate study within 15 months. Oxford, in first place of our table, achieves a perfect 100%. Job prospects for computer science graduates are pretty good throughout the table, with only 17 of the 114 universities registering rates of high-skilled work/postgraduate study beneath 70%. As a whole, computer sciences ranks 26th out of our employment ranking's 70 subject areas. Although earnings are not an ingredient of our main subject rankings, part of the appeal of degrees within computer science is their promise of enticing graduate pay cheques and starting salaries of £29,860 rank the subject 14th out of 70 in our pay index.

Cambridge, which topped the table for the past two years, sits third. Imperial secured the best results in computer science in our analysis of the Research Excellence Framework 2021, followed by Oxford. Led by Cambridge and St Andrews, which each averaged 220 UCAS points among entrants, there are six universities where entry standards tip over 200 UCAS points. Students at Bolton (in =66th place overall) expressed the highest rates of satisfaction with teaching quality, while those at East London (=95th) were the most satisfied with the broad experience.

Tom Curtin, industrial liaison officer, Department of Computing, Imperial College London notes: "Computer scientists have provided the digital systems at the heart of everything we do, driven the technology sector providing the basis for almost every trillion-dollar company to emerge over the past decade and, in the near future, will be at the helm of the next industrial revolution, driven by AI." Applicants are advised to ensure their maths skills are up to scratch, keep abreast of technology and data science news, and experiment with new computing technologies. Computing as a whole remains a male-dominated field, with only 18% of all UK 18-year-olds' applications made by females – although this is higher than the 17% in 2022 and 16% in 2021.

Computer Science		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1	Oxford	89.1	80.8	85.8	207	100	100
2	Imperial College	81.4	81.3	94.8	208	97	98.5
3	Cambridge	84.8	76.5	78.2	220	94.8	97.6
4	St Andrews	85	86	41.2	220	99.1	96
5	Birmingham	84.1	84.6	82.8	169	97.2	95.5
6	Glasgow	77.8	74.3	71.8	209	91.4	93.6
7	Sheffield	86.4	87.7	69.8	156	92.5	93.3
8	Warwick	75.4	74.8	81.8	190	93	92.9

Computer Science cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
9 Bath	83.8	88.9	52.2	175	93.1	92.6
10 Manchester	73.7	74.5	71.2	190	97.5	92.4
=11 Bristol	76	74.6	76	180	94.7	92.1
=11 Edinburgh	68.8	71	81.2	210	92	92.1
13 University College London	70.6	69	82.2	190	95.2	91.6
14 King's College London	76.2	74.5	68	175	96	91.3
15 Strathclyde	82.5	78.6	46.2	197	87.6	91.1
16 Dundee	83.8	85.7	53.5	174	86.8	91
17 Durham	74.2	66.5	59	192	96.6	90.4
18 Southampton	73.4	69.5	70.8	172	92.4	89.4
19 Nottingham	77	79.4	63.5	160	89.7	89.2
20 Loughborough	81.6	83.1	46.5	155	90.3	88.8
=21 Queen Mary, London	78	77.1	74.2	150	84.9	88.6
=21 Lancaster	76	78.8	64.8	146	92.4	88.6
23 Liverpool	77.3	78.5	61	140	94.2	88.4
24 Royal Holloway	79.7	76.5	65	134	91.8	88.3
25 Exeter	78.9	77.3	45.5	154	93.8	88.1
26 Sussex	78.7	82	59.2	137	88.6	87.6
27 Surrey	79.1	81.1	50.5	133	92.4	87.2
28 Aberystwyth	86.8	87.5	43.8	125	84	86.9
29 Queen's, Belfast	73.4	76.8	51	147	92.3	86.4
=30 Swansea	80.7	75.5	46.5	133	90.7	86.3
=30 Aberdeen	75.3	77.4	44	167	—	86.3
=32 York	66.1	67.1	72.5	150	93.5	86.1
=32 Edinburgh Napier	81.2	75.6	47.2	150	82.6	86.1
=34 Leicester	78.2	83.3	41.8	133	89.4	85.8
=34 Leeds	62	60.2	72	174	92.1	85.8
36 Cardiff	69.9	71.2	57.8	149	91.7	85.7
37 Newcastle	70.4	72.1	60.5	142	91.9	85.6
38 Ulster	82.5	79.9	38	128	87.2	85.4
39 Robert Gordon	90.9	86.6	16	143	77.5	85.1
40 Northumbria	81.6	79.4	25.8	140	87.6	84.8
=41 Essex	77.7	75.9	53.5	125	85.7	84.7
=41 Aston	78.6	78.4	29.2	140	89.5	84.7
43 Reading	79.9	77.2	39.8	126	87	84.4
=44 Manchester Metropolitan	82.7	79.5	29.2	133	83.6	84.2
=44 Brunel	83.1	81.8	37.5	131	78.7	84.2
46 East Anglia	73.6	73.5	41.8	139	88.7	83.9
47 Abertay	83.5	83.4	—	159	82.8	83.7
48 Hull	81.1	82.6	31.2	128	81.8	83.6
=49 Heriot-Watt	65.5	67.1	39.5	169	90	83.5
=49 Kent	74.3	71.9	57.2	134	81.1	83.5
51 City	72.2	74.8	47.5	127	86.7	83
52 Portsmouth	82.7	81.6	32.8	116	80.7	82.9
=53 Worcester	87.7	82.8	12.5	106	86	82.6
=53 Liverpool John Moores	81.9	79.8	26	145	74.1	82.6
55 West of England	78.1	74.9	32.2	128	83.8	82.5
56 Birmingham City	85.4	84.1	23.2	122	75.6	82.3
57 Bangor	83	76.5	40.2	111	77.1	82.1
58 Glasgow Caledonian	79.7	75.3	13.8	146	81.2	81.9
59 Stirling	75.6	73.7	24	146	81.1	81.7
60 University of the Arts London	83.4	79.4	46	113	68.3	81.4
61 Huddersfield	74.4	74.2	26.5	132	83.8	81.2
=62 Nottingham Trent	79.5	73.1	26	129	79	81.1
=62 Staffordshire	80.4	72.7	25.5	124	79.7	81.1
=64 Oxford Brookes	80.4	78.3	24.2	114	80.8	81
=64 Coventry	80.7	77.4	23.5	116	80.5	81
=66 South Wales	84.5	78.8	18.8	122	74.3	80.8
=66 Chester	79.1	74.6	13.2	127	83.9	80.8
=66 Bolton	91.3	85.9	—	115	73.8	80.8
69 West of Scotland	84.4	77.1	18	137	69.1	80.5
70 Teesside	88	82.6	18.8	124	65.3	80.4
71 Bournemouth	77.3	72	22.2	121	82.7	80.3
72 Plymouth	72	67	32	125	85.4	80.2
73 Middlesex	88.7	87.8	20.2	111	63.9	80.1
=74 Lincoln	66.3	68.7	44	126	84.5	80
=74 Buckinghamshire New	86.7	79	—	107	81.6	80
=76 Roehampton	80.6	76.5	53	—	58.5	79.9
=76 Sunderland	83.5	79.4	14.5	102	80	79.9
78 Sheffield Hallam	80.4	74.2	17	119	78.1	79.7
=79 Greenwich	79.7	80.5	28	120	69.6	79.6
=79 Bedfordshire	82.6	80.4	15.2	115	74.2	79.6
81 Kingston	82.1	81.8	23.5	110	70.8	79.4
82 Bradford	78.8	74.3	20.5	123	75	79.3
83 West London	85	85.7	20	118	63	79.2
84 Wales Trinity St David	79.7	75.1	—	162	68	79.1
85 Falmouth	75.3	67	48.8	124	67.4	79
86 Edge Hill	71.4	72.6	20	131	79.4	78.7
87 Hertfordshire	72.8	72.5	41.2	115	72.3	78.6
88 Leeds Beckett	79	75.8	18.2	113	74.7	78.5
89 Bath Spa	82.8	70.1	—	105	84	78.4
90 De Montfort	74.8	74.2	25	109	77.2	78.2
=91 York St John	75.5	66.1	—	106	93.2	78.1
=91 Westminster	78	78.9	24	114	69	78.1
93 Keele	70.6	69.5	20.8	120	81.8	77.9
94 Wolverhampton	77.4	74.2	12.5	89	85.3	77.8
=95 Brighton	72.7	68.1	32.5	98	80.9	77.7
=95 East London	90.2	90.9	28.7	88	52.7	77.7
97 Goldsmiths, London	70	60.1	28.5	132	77.2	77.5
=98 Salford	70.9	69.3	28.2	127	71.4	77.2
=98 Anglia Ruskin	78.5	75.8	10	108	74.3	77.2
=98 London South Bank	80	80	—	100	78	77.2

Computer Science cont.

		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
101	Central Lancashire	73.5	67.3	17.8	130	72	76.9
=102	Gloucestershire	75.1	67.1	6.2	118	79.3	76.7
=102	Northampton	77.7	70.1	8.5	107	77.3	76.7
104	London Metropolitan	81.5	79.2	13.2	90	68.8	76.1
=105	Derby	71	65.5	15.8	116	77.8	76
=105	Liverpool Hope	75	69.7	19.5	113	69.6	76
107	Norwich University of the Arts	80	75.1	—	131	61.2	75.5
108	Canterbury Christ Church	79.3	74	16.8	95	66.4	75.3
109	Solent, Southampton	76.5	70.4	—	108	71.7	74.6
110	Cardiff Metropolitan	71.8	68.4	—	120	72.9	74.3
111	Winchester	66.4	57.6	—	108	87.8	74
112	Suffolk	69.5	58.8	—	117	72	72.3
113	Wrexham	73.9	63.9	1.5	112	64.3	72.2
114	University for the Creative Arts	79.2	64.5	—	127	41.3	69.9

Employed in high-skilled job	65%	Employed in lower-skilled job	11%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	4%	Unemployed	9%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£30,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,000

Creative Writing

Taking the lead in our new Creative Writing table, Newcastle has the top research in the field, based on results of the Research Excellence Framework 2021. After two years at No 1, Warwick takes second place but continues to claim the highest entry standards of 165 UCAS points. Creative writing students tend to enjoy their studies, as represented in our latest National Student Survey analysis, which shows high rates of satisfaction with teaching quality throughout the table. These are topped at Anglia Ruskin, which places 15th overall. Arts University, Bournemouth does best for students' evaluation of the broader experience.

"Creative writing provides an opportunity to study literature by creating your own work. You'll learn to read and write with attention to themes and ideas and an eye on technique, structure and more. You will create work that interacts with the world around you, exploring and understanding yourself and other people," says Dr Douglas Cowie, senior lecturer in the Department of English, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Applicants to creative writing courses may not be motivated by immediate professional full-time employment upon graduation, which is perhaps why only 25 of the 43 universities tabled a postgraduate prospects score. Of these, Bournemouth does best based on 83.3% of its graduates being employed in high-skilled work and/or further study within 15 months – a proportion which falls to 48.8% at Chichester. As a whole, creative writing has lost five places to sit at the foot of our employment ranking of 70 subject areas this year. More than four in ten graduates were in high-skilled work and/or further study when surveyed 15 months after their degrees, but three in ten were in jobs deemed "low-skilled" and around one in ten were unemployed – the highest unemployment rate of any subject group. Creative writing is also bottom of the salaries table, jointly with animal science.

Even so, the demand for creative writing courses registered a second consecutive uplift in 2022, when more than 8,100 applied for degrees. New student enrolments went marginally in the opposite direction however, and just under 1,800 undergraduates were accepted onto creative writing programmes. In 2025–26, 113 universities and colleges are offering the subject.

		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1	Newcastle	86	80.3	83.8	143	—	100
2	Warwick	86.2	74.5	64.8	165	—	99.6
3	Royal Holloway	87.2	82.3	60.5	149	—	98.2
4	Birmingham	82.6	74.6	68.8	152	74.6	97.4
5	Leeds	79.6	75.9	73.2	157	—	97.3
6	East Anglia	79.8	74.2	67	150	75.5	96.3
7	Liverpool John Moores	89.2	81.3	58	142	63.2	96
8	Manchester Metropolitan	89.3	83.1	61.8	124	70.1	95.8
9	Kent	85.6	74.1	64.5	127	77.9*	95.6
10	Lancaster	85.8	79.8	48	148	—	95.4
11	Keele	91.7	86.3	54.8	111	—	94.5
12	Plymouth	88.4	74.8	60.5	124	—	94.1
13	Lincoln	92.4	88.4	36	120	—	93.6
14	Nottingham Trent	90.7	78.5	39.2	129	—	93.3
15	Anglia Ruskin	93.2	84.8	46	103	—	92.5
16	Canterbury Christ Church	89.2	82.1	53.2	109	—	92.3
17	Greenwich	92.6	84.1	26.5	123	—	92.1
18	York St John	92.9	90.2	22.8	104	72.7	91.9
19	Bangor	84.8	77.8	44.2	125	67.4	91.8
20	Salford	92.3	83.5	26.5	118	65.3	91.6
21	West of England	86.1	79.3	32.2	114	77.2	91.4
22	Essex	83.5	79.2	49.8	124	—	91.3
23	Aberystwyth	86.4	82.5	25.5	130	66.2	91.1
24	Portsmouth	92.5	85.7	30.8	103	65.7	90.8
25	Falmouth	87.6	75.4	48.8	120	58.1*	90.7
26	Brighton	85.5	78	44.2	101	74.5	90.6
=27	Kingston	88.6	74.3	47	111	—	90.4
=27	Arts University, Bournemouth	87.4	91.4	23	120	—	90.4
=29	De Montfort	86.2	80.7	54.5	115	51.7	90
=29	Brunel	84.9	76.3	42.8	111	67.4	90
31	Birmingham City	80.7	71.7	65.5	113	—	89.9
32	Bournemouth	81.7	71.5	22.5	—	83.3*	89.5
33	Edge Hill	85.1	78.1	32.8	124	60.8	89.4
34	Derby	91.7	87	—	118	64.5*	88.9
=35	Sheffield Hallam	83.3	74.8	50.7	108	—	88.5
=35	Central Lancashire	91.6	84.4	33.8	119	41.0*	88.5
37	Roehampton	88.6	70.4	50.5	107	52.4*	88.4
38	Bath Spa	85.7	74.5	51.7	106	50.9	87.8
39	Gloucestershire	86.6	76.6	32.8	101	59.2	87.1