

Economics

Warwick ranks No 1 in our Economics table for the third consecutive year. Warwick's performance is driven by strength in all five areas measured in our ranking – including top-15 finishes for both measures of student satisfaction and the second-best score for research quality – without being unbeaten on any individually. In runner-up position overall, the London School of Economics (LSE) topped our Economics table three years ago and claims the best graduate prospects this year jointly with Cambridge and King's College London. The LSE also leads for research in the field, based on results of the Research Excellence Framework 2021, but sits second to Warwick due largely to being outdone on rates of student satisfaction, for which LSE ranks in the top 35 for teaching quality and the wider experience, measures derived from the National Student Survey.

Cambridge, steady in third place overall, leads on entry standards with 223 UCAS points averaged by its new entrants. St Andrews and Oxford also registered above 200 points. Economics students at Hertfordshire (in 41st place overall) are by a clear margin the most satisfied with their teaching quality and the wider experience for the second year running. Those at Huddersfield, Ulster and Liverpool registered in the top three across these metrics. Conversely, economics undergraduates at Cardiff and Leicester expressed the lowest rates of contentment with teaching quality, positions held by Goldsmiths and Cambridge for the wider experience.

Applications to study economics soared past 100,000 in 2023 (up 8% year on year) and new student enrolments increased too, though less steeply by around 5%, and nearly 13,900 undergraduates were accepted onto economics courses.

Maths A-level (or equivalent qualification) is usually required by the leading universities, while philosophy, sociology, government and politics, further maths and economics may be useful. Dr Michael Gmeiner and Professor Dimitra Petropoulou, Department of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), advise applicants to "become comfortable with mathematics because it's used extensively in economics," and say: "An economics degree is rigorous and highly applicable to the real world, equipping students with the skills to analyse the important issues of our time."

Economics graduates are among the best paid, commanding median salaries of £30,000 – only four of the 70 subjects in our earnings index place higher. Economics sits 25th in our employment ranking (down five places), with the latest data showing just under three-quarters of graduates in high-skilled jobs and/or postgraduate study within 15 months of degrees.

Economics

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Warwick	84.7	85.5	76.5	191	93.3	100
2 London School of Economics	80.1	79.4	80.8	193	96.2	99.3
3 Cambridge	82.9	71.6	68.2	223	96.2	99.1
4 Oxford	83.5	74.5	62	208	94.8	97.8
5 St Andrews	89.1	88.6	31.2	219	91	97.1
6 University College London	74.2	79.6	72.5	188	94.8	96.3
7 Strathclyde	84.8	84	52.5	196	86.6	95.8
8 Durham	79.9	77.1	55.8	184	92.9	94.8
9 Nottingham	76.6	79.2	64.5	170	91.1	94.1
10 Lancaster	84.7	83.7	59.2	142	88.7	94
11 Liverpool	85.4	88.9	58	139	84.4	93.7

12 Loughborough	85.7	87	49.2	153	85.7	93.5
13 Leeds	74.5	80.2	62.3	168	91.2	93.4
14 Glasgow	73	75.3	57.2	195	87.8	92.7
=15 Exeter	79.3	82.1	44.8	164	91.4	92.5
=15 Sheffield	83.2	86.3	48.8	147	85.9	92.5
=15 Surrey	86.3	88.6	54.2	131	81.8	92.5
=18 Bristol	72.8	76.2	60.2	170	90.4	92.2
=18 Birmingham	78	78.7	55.2	150	91.2	92.2
20 Ulster	90.8	90.5	45.8	117	81.3	91.9
21 Queen Mary, London	77.2	76.4	60.5	154	87.4	91.8
22 Edinburgh	71.6	75.1	50.2	184	92.8	91.7
23 Hull	87.9	83.3	29.5	—	88.6	91.5
24 Bath	78.7	83.2	25.2	174	94.4	91.3
25 East Anglia	82.2	83.3	46.2	130	87.8	91
26 Manchester	75.6	75.7	54.5	159	87.6	90.9
27 Aston	83.3	85.4	43.5	119	89	90.7
=28 York	75.6	74.2	48.8	146	90.2	89.8
=28 Heriot-Watt	77.2	78	38.2	166	86.4	89.8
30 Stirling	82.6	78.8	38.2	152	82.4	89.7
31 Queen's, Belfast	74.7	77.3	40.5	143	93	89.4
32 Southampton	77.2	80.6	42	140	87.4	89.3
33 Cardiff	69	74.8	56	141	90.7	89
34 Newcastle	74.2	79.9	40.5	149	86.8	88.7
35 Reading	79.8	82.2	46.2	118	82.9	88.6
36 Sussex	77.5	78.6	52	130	79.6	88.3
=37 Essex	81.6	84.7	59.5	106	71.2	88
=37 King's College London	77.6	77	—	183	96.2	88
39 Brighton	85	87.4	28.5	91	87.6*	87.8
40 Royal Holloway	76	78.4	53.8	119	78.9	87.3
41 Hertfordshire	96.9	97.6	29	87	63.7	87.2
42 Oxford Brookes	83.2	86.2	26	116	81.8	87.1
=43 Aberdeen	79.8	79.1	32.2	172	70	87
=43 Nottingham Trent	84.3	84.1	34.2	117	75.9	87
45 Keele	83.2	82.7	24.8	100	88.3	86.9
46 Portsmouth	86.2	83.8	37.8	110	70.2	86.4
47 Swansea	83	79.7	38.8	117	73.6	86.3
48 Manchester Metropolitan	79	78.4	42.8	116	76.1	86
49 Kent	79.7	77.6	29.5	121	80.8	85.7
50 Huddersfield	91.6	88.5	23.2	111	64.2	85.5
51 Plymouth	77.5	79.9	28.7	109	80	84.6
52 Dundee	72.1	73.7	—	176	88.9	84.4
53 Greenwich	85.2	84.1	33.2	97	67.2	84.3
54 Lincoln	80.3	81.2	—	113	86.2	83.4
55 Bournemouth	77.9	75.3	23	105	77.5	82.7
56 City	72	75.8	32.5	121	73.5	82.5
57 Coventry	74.4	74.8	33.2	97	75.9	82.2
=58 London South Bank	87	83	—	84	75.9	81.6
=58 Sheffield Hallam	82.5	79.8	—	104	77.6	81.6

Economics cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
60 SOAS London	74.8	73.2	—	141	78.6	81.1
61 West of England	74.5	72.2	27.3	107	72	81
62 Leeds Beckett	77.4	75.6	8.2	98	80	80.9
63 Leicester	70.9	74	—	122	86.3	80.6
64 Kingston	78.5	78.6	24	89	66	80.2
65 Westminster	74.7	77.7	37.5	105	54.5	79.5
66 De Montfort	76.9	75.4	—	90	76.7	78.6
67 Middlesex	86.1	84.5	—	88	57.6	78.3
68 Birmingham City	82.1	77.1	11.2	107	54.9	78.2
=69 Brunel	72	73.1	16	109	62.1	77.3
=69 Goldsmiths, London	76.9	71	—	105	68.4	77.3
71 Northampton	73.8	72.4	1.2	81	—	74.7
Employed in high-skilled job	58%	Employed in lower-skilled job				13%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	9%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying				1%
Studying	6%	Unemployed				5%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£31,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary				£22,500

Education

Durham takes the lead in our new Education table, boosted by the top research rating in the field – based on results of the latest Research Excellence Framework in 2021 – as well as strong performance across the other five metrics. Our Education table includes inspection data by Ofsted for universities in England, adding an extra column which distinguishes it from the other 69 subject rankings in our *Guide*. Fourteen universities tie for the top score (four) from Ofsted, most of which also place within our table's top 30. These are, in descending order: Durham, Bristol, Cambridge, Bristol, Nottingham, Birmingham, Warwick, Brighton, University College London, Winchester, St Mary's, Twickenham, Chichester and Edge Hill, and Brunel. Only Chester at 42nd and Worcester at 43rd – both with Ofsted's highest rating – rank outside our top 30.

Applications to teaching training BEd degrees – the most common route into primary teaching – declined sharply in 2023 when 43,695 applied – a 17% decrease on 2022 and 22% lower than 2021's boom year for applications to teacher training. The number of students who gained places declined less steeply – by 11% year on year – and 8,935 undergraduates were accepted onto courses in 2023. Academic Studies in Education degrees are also encompassed in our ranking, and the subject attracted 27,180 applications in 2023, while 6,315 new undergraduates began courses.

"Informed by cutting-edge research, policy and practice and supported by the latest learning technologies, you will be empowered to implement change and transform people's lives for the better," say Dr Trevor Grimshaw, Dr Ioannis Costas Batlle and Dr Sam Carr, Department of Education, University of Bath, who advise applicants to "Find the recommended reading lists and start training yourself to analyse the literature critically, noting down your key questions as you read."

Secondary school teachers are more likely to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, or to train through the Teach First or Schools Direct programmes, which are not included in our table's statistics. Our focus exclusively on undergraduate provision explains the absence of some of

the best-known education departments, which only offer postgraduate courses. Cambridge, where degrees combine the academic study of education with other subjects but do not offer Qualified Teacher Status, is down one place to tie in the runner-up spot with Bristol this year. The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, a former leader of our Education table, sits in fifth place overall but has the highest entry standards of 216 UCAS points. The top six for entry standards are exclusively Scottish universities, which benefit from the favourable tariff conversion for Scottish secondary qualifications, while also performing strongly across our table's other measures.

For student satisfaction with teaching quality, South Wales is in first place, while Warwick leads for student satisfaction with the broader experience. At the foot of the same ranking is Oxford Brookes and for teaching quality Cumbria students express the lowest rates of satisfaction, our National Student Survey analysis shows.

Education sits 28th in our employment ranking of 70 subject areas (up five places). The demands for new primary and secondary teachers vary across the country, creating differing graduate outcomes scores at universities. Royal Conservatoire Scotland tops our ranking this year, with 96.6% of graduates in high-skilled work and/or postgraduate study 15 months after their degrees.

St Mary's, Twickenham and Durham also had over 90% of graduates achieving these outcomes. Though not an ingredient of our ranking, teachers' pay is of interest to many. Median graduate salaries of £25,714 for those in high-skilled jobs place education just outside the upper half of subject areas, at =38th.

Education

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Ofsted rating	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Durham	82	78.2	73.2	4	152	92.5	100
=2 Bristol	86.9	84.6	67.5	4	153	85.7	99.7
=2 Cambridge	83.8	65.6	67.8	4	179	88	99.7
4 Edinburgh	81.4	75.8	51	—	195	88.8	99
5 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	82.3	70.1	—	—	216	96.6	98.6
6 Glasgow	81.7	73.6	64.5	—	191	83.6	98.4
7 Nottingham	88	84	61.5	4	132	—	98.1
8 Aberdeen	90.2	89.5	23	—	177	85.9	97.7
=9 Dundee	87	78.8	35.2	—	178	87	97.3
=9 Warwick	92.8	91.6	55.8	4	136	75.3	97.3
11 Sussex	88.6	81.4	64.8	3.4	136	87.8	97
12 Brighton	92.1	87	37.5	4	123	84.9	96.4
13 Stirling	76	67.6	53.2	—	196	85.7	96
=14 Birmingham	84.1	83	70.5	3.5	139	81.1	95.5
=14 Strathclyde	85.2	78.1	20.8	—	203	80.7	95.5
=14 West of Scotland	90.2	82.5	17.5	—	193	77.7	95.5
17 Leeds	84	85.4	44.2	—	150	84.8	95.1
18 Cardiff	79.8	76.5	72	—	154	80.4	95
=19 University College London	81.5	84.8	68.8	4	157	65.4	94.4
=19 St Mary's, Twickenham	91.4	87.8	—	4	112	93.4	94.4
=19 Winchester	83.5	80.5	28	4	126	89.6	94.4
22 Northumbria	84.8	80.3	42	3	151	89.9	94
23 Bath	81	75.6	47.8	—	145	86.8	93.7
=24 Suffolk	87.1	86.1	21.8	—	—	85.7	93.3