

General Engineering cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
4 Oxford	80.8	76.1	77.5	216	94	97
5 Sheffield	93.7	88.6	66.8	179	89.7	95.9
6 Durham	81.2	74	52.8	202	95.4	94.3
7 University College London	81	61.5	70	194	—	93.4
8 Exeter	93.2	90.5	47	144	91.3	92.5
9 Strathclyde	86.1	77.5	52.8	187	88.9	92.3
10 Loughborough	82.2	75.9	46.5	154	90.9	89.6
11 Warwick	75.9	76.3	56.2	162	88.2	88.7
12 Aston	89.3	81.7	35.2	132	—	88.4
13 Ulster	81.5	79.1	49.8	132	89.4	88.1
14 Queen Mary, London	72.6	66.1	66	152	—	87.8
15 Liverpool John Moores	86.7	78.2	45.5	138	83.3	86.8
16 Aberdeen	75.3	74.9	35.8	167	—	86.7
17 Brunel	81.4	72.1	33	131	90	86.1
18 Cardiff	65.5	74.4	54	134	—	83.8
19 West of Scotland	80.8	76.4	16.5	—	85.3	83.1
20 Coventry	82.7	78.1	23.5	121	81.4	82.1
21 Glasgow Caledonian	80.6	72.2	12.8	—	82	80.5
22 London South Bank	71.2	66	27.3	127	—	80.4
23 Bournemouth	77.9	73.6	14	116	79.8	79.1
24 Northampton	70.1	48.4	8.5	90	—	72.9

Employed in high-skilled job	78%	Employed in lower-skilled job	6%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	3%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	4%	Unemployed	4%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£30,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£23,000

Geography and Environmental Sciences

"Are you fascinated with finding out how nature works – and how people interact with it?" asks Dr Hannah Cloke, professor of hydrology, University of Reading. "Geography and environmental science helps to find patterns and make sense of the mess. Most of the biggest issues the world faces, like climate change, biodiversity loss or war, need both human and physical solutions, which is why geographers see the world in this way."

Our table incorporates the different strands of geography – physical and human. The former focuses on physical processes and natural environments, the latter concerns human societies and the links between people and the planet. Environmental science studies the earth's physical, chemical and biological processes and looks at what impacts the planet in terms of social, political and cultural developments.

In a shake-up to the top ten of our Geography and Environmental Sciences table only Loughborough holds the same position (eighth) this year as last. Durham has gained four places to take the No 1 spot from Oxford, which held it for the past two years, and St Andrews is up one place to rank third. The London School of Economics has fallen six places to rank ninth, Edinburgh is down ten places to 16th and Exeter has declined 11 places to 21st. Going in

the opposite direction, Royal Holloway has been boosted by strong rates of student satisfaction to gain 15 places and rank joint fifth with Southampton. But East Anglia, in 26th place overall, has the edge for research, the Research Excellence Framework 2021 results showed, followed by Bristol, which ranks second for research quality and 13th overall.

In 40th place overall, Gloucester outdoes all other institutions for student satisfaction with teaching quality and Chester is top for students' evaluation of teaching quality, our National Student Survey analysis shows.

The subjects rank 43rd out of 70 for starting salaries and compare a little more favourably for employment more widely, in 36th place, based on nearly seven in ten (67.9%) graduates employed in high-skilled work or furthering their studies within 15 months. Performance in achieving these outcomes varies considerably by institution from 94.9% at Durham down to 57.3% at Kingston (66th overall).

Entry standards do not reach the heights of some other subjects, with no universities averaging higher than the 198 UCAS points at third-place St Andrews, and seven averaging 100 or less. Geography at A-level or equivalent is a requirement for geography degrees. For environmental science, the leading universities look for two subjects from geology, maths, psychology, physics, geography, biology or chemistry. The demand for places varies between the disciplines, with human geography attracting the highest numbers (17,105 applications and 3,110 enrolments in 2023 – both up year on year), followed by physical geographical sciences (13,290 and 2,395). Though still attracting a smaller cohort of students, applications to environmental science degrees have risen by a third between 2019 and 2023, when 7,920 applications and 1,370 new students gained places.

Geography and Environmental Sciences

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Durham	87	81.6	68.8	173	94.4	100
2 Oxford	88.6	79.8	66	191	89	99.8
3 St Andrews	87.9	83.4	48.2	198	83.7	97.1
3 Cambridge	81.3	67.7	59.2	186	94	97.1
5 Southampton	88.1	81.9	67.5	144	87.2	96.1
5 Royal Holloway	94	92.8	64	125	84.6	96.1
7 University College London	82.9	81.3	59.2	175	86.7	96
8 Loughborough	89.6	91.8	54.2	143	86.9	95.9
9 London School of Economics	77.3	75.7	63	168	92.7	95.7
10 Glasgow	77.9	73.3	65.5	189	83.3	94.9
11 Lancaster	83.9	81.3	68.2	145	84.8	94.6
12 Aberdeen	91.4	83.2	41.5	184	77.8	94.5
13 Bristol	79.6	76.9	70	159	84.1	94.2
14 Sheffield	87.5	86.8	51	146	83.2	93.7
15 King's College London	83.6	83.1	58.8	148	82.2	93.2
16 Edinburgh	74.5	72.9	63.2	174	84.3	93
17 Dundee	79.8	76.6	46.2	177	83	92.6
18 Reading	86.2	84.6	68.5	120	79.9	92.3
19 Birmingham	80	79.2	49.2	145	87.1	92
20 Leeds	74.7	74.7	66	152	83.9	91.8
21 Exeter	79.8	80.5	67.2	153	75.9	91.7
22 Aberystwyth	89.2	85.5	47	118	83.2	91.5

Geography and Environmental Sciences cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=23 Nottingham	80.5	81.9	58.5	136	81.4	91.2
=23 York	81.7	79	65.5	137	78.1	91.2
=23 Manchester	80.3	76.2	49	155	82.1	91.2
26 East Anglia	82.1	80	73.8	126	76.2	91
27 Northumbria	92.2	86.6	49	126	74.2	90.7
28 Stirling	82.2	78.4	45.8	170	73.5	90.2
29 Queen's, Belfast	87.4	83.7	35.5	134	80.8	90.1
30 Swansea	82.2	80.2	51.7	129	80.8	90
=31 Ulster	88.5	84.8	43	120	79.4	89.9
=31 Warwick	80.7	75.4	—	175	92.6	89.9
33 Newcastle	77.8	78.2	53.8	134	81.5	89.6
34 Sussex	83.7	83.3	57.2	131	73.7	89.5
35 Keele	90.1	82.6	35.2	111	82.4	89.4
=36 Northampton	95.1	85.2	12	—	80.3	89.1
=36 Bangor	83.7	81	67.5	114	73.5	89.1
38 Liverpool	81.2	80.7	45.2	129	79.9	88.9
39 Liverpool John Moores	91.7	86.7	28.7	119	77.8	88.8
40 Gloucestershire	96	92.2	25.8	105	75	88.2
=41 Cardiff	81.2	80.6	38.2	134	78.5	88
=41 Salford	93.1	91.6	41	105	70.4	88
43 West of England	93.9	91	40.8	108	68.3	87.7
44 Leicester	90.6	86.3	28.7	117	72.5	86.9
45 SOAS London	80.1	70	29.8	158	—	86.8
=46 Nottingham Trent	87	83	30.8	103	77.6	86.3
=46 Queen Mary, London	77.7	75.5	52.5	125	73.6	86.3
48 Worcester	93.8	86.3	12.2	101	77.8	86
=49 Manchester Metropolitan	80.6	77.4	44.8	110	74.7	85.6
=49 Edge Hill	89.6	84.4	15.2	116	75	85.6
51 Portsmouth	86.5	83.8	26.8	102	76.5	85.5
52 Leeds Beckett	89.5	89.6	24.5	106	70.9*	85.3
=53 Huddersfield	89.8	76.2	24	105	—	84.7
=53 Chester	92.8	93.2	7.2	112	70	84.7
55 Hull	84.7	61.2	42	108	75	84.5
56 Plymouth	82.6	82	31	116	70.7	84.3
57 Lincoln	84.6	78.4	14	113	77.8	84.2
58 Coventry	92.2	85.1	17	103	68.6	83.8
59 Derby	86.7	78.5	—	116	79.2	83.7
60 Hertfordshire	89.4	84.7	42.5	94	62.4	83.6
61 York St John	86.7	81.2	14	92	76.1	83
62 Oxford Brookes	82.6	77.1	34.8	101	69.1	82.7
63 Brighton	89.7	81.6	31.8	93	62.3	82.1
64 Liverpool Hope	83.1	85.6	9.5	107	—	81.9
65 Bath Spa	77.5	70.9	19.2	94	76	80.5
66 Kingston	92	84.9	17.2	98	57.3	80.4

67 Bournemouth	81.3	83.1	31.2	97	60.9	80.1
68 Cumbria	74.5	61.3	16.5	116	—	77.9
69 Sheffield Hallam	81.2	73.6	—	102	67.3	77.8
70 Winchester	63.2	59.9	—	100	69	72.5

Employed in high-skilled job	52%	Employed in lower-skilled job	19%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	11%	Unemployed	5%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£26,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,779

Geology

Cambridge tops our Geology table for the fifth year running while St Andrews is runner-up for the second consecutive year. Exeter is up two places to rank third – boosted by the top rating for teaching quality and the second-best for the wider experience in our new National Student Survey analysis. Imperial has slipped one place to rank fourth but still has the lead for research, based on the results of the Research Excellence Framework, and also tops the table for student satisfaction with the broad undergraduate experience. Geology students in general tend to enjoy their degrees: even at the bottom end of the scale, Keele scores more than 75% for teaching quality.

The study of how the earth was formed and shaped, geology degrees at the leading universities require any two subjects from: biology, chemistry, economics, further maths, geography, geology, maths, physics and psychology. "Geology is practical: discover your own fossil and mineral collection and make friends for life in small classes. Or, it's mathematical: for example, computer simulations of mining heat, and future climates. Relevant jobs in the UK and worldwide are in natural resources, energy supply, environmental protection, planetary exploration, and local and national government," explains Professor Stuart Haszeldine, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh.

Entry standards can be high; led by Cambridge – where entrants averaged 222 UCAS points – more than half of the universities listed attracted over 144 points in the UCAS tariff (equivalent to AAA at A-level). Life after an undergraduate geology degree can often include postgraduate study, which over one in five graduates was engaged in either full-time or combined with a job 15 months on from their courses. More than half had already secured high-skilled full-time jobs. Overall, geology places 27th in our employment ranking of 70 subject areas. Rates of pay for those with a geology degree average at £26,000 and place =28th.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Cambridge	86.9	81.2	79.5	222	94.3	100
2 St Andrews	84.9	76.6	68.2	206	100	98
3 Exeter	95.6	89.4	69.8	149	92.9	97.6
4 Imperial College	89.7	90.2	81	167	87.2	97.3
5 Oxford	82	73.4	71.2	203	100	97.1
6 East Anglia	90.2	80.5	73.8	141	—	94.8
7 Durham	88.8	79	60.2	158	92.9	94.1
8 Edinburgh	80.7	75.1	63.2	205	89.1	93.7
9 Leeds	81	81.3	68.2	156	90.9	92.7
=10 Bristol	84.6	80.4	75.2	153	83.3	92.6