

Nursing cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=52 Sheffield Hallam	70.7	62.8	29.8	128	99.5	88.5
55 London South Bank	83.9	77.4	34.5	126	93.9	88.4
=56 Teesside	77.3	68	35	126	96.3	88.3
=56 Huddersfield	73.4	69.3	22.5	136	97.5	88.3
=56 Canterbury Christ Church	78.6	65	31.8	124	97.1	88.3
=59 Wolverhampton	77.7	68.3	24.2	137	96	88.2
=59 Manchester Metropolitan	78.1	72.3	36	138	93.3	88.2
=61 East London	85	74.2	25.5	117	96.1	88.1
=61 Leeds Beckett	70.8	65.9	38	126	97.5	88.1
=63 Middlesex	85.2	79.9	22.5	115	96.1	88
=63 Bolton	80.1	74.4	2	140	97	88
65 Bournemouth	77.3	67.1	29.2	114	98.5	87.9
66 Bedfordshire	81.1	71.8	22.5	125	95.2	87.4
67 Northampton	81.1	75	5	136	94.7	86.9
68 Buckinghamshire New	86.9	80	16.8	110	94.6	86.7
69 Edge Hill	68.7	66.5	22.2	138	95.2	86.5
=70 Worcester	72.6	68.7	24.2	126	95.3	86.4
=70 Bradford	66.9	58.1	33.8	141	94.2	86.4
72 De Montfort	72.8	62.5	20.8	126	96.3	86.3
73 Cumbria	72.4	70.7	18.5	128	94.1	85.6
74 Suffolk	75.9	67.4	—	120	95.7	84.6
75 Gloucestershire	61.4	52.4	16.2	129	95.2	83.6
76 Anglia Ruskin	80.2	68.6	33.8	121	80.9	80.5

Employed in high-skilled job	89%	Employed in lower-skilled job	2%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	1%	Unemployed	1%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£25,675	Low-/medium-skilled salary	N/A

Pharmacology and Pharmacy

No 1 for the fourth consecutive year, Strathclyde in Glasgow's eminence in our Pharmacology and Pharmacy table is secured by the highest entry standards (224 points in the UCAS tariff) along with strong performances across all other measures in our ranking. Strathclyde offers degrees in all three of the subjects encompassed in this grouping: pharmacology - which is a branch of medicine concerned with drugs, their uses, effects and how they interact with the human body; pharmacy - which trains and licenses individuals to dispense prescription medicines as pharmacists; and toxicology - which is similar to pharmacology but focuses on the toxic rather than healing properties of venoms, poisons and drugs. Most English universities offer only one or the other, and courses are evenly split among institutions.

"Pharmacologists look for answers to viral pandemics, tropical diseases such as malaria and sleeping sickness, and venomous snake bites. Thanks to pharmacologists we can treat many conditions that used to be fatal. There are many more that still need research," explains Dr Andrew Fielding, senior lecturer in cancer research, Lancaster University.

King's College London (in 20th place overall) has the edge for research quality in our analysis of the Research Excellence Framework 2021 results. In our latest National Student Survey (NSS) analysis 24th-place St George's, London (now City St George's) achieves the highest rates of satisfaction with teaching quality and the broader experience, while third-place Ulster, the table's highest-ranked modern university, comes second for teaching quality and third for the student experience. At the opposite end of the scale, the least satisfied students for both NSS-based measures were at Central Lancashire (42nd overall).

The four-year MPharm degree is a direct route to professional registration as a pharmacist and the most popular option, or students can study three-year degrees in pharmaceutical science or as part of a broader degree. Pharmacology is available as a three-year BSc or as an extended course. Biology and chemistry are usually required by the leading universities, while maths, further maths and physics may also be useful. Applications to pharmacology and pharmacy degrees have rocketed since before the pandemic. There were 31,745 applications to pharmacy in 2023 (up by around 73% since 2019) and 10,100 applications to pharmacology (nearly 50% higher than in 2019). The spike in interest is timely; the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan, published in 2023, has pledged to expand training places for pharmacists in England by 29% by 2028-29.

Solid career prospects are in store for graduates. The subjects are usually in the top ten of our employment table but have slipped to 22nd out of 70 subject areas this year. The latest Graduate Outcomes survey found three-quarters of those with pharmacology and pharmacy degrees employed in professional-level jobs and/or furthering their studies within 15 months. Pay offers early career rewards: the subjects tie with veterinary science in third place of our pay index (behind only dentistry and medicine), based on average graduate salaries of £33,000.

Pharmacology and Pharmacy

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Strathclyde	83	80.3	65.8	224	93.1	100
2 Glasgow	80.3	79.3	63.5	197	—	97.5
3 Ulster	95.7	90.5	53.5	155	95.8	97
4 Queen's, Belfast	83.5	81.3	66.2	161	97.7	96.7
5 Dundee	93.9	92.8	60.8	—	88	95.7
6 Cardiff	86.7	75.5	58.8	161	97	95.6
7 Newcastle	85	82.5	65.8	139	97.5	95.2
8 Nottingham	85.2	81.5	66.8	151	92.7	94.6
9 Bath	82.6	84.9	63.7	147	92.3	93.6
10 Liverpool	87.9	84.2	46.8	149	95.3	93.5
11 Leeds	78	77.3	52	159	95.7*	92.7
12 Aberdeen	89.6	87.3	30.5	164	91.4*	91.9
13 Manchester	74.7	66	71.2	154	91.1	91.7
14 University College London	83.2	80.1	57.8	158	86.9	91.6
=15 Sunderland	89.7	79.7	30.2	130	100	91.4
=15 Robert Gordon	83.8	74.4	24.5	192	92.1	91.4
=17 Birmingham	86.9	80.4	55	140	89	91.2
=17 Swansea	76.4	75.6	66.8	145	—	91.2
19 King's College London	76.6	73.5	76.2	146	85.8	90.9
20 Keele	77.7	71.6	66.2	137	88.5	89.9
21 Glasgow Caledonian	84.6	78.3	61	160	79.3	89.8

Pharmacology and Pharmacy cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
22 Reading	83.8	77.8	54	122	90.9	89.6
23 Bristol	75	70	57.5	150	86.4	88.5
24 St George's, London	96.5	93	50.2	120	78.1	88.3
25 Brighton	72.3	71.1	50.5	125	94	87.7
26 East Anglia	79.3	70.3	55.5	130	86.9	87.6
27 Bradford	81.5	75.2	33.8	139	88.8	86.9
28 Liverpool John Moores	80.3	79.9	26.5	133	91.1	86.5
29 Aston	76.3	76.7	46	123	88.9	86.4
30 Queen Mary, London	79.1	81.6	54.8	142	76.7	86
31 Westminster	84.5	87.5	36.8	109	—	85.5
32 Huddersfield	81.5	77.2	22.5	132	89.5	85.3
33 Lincoln	69.3	65.3	55.8	130	86.3	85.1
34 Nottingham Trent	88.3	84.4	43.5	112	79.4	85
35 Portsmouth	84.1	81	41.2	108	84.3	84.9
36 Hertfordshire	81.9	77.9	48	113	81.8	84.7
37 Greenwich	86.7	82.8	32.3	121	80.3	84.1
=38 Kingston	79	77.5	38.5	117	84	83.9
=38 De Montfort	81.4	77.9	20.8	113	90	83.9
40 Kent	76.2	66.9	36.8	128	84.5	83.4
41 Wolverhampton	72.6	68.6	24.2	120	85.2	80.8
42 Central Lancashire	58.2	54.8	35.5	135	82.7	78.8

Employed in high-skilled job	59%	Employed in lower-skilled job	7%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	7%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	9%	Unemployed	6%
High-skilled work (median salary)	£33,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,500

Philosophy

Students of philosophy engage with the ideas of great thinkers, examining their arguments and expressing their own opinions. Social science and humanities subjects (English, religious studies, psychology, politics, sociology) are useful in an application, while some of the leading universities may also look for maths – as degrees involve more mathematical skills than many candidates expect, especially when the syllabus has an emphasis on logic. “Philosophy is honest, self-reflective and fresh. Its abstractness and rigour produce the most transferable skills of any university degree. Philosophy students go on to be politicians, lawyers, business people, medical professionals, journalists and, more importantly, good parents, partners, citizens and friends,” says Dr Michael T Stuart, lecturer in philosophy, University of York. In 51st place philosophy has moved nine places down our employment ranking of 70 subject areas, based on six in ten graduates (59.8%) being in high-skilled jobs and/or furthering their studies within 15 months. Graduate salaries compare more favourably in =38th place. After two years of rising demand, applications levelled out in 2023 and 16,760 applied. The numbers of students starting courses has remained remarkably consistent across the past four admissions years and in 2023 there were 3,555 new philosophy undergraduates.

The LSE recorded a perfect 100% of graduates in professional jobs and/or further study

15 months after their degrees, helping secure the No 1 spot for LSE in our Philosophy table, overtaking St Andrews after three years at the top. Oxford, which led the table four years ago, attracts the highest entry standards – with entrants averaging 203 points in the UCAS tariff. But there is a wide range of entry standards across the table, from the heights at Oxford to 99 points at its neighbouring university, Oxford Brookes. Cardiff, in 21st place overall, was the top scorer in the Research Excellence Framework 2021. The upper end of our Philosophy table is remarkably stable year on year, and nine of this year’s top 10 universities appeared in last year’s top 10 too. Exeter is a new arrival in eighth place – up three places this year while Durham has slipped the same number of places to sit 11th. In our latest National Student Survey analysis, West of England (=37th) outdoes the rest of the table for the broad student experience and Aberdeen (15th) is unbeaten for teaching quality, followed by Hull (23rd) and Oxford Brookes (24th) in each metric.

Philosophy

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 London School of Economics	83.3	80.8	60	188	100	100
=2 St Andrews	90.6	87.7	55	199	76.4	97.1
=2 Warwick	86.7	84.2	55.8	176	88.7	97.1
4 Oxford	84.4	70.8	50.7	203	90.6	96.8
5 University College London	79.4	78.3	66.8	180	86.9	96.2
6 Cambridge	84.5	67.4	59	196	86.2	96.1
7 York	86.3	82.1	66.2	142	83.7	94.8
8 Birmingham	84.6	80.4	66	148	83	94.4
=9 Durham	79.7	70.7	47.8	182	88.9	93.4
=9 King's College London	79.1	75.2	52.2	175	87.1	93.4
=11 Southampton	89.2	86.4	59	138	75	92.7
=11 Newcastle	88.5	84.5	61.8	134	76	92.7
13 Exeter	80.3	79.3	46.8	165	85.5	92.3
14 Sheffield	85.6	85.8	45.5	148	81.9	92
15 Aberdeen	92.9	89.2	22.8	169	—	91.7
16 Essex	91.6	86.2	46.5	113	79.6	90.7
17 Bristol	79.8	74.6	54.8	165	75	90.4
18 Liverpool	85.5	83.4	45.2	133	78.2	89.8
19 Glasgow	79.3	77.2	51	172	69.5	89.3
20 Lancaster	86.2	80.8	49	144	70.2	89.2
21 Cardiff	82.9	79.7	67.2	129	66.7	89.1
22 Nottingham	82.5	80.1	41.5	138	79.7	88.9
23 Hull	93.6	88.9	31.5	—	66.4*	88.3
24 Oxford Brookes	94.4	88.4	28.2	99	80	88.1
25 Sussex	81.1	79.5	49	131	72.8	87.6
26 Bangor	88.6	83.9	33.2	141	69.8	87.5
=27 Edinburgh	73.5	69.6	49	171	72.3	87.4
=27 Manchester	75.6	68.4	55.5	160	69.8	87.4
29 Stirling	82.3	82	36	141	—	87.2
30 Leeds	72.4	74.3	47	153	76.7	87.1
31 Reading	86.8	82	36.2	123	73.3	86.9