

Physics and Astronomy cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=34 Leicester	87.5	88.2	44	134	81.2	87.2
=34 Liverpool	79.8	72.9	61.5	140	81	87.2
36 Central Lancashire	94.6	79.3	41.2	—	77.8*	87.1
37 Northumbria	94.7	98.1	43	144	72	87
38 King's College London	73.1	70.4	49.2	161	86.4	86.7
39 Hull	92	89.7	45.5	112	78.3	86.2
40 Queen Mary, London	81.8	80.1	48.8	139	78.7	85.5
41 West of Scotland	88.1	80.4	31	145	—	85.2
42 Newcastle	70.1	68.3	48	140	88	85
43 Lincoln	91.9	92.1	28.2	113	—	84.6
=44 Salford	83.4	79.4	33.2	125	80	83
=44 Aberystwyth	89.3	87.6	21	118	81.1	83
46 Keele	82.5	71.6	49.5	124	73.9	82.7
47 Kent	79.9	72.4	32.5	122	77.4	80.6
48 East Anglia	78.3	73	—	128	86.8	78.8
49 Hertfordshire	72.7	61.3	45.5	98	67.6	75.7

Employed in high-skilled job	51%	Employed in lower-skilled job	10%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	20%	Unemployed	6%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£30,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,000

Physiotherapy

Formerly part of the "Subjects Allied to Medicine" grouping, the Physiotherapy table is now in its 12th year. Modern universities feature prominently, occupying half of the top ten. Glasgow Caledonian retains the lead for the third consecutive year, its rank boosted by the top entry standards of 209 UCAS points. For research quality, King's College London (=13th place overall) leads the field, having achieved the best results in the field in the REF 2021, where it is followed by Southampton – the table's former No 1 and this year's runner-up. In third place overall, Robert Gordon in Aberdeen has the highest rates of student satisfaction with teaching quality and the wider experience – measures derived from our new National Student Survey analysis. Salford (21st overall) and Leeds Beckett (seventh) place second and third for each. At the opposite end of the scale, the physiotherapy students least satisfied with their teaching were at Coventry (31st), Wolverhampton (34th) and 39th-place St George's, London (now City St George's), while the lowest rates of satisfaction with the wider experience were at London South Bank (40th), followed by Coventry and St George's, London (City St George's). For research quality, King's College London (=13th place overall) leads the field, having achieved the best results in the field in the REF 2021, where it is followed by Southampton – the table's former No 1 and this year's runner-up.

Lindsay O'Connor, senior teaching fellow in neurological physiotherapy, University of Southampton, says physiotherapists "work with individuals across the lifespan to achieve their goals and optimise function, from sitting up for the first time in critical care to rehabilitation after a sporting injury."

Graduate employment outcomes are reliably strong, and at four of the 40 universities listed 100% of physiotherapy graduates were employed in professional jobs and/or postgraduate study within 15 months. Only at two universities, London South Bank and East London, does this proportion fall below 90% and the subject ranks fifth in the employment table, behind veterinary medicine, medicine, nursing and radiography. For salaries, though not an ingredient of our ranking, physiotherapy compares less strongly but still features comfortably in the upper half of subjects, at =28th.

The subject's popularity has been gathering pace, and UCAS figures show applications and enrolments to be about a third higher in 2023 than they were four admissions years before, in 2019. Candidates need biology A-level, while physics, chemistry and maths are also useful, as are sociology and PE A-levels.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Glasgow Caledonian	82.3	77.7	61	209	98.1	100
2 Southampton	91.3	88	69.8	162	100	99.6
3 Robert Gordon	94.3	92.4	24.5	207	100	99.4
4 Queen Margaret, Edinburgh	90.5	86.2	36.5	—	100.0*	95.6
5 Northumbria	85.7	80.2	60.5	147	97.9	95
6 Liverpool	87.1	84.5	46.8	156	98.2	94.9
7 Leeds Beckett	92.4	89.6	38	157	96.4	94.4
8 Cardiff	74.9	71.7	58.8	160	98.1	93.9
9 Keele	85.3	81.7	66.2	150	92	93.4
=10 East Anglia	76.6	74.4	55.5	169	94.9	93.3
=10 Brighton	88.9	83.2	50.5	139	96.4	93.3
12 Birmingham	76.6	68.1	55	171	95.2	93.2
=13 King's College London	72.8	66.3	76.2	162	93	93.1
=13 West of England	89.9	88.6	42.8	153	94.1	93.1
15 Plymouth	89.7	81.6	39.5	156	93.7	92.4
16 Ulster	77.6	63.2	53.5	150	97.9	92.2
17 Central Lancashire	87	77	35.5	—	96.3	91.9
18 Manchester Metropolitan	75.8	75.4	51.2	151	96	91.8
19 Essex	82.7	80.5	32.5	—	97.5	91.5
20 Bradford	80.3	68.8	33.8	150	98.4	91.1
21 Salford	93.4	89.6	37	140	91.7	90.9
22 Nottingham	78	69.6	56	148	92.7	90.6
23 Hertfordshire	87.8	85.8	48	129	92.7	90.5
24 Teesside	78.3	77.2	35	137	98	90.1
25 Brunel	88.8	81	47.2	129	92.2	90
26 Huddersfield	85.5	81.6	22.2	136	97.7	89.9
27 Bournemouth	82.8	78.4	29.2	130	97.4	89.4
27 Worcester	82.2	78	24.2	136	97.7	89.4
29 Oxford Brookes	83.7	72	37.8	145	92.3	89.2
30 York St John	90	83.8	13.8	146	94	89.1
31 Coventry	66.4	57.1	47.2	145	97	88.7
32 Cumbria	84.7	81.3	18.5	132	95.8	88.2

Physiotherapy cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
33 Sheffield Hallam	72.3	66.2	29.8	145	96.7	88.1
34 Wolverhampton	70.6	63.3	24.2	139	100	88
=35 Leicester	88.8	86.8	—	135	94.4	86.8
=35 Gloucestershire	76.6	68.6	24.5	146	—	86.8
37 Winchester	83.7	78.6	—	123	98.4	86.2
38 East London	86.5	74.9	25.5	134	88.9	86
39 St George's, London	70.9	59.3	—	153	97.9	85.6
40 London South Bank	73.6	55.2	34.5	125	79.5	79

Employed in high-skilled job	87%	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	3%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£26,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	N/A

Politics

The UK government has been led by four different prime ministers in the same timeframe that St Andrews has led our Politics table. In its sixth year at the top, St Andrews continues to attract the highest average entry standards, of 208 UCAS points, and performs strongly across all other metrics in the table – placing in the top three for graduate outcomes and top 11 for both measures of student satisfaction: teaching quality and the wider experience. There is stability at the upper end of the table more widely, with most of the top 15 featuring in successive annual tables – albeit reshuffled to an extent. Oxford has ousted Warwick from the runner-up spot this year and the London School of Economics (LSE) is up two places in third. Sheffield has gained four places to rank tenth while Exeter is down six to place 15th. Strathclyde, fifth overall, was the top scorer in politics in the Research Excellence Framework 2021, where its results are followed by those of Royal Holloway (11th), Edinburgh (17th) and the LSE.

Northumbria – in 33rd place – is the top-ranked modern university. Another, Salford (in 22nd place overall), has outdone all others for student satisfaction with teaching quality while 20th-place Surrey does best for students' evaluation of the wider experience.

"There is no one way to study politics at university. Whatever you decide to focus on, you'll confront some of the biggest challenges facing contemporary society and develop a set of skills, including critical thought, data analysis and self-expression, that can be applied to a wide range of career paths, such as in journalism, public service or the world of business," says Dr Rod Dacombe, reader in politics, department of political economy, King's College London. The leading universities look for humanities and social sciences A-levels in general – English, economics, sociology and history among them – without demanding any specifically. Dr Rod Dacombe advises that "To get the most out of studying politics you need to find out what it is you really care about. Read about what is going on in the world, form opinions and be prepared to be challenged."

Average starting salaries for politics graduates rank the subject =28th in our pay index of 70 areas. In 43rd place of the employment table it compares less favourably with other subject groupings. When surveyed 15 months after their degrees, 62.4% of graduates were employed in professional-level jobs and/or furthering their studies, but over a fifth were working in jobs classified as "low-skilled". These figures vary widely by institution – from Oxford, the LSE and

St Andrews where more than 90% of graduates achieved the desired career outcomes within 15 months, down to four universities (West of England, Westminster, Canterbury Christ Church and Winchester) where under 60% had reached the same professional goals. Demand for the subject boomed in the decade up to 2019, and after a dip in 2020 applications climbed again – to over 49,300 in 2023 – and 11,175 students were accepted onto courses.

Politics

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 St Andrews	88.7	85.5	47	208	90	100
2 Oxford	83.3	70.4	61.3	205	91.9	99.2
3 London School of Economics	81.5	77.3	65.8	177	91.4	98.1
4 Warwick	85.6	85.8	60.5	172	82.6	96.9
5 Strathclyde	83.7	76	70.5	202	75.6	96.8
6 University College London	75.3	76.8	64.5	183	89.5	96.1
7 Cambridge	84.3	67.8	50.2	192	85.4	95.3
8 Glasgow	82.1	77.1	50.2	203	80	95
9 Durham	83.3	77.1	42.5	176	88.6	94.8
10 Sheffield	81.9	76.4	58	154	84.6	94
11 Royal Holloway	83.9	80.2	67.2	126	82.7	93.9
12 King's College London	78.8	72.8	52.2	185	81.9	93.4
13 York	79.6	76.6	57.5	148	85.3	93.2
14 Birmingham	81.1	74.6	51.5	147	87	92.9
15 Exeter	79.4	75.8	57.5	158	82	92.8
16 SOAS London	79.2	70.6	55.5	156	84.5	92.5
17 Edinburgh	69.8	66.1	66.5	189	79.8	91.8
18 Aston	84.6	83.1	49	116	83.5	91.6
19 Loughborough	88.1	87.2	29.5	140	81.9	91.5
20 Surrey	92.3	90.2	40.2	121	75	91.4
21 Aberdeen	87	83.9	23.5	180	76.6	91.3
22 Salford	94.2	87.2	51.7	104	71.3	91.2
23 Stirling	84.3	81.7	28.7	178	77.4	91.1
24 Lancaster	82.2	77.9	49	143	79.1	91
25 Swansea	90.9	86.6	31.5	122	80.2	90.9
=26 Bristol	76.2	72.1	50.7	168	79.4	90.7
=26 Nottingham	81	79.3	46	146	79.3	90.7
=28 Aberystwyth	90.5	87.6	42.8	120	73.4	90.6
=28 Reading	87.3	80.2	49.2	119	77	90.6
30 Bath	78.6	76.9	31.8	160	85.6	90.4
31 Manchester	76.9	70.3	60.5	158	74.7	90.2
32 Queen Mary, London	77.3	70.5	61.3	142	76.3	89.8
33 Northumbria	83.2	81.4	42	127	78.8	89.7
34 Newcastle	78.8	81.4	39.5	143	78.6	89.1
35 Cardiff	79.4	77.8	49	137	74.7	88.8
36 City	82.7	80.7	40.8	116	78.7	88.6
37 Brunel	90.8	89.9	35	92	74.2	88.4
=38 Sussex	79.6	76.7	55.7	134	70.2	88.3