

Accounting and Finance

For the third year running, the London School of Economics takes first place in our Accounting and Finance table. It outdoes all 97 other universities for the quality of its research and claims the best graduate prospects, while LSE's student satisfactions rankings fall within the upper third for both teaching quality and the wider experience. Runner-up Warwick fares well in the eyes of its accounting and finance students, placing in the top 15 for teaching quality and the student experience, while City comes out second in research. Led by Glasgow, Scottish universities dominate for entry standards, while UCL attracts the highest grades south of the border (183 UCAS points).

"Often taken together, accounting and finance share a focus on matters monetary, business and management," Alnoor Bhimani, professor of management accounting and director of the South Asia Centre, London School of Economics says. "The field is no longer about just debits and credits, cost of capital determination or investment return calculations – it's about shaping tomorrow through insightful decision-making today."

Maths A-level is useful but not an essential requirement, except by a few leading universities. Business, economics and statistics are among the other A-levels that universities look for. Entry standards vary considerably by institution, from 30 universities averaging over 144 UCAS points (equal to three As at A-level) down to Canterbury Christ Church and London Met averaging just 85 UCAS points among their accounting and finance entrants.

Universities with more modest overall rankings in the table lead for student satisfaction – with Edge Hill (50th overall) top for students' evaluation of teaching quality, followed by Worcester and Central Lancashire. Aberystwyth, in 41st overall, achieves the best rates of student satisfaction with the wider experience.

Following the LSE for graduate prospects is Bristol, with 92.7% of graduates in high-skilled jobs or further study 15 months after degrees, then Queen's, Belfast – which has been in the top three for the metric in this table for the past three years. More than 90% of graduates from Exeter, Bath, Sheffield and Warwick had also achieved these career outcomes when surveyed. But, perhaps surprisingly, accounting and finance overall do not set our graduate prospects measure alight, ranking 54th out of 70 subject areas.

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	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 London School of Economics	86.4	85.8	69	171	96.9	100
2 Warwick	89.7	90.6	65.2	165	90	99.4
3 University College London	84.6	88.3	62.3	183	—	98.3
4 Strathclyde	83.8	83.2	52.5	209	83.6	97.6
5 City	85.3	87.4	67.2	154	85.3	96.7
6 King's College London	85.3	87.6	63	161	—	96.5
7 Bath	83.3	83.5	65.2	156	90.7	96.4
8 Glasgow	72.3	77.4	57.2	225	84.7	95.7
9 Durham	85.2	85.2	55.8	150	89.8	95.4
10 Liverpool	89	90.6	58	144	79.5	95.2
=11 Leeds	79.6	83.7	62.3	167	84.9	95
=11 Manchester	79.4	81.3	66.2	166	85	95
13 Queen's, Belfast	85.3	86	40.5	156	92.2	94.6
14 Exeter	81	78.3	63.5	148	91.2	94.5

15 Loughborough	84.4	86.7	49.2	149	87.7	94.2
16 Edinburgh	73.8	78.9	59	187	85.5	94
17 Lancaster	84.5	85.5	59.2	131	86.2	93.8
18 Dundee	90.9	88.1	28.5	174	77.8	93.7
19 Bristol	80.2	80.8	46	158	92.7	93.4
20 Aberdeen	85.6	87.3	32.2	180	79	93.3
21 Ulster	90.6	89.3	45.8	124	82.9	93.2
22 Surrey	87.5	90.3	54.8	127	76.2	92.8
23 Newcastle	84.1	83.3	40.5	145	87.9	92.4
24 Birmingham	77.1	80	55.2	147	87.5	92.1
25 Southampton	81.6	82.1	52	146	78.8	91.6
=26 Sheffield	79.7	83	48.8	129	90.3	91.5
=26 Heriot-Watt	77.2	79.2	38.2	184	80.9	91.5
28 Reading	83.9	84.3	46.2	126	84.3	91.3
29 Stirling	77.5	78.2	38.2	173	84.3	91.2
=30 East Anglia	81.8	82.5	57.8	131	76.1	90.9
=30 Edinburgh Napier	90.4	87.4	20	159	74.1	90.9
32 Nottingham	77.2	78.1	46.8	148	86.9	90.8
33 Cardiff	76.8	79.1	56	147	75.9	90.1
34 Aston	82.8	82.6	43.5	131	79.2	90
35 Northumbria	86.9	83.8	28.2	137	77.3	89.5
36 Royal Holloway	85.8	85.7	43	126	70.5	89.4
=37 Nottingham Trent	90.4	87.8	34.2	116	71.8	89.3
=37 Swansea	84.9	83.4	38.8	131	74.5	89.3
39 Glasgow Caledonian	83.4	83.9	25.8	178	65.2	89.2
40 Robert Gordon	90.6	88.2	19	165	60.3	89.1
=41 Aberystwyth	92.6	93.7	22.8	109	73.7*	89
=41 Portsmouth	91.4	89.6	37.8	105	69	89
43 Leicester	82	83.7	45.8	122	75.1	88.9
44 Sussex	79.6	81	50.7	131	72.9	88.8
45 Chester	91.1	89.7	25.2	117	72.3	88.7
46 Liverpool John Moores	89.6	89	21	129	72.4	88.6
=47 Queen Mary, London	76.3	76	53.2	153	68.8	88.5
=47 Central Lancashire	93.1	90.7	28.2	118	64.3	88.5
49 Kent	82.6	79.9	37.2	123	77.9	88.1
50 Edge Hill	94.3	92	21	125	60	87.9
51 Manchester Metropolitan	86.7	86.3	42.8	124	60.3	87.8
=52 Hull	85.1	89	29.5	118	67.4	86.9
=52 Worcester	93.5	89.3	12.5	110	—	86.9
54 Bangor	88.8	88.6	32.2	105	61.4	86.3
55 Greenwich	86.6	88.2	33.2	110	58.5	85.7
56 Oxford Brookes	79.8	82	26	115	75.8	85.4
57 Essex	79.8	83.7	39.8	110	65.1	85.2
58 Coventry	85.9	86.3	33.2	104	59.7	85
59 Plymouth	84	83.4	28.7	109	65.4	84.9
60 York St John	84.3	83.5	9.8	100	81.2	84.7
61 Keele	78.4	80.6	24.8	112	74.1	84.2
=62 Hertfordshire	85.3	85.5	29	100	59.8	84

Accounting and Finance cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=62 Brunel	80.7	82.3	30.2	117	61.2	84
=64 Westminster	79	80.4	37.5	120	57.4	83.8
=64 Kingston	87.5	87.8	24	103	55.6	83.8
=64 Winchester	86.2	81.1	22.2	104	64.2	83.8
=67 Salford	85.9	85.6	24.8	118	51.8	83.6
=67 Lincoln	83.2	79.8	25	106	65.8	83.6
=67 West of England	81.3	78.7	27.3	109	66.5	83.6
=70 Wolverhampton	88.1	84.5	20.2	88	64.9	83.5
=70 Derby	87.7	85.6	18	102	60.4	83.5
72 SOAS London	73.4	69.2	44.2	127	—	83.3
73 Bolton	86.8	86.3	0	116	66	83.1
74 Bradford	80.1	81.6	38.2	112	52.1	82.9
75 Middlesex	81.4	80.8	46.2	97	50.9	82.8
76 Sheffield Hallam	76.8	74.7	23.5	110	73.5	82.7
=77 Huddersfield	78.8	80.5	23.2	114	62.2	82.4
=77 West London	91.9	92.3	—	107	52.3	82.4
=79 Roehampton	79.9	78.9	32.8	93	—	82.2
=79 Leeds Beckett	87.2	81.8	8.2	99	64.4	82.2
=81 Teesside	89.4	87.9	—	92	63.7	82
=81 Gloucestershire	79.3	72.3	8.8	103	80.6	82
83 Brighton	77.7	73.1	28.5	97	68.9	81.7
84 South Wales	80.9	77.6	9	112	67.8	81.6
=85 East London	86.5	84.7	11	94	58	81.3
=85 West of Scotland	81.8	78.7	10.5	133	53.2	81.3
87 De Montfort	83.6	81.8	19	96	56.9	81.2
88 Birmingham City	85.5	85.4	11.2	110	47.8	80.7
89 Cardiff Metropolitan	82.2	81.3	14	106	54.5	80.4
90 London South Bank	81.1	82.2	21.5	100	49.9	80
91 London Metropolitan	81.1	80.2	22	85	55.8	79.7
=92 Northampton	84.2	84.4	1.2	93	53.8	78.8
=92 Bedfordshire	77.7	79.8	22	93	52.2	78.8
=92 Bournemouth	67	70.8	23	98	73.3	78.8
95 Anglia Ruskin	73.9	75	45.8	89	42.7	78.3
96 Staffordshire	69.7	62.1	38.8	—	60	77.7
97 Canterbury Christ Church	75.5	73.5	13.2	85	62.2	77.5
98 Sunderland	77.9	75.6	—	101	53.8	76.6
Employed in high-skilled job	43%	Employed in lower-skilled job	26%			
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	10%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	3%			
Studying	3%	Unemployed	6%			
High-skilled work (median) salary	£26,750	Low/medium skilled salary	£20,000			

Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering

Imperial tops the table for the fourth year running, its position boosted by having the top research rating in the subjects as well as the highest entry standards. Bristol takes third place this year, having swapped positions with Cambridge which is second overall and in front for graduate prospects and for the broad student experience. Aston (15th overall) is top for student satisfaction with teaching quality while Sheffield (fourth overall) is in the top five for both measures of student satisfaction.

The courses under this category focus predominantly on aeronautical or manufacturing engineering (often called production engineering) but the table also contains some courses with the mechanical title. Entry standards can be stiff: over a third of the universities in our table average over 150 UCAS points, although there are still some places to be found with more modest grades. Ulster, in 21st place, is the highest-ranked post-1992 university, closely followed by South Wales (23rd), Teesside (24th) and Coventry (25th).

Subjects categorised by UCAS as aeronautical and aerospace engineering have attracted rising demand, which edged over to 23,800 in 2023, when nearly 18,000 students gained offers. Production and manufacturing engineering drew nearly 11,000 applications in the same admissions cycle, and just under 9,000 received offers.

Most courses require maths and physics, other desirable subjects include further maths, chemistry, computer science, and design technology. An awareness of AI methods is also increasingly useful, notes Professor Ian Craddock, head of the School of Civil, Aerospace and Design Engineering, University of Bristol, who says: "Never forget that engineering always impacts society, so an understanding of global politics, the environment, and relevant law and regulation is just as valuable."

With average starting salaries of £30,000 the subjects rank 5th and they place 20th in our graduate prospects measure, with almost two-thirds of graduates in high-skilled jobs when surveyed 15 months after their degree and around one in ten engaged in further study.

Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Imperial College	81.6	82.5	81	211	98.1	100
2 Cambridge	86.4	89.8	77.2	—	95.8*	98.6
3 Bristol	80.4	75.5	68	190	94.6	94.9
4 Sheffield	89.2	88.7	66.8	157	86.2	93.9
5 Southampton	76.5	72.8	70	177	94.3	92.9
6 Bath	82.3	77.2	49.5	184	94.4	92.8
7 Glasgow	70.7	66.2	61.5	207	91.4	91.6
8 Nottingham	78.7	76.1	59	151	91.5	89.7
9 Loughborough	83.3	80.3	46.5	156	89.2	89.6
10 Manchester	74.9	69.3	63	165	89.7	89.3
11 Queen's, Belfast	83	78.4	51	152	86.2	89
12 Surrey	80.3	78.6	55.2	143	88.2	88.6
=13 Leeds	77.1	76.8	64.8	176	72.6	88.4
=13 Heriot-Watt	75.7	64	55.5	178	—	88.4
15 Aston	92.2	83.7	35.2	126	84.6	87.4
16 Strathclyde	68.8	67.2	52.8	—	100	87
17 Liverpool	74.4	74.9	57	141	87.9	86.8