

Architecture

Loughborough tops the Architecture table for the second year running, its position boosted by the top graduate prospects – with 100% of graduates securing high-skilled jobs or furthering their studies 15 months on from their degrees. Loughborough also has the second-best research quality rating and top 10 rates of student satisfaction with both teaching quality and the wider experience. Up two places this year, runner-up Sheffield is unbeaten for student satisfaction with the wider experience and fifth for teaching quality. Cardiff retains third place in the table for the third consecutive year. The highest entry standards are at Strathclyde and Cambridge, which also leads the field in research within architecture but has slipped to fourth place overall this year due to rates of student satisfaction which rank in the lower half of the table. In our latest National Student Survey (NSS) analysis Nottingham Trent (24th overall) is first for students' evaluation of teaching quality, where it is followed by Wolverhampton. The University for the Creative Arts is in the top three for both NSS-derived measures. At the other end of the scale, architecture students at Brighton and Lincoln reported the lowest rates of satisfaction with teaching quality.

There are usually no essential subjects required to study architecture, although the leading universities will look for a mixture of art and science, and a portfolio is essential. Entry standards range from the 99 UCAS tariff points averaged by entrants to Hertfordshire up to the 202 points averaged at Cambridge and Strathclyde. It takes most architects seven years to fully qualify, of which a degree is the first step. Such a timeframe asks a lot of students' dedication to the profession and of their financial wherewithal to support themselves. Course materials add to costs. Study time is spent drawing, making and researching through design.

"This is a deeply interdisciplinary subject, combining humanities, arts, social sciences and technology," says Professor Flora Samuel, head of the Department of Architecture, University of Cambridge. Early career trajectories are positive; two-thirds of graduates were in professional jobs 15 months after their degrees according to the latest data, which combined with around 10% in postgraduate study and/or a professional-grade job ranks the subject 19th out of 70 areas. Early career salaries compare less favourably however, with average annual earnings of £23,000 putting the subject in the bottom ten.

Architecture	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Loughborough	89.5	86.9	72	166	100	100
2 Sheffield	90	89.2	71.8	173	89.4	97.8
3 Cardiff	89.5	80.2	67.5	170	92.1	96.8
4 Cambridge	80.5	73.1	74.8	202	88	96.3
5 Bath	86.9	81	49.5	195	92.1	95.9
6 Edinburgh	85.1	79.1	59	183	92.2	95.7
7 Liverpool	90	85.6	55.2	153	88.6	93.6
8 Nottingham	85.4	74.4	59	154	91.5	93
9 Strathclyde	87.2	72	50.2	202	81.7	92.7
10 Queen's, Belfast	90.1	79.9	36.5	147	96.3	92.5
11 Newcastle	83	76	56	168	85.5	91.5
12 Manchester School of Architecture	80.7	73.5	53.2	168	88.5	91.3
=13 Liverpool John Moores	88.8	86.3	38.2	148	89.8	91.2
=13 University College London	82.5	68	61	177	82.8	91.2

15 University of the Arts London	76.3	72.5	46	159	91.2	89.5
16 Coventry	84.6	81.9	54.2	111	88	88.9
=17 Oxford Brookes	86.3	77.9	33.2	136	91.3	88.8
=17 Sheffield Hallam	86.9	76.6	43.2	117	91.2	88.8
19 Robert Gordon	88.9	82.5	14	159	89.5	88.5
20 Plymouth	87.1	76.3	49	117	87.3	88.4
=21 University for the Creative Arts	90.1	88.6	41.2	128	81.1	88.2
=21 Kent	78.5	74.2	61	135	83.7	88.2
23 Ulster	85.7	78.8	54.2	129	81.1	88.1
24 Nottingham Trent	90.7	85.5	38	119	84.5	88
25 West of England	85.3	78.2	40.8	152	80.9	87.8
26 Birmingham City	88	78.8	31.2	136	85.7	87.4
27 Reading	79.8	71.2	53.5	131	—	87.3
28 Westminster	89.9	84.6	38.2	130	80.2	87.2
29 Dundee	83.5	59.6	—	179	97	87
30 Greenwich	86.7	78.6	30	125	87.1	86.6
31 Northumbria	88.2	81.7	25	141	82.5	86.3
32 Kingston	82.4	75.4	63	128	73.6	85.9
33 Salford	74.8	73.4	43.5	127	87.5	85.6
34 London South Bank	83.5	66.2	35	115	85.7	84.3
35 Leeds Beckett	81.1	70.1	24.5	106	92.5	84.1
36 Edinburgh Napier	71.1	71.2	38	140	83.1	83.6
37 Brighton	63.6	67.2	53	118	87.1	83.1
=38 East London	88	83.7	25	103	78.8	82.7
=38 Wolverhampton	90.5	79.2	20	100	—	82.7
=40 De Montfort	77.4	69.2	40.5	105	80	81.7
=40 Portsmouth	79.3	71.9	41.8	115	75	81.7
42 Huddersfield	83.3	67.3	36.5	127	71.8	81.4
43 Anglia Ruskin	81.4	77.8	23.8	103	—	80.8
44 Hertfordshire	80.2	73.4	24.2	99	79.2*	79.9
45 Lincoln	60.1	59.9	12.2	115	94.1	78.3
=46 Arts University, Bournemouth	79.7	68.7	23	121	70.4	78.2
=46 Derby	78.6	65.8	—	106	86.3*	78.2
48 London Metropolitan	82.9	69.4	—	117	68.3	75.1

Employed in high-skilled job	67%	Employed in lower-skilled job	9%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	5%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	5%	Unemployed	8%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£23,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,000

Art and Design

Oxford remains at the top of the Art and Design table for the fourth year running, its ranking boosted by results of the latest Research Excellence Framework 2021, which put it comfortably in front of all other universities in the table. Behind Oxford on research quality is Westminster, which sits 38th overall. Oxford also attracts by far the highest entry standards, with entrants averaging a staggering 248 UCAS points – among the highest tariff scores of any subject table in our Guide. Newcastle (which topped the table four years ago) and Glasgow also averaged