

over 200 UCAS points. At the other end of the scale only two universities (Bedfordshire and East London) have entry standards below 100 tariff points, on average.

Most art and design courses are at the post-1992 universities and/or the specialist arts institutions, but the older universities dominate the top 10 of our table due largely to their higher entry standards – although most artists would argue that entry grades are less significant than in other subjects. Selection rests primarily on the quality of candidates' portfolios and many undergraduates enter via a one-year Art Foundation course. Even the research-led Russell Group of universities do not require any essential A-levels, although they do advise that art and design subjects are preferred. Several renowned art schools are now part of the Russell Group and other high-tariff universities: such as the Ruskin School of Art (Oxford), Slade School of Fine Art (at this year's runner-up University College London) and the Duncan Jordanstone College of Art and Design (Dundee). Fine art has long been a strength at Newcastle, in fifth place.

In sixth place, Kingston is the highest-ranked modern university while Falmouth, at 36th, places the highest of the six specialist institutions, just ahead of Arts London (37th). Bangor leads for student satisfaction with teaching quality and comes second for students' evaluation of the wider experience. Otherwise, our National Student Survey (NSS) analysis found modern universities to have the edge over their older peers for satisfaction rates, with Suffolk top for the broad student experience and Canterbury Christ Church third for both NSS-derived measures. Art and design are among the biggest recruiters in higher education, with more than 126,300 applications in 2023 and over 23,600 new students starting courses. Design studies is much the largest area while fine art – though it accounts for a far smaller proportion of students – still attracted nearly 4,400 new starters in 2023. The subjects usually feature in the lower reaches of employment tables, though there are 11 subject areas below them in our latest ranking of 70. For salaries the subjects are 61st, based on average early career incomes of £24,000. The trend for graduates to not necessarily proceed straight into high-skilled jobs tends not to be a surprise to artists and designers, who accept they may have a period in low-paid self-employment early in their career. Based on the latest Graduate Outcomes survey, Winchester (70th overall) is top, followed by Loughborough (third) and University College London – which each had at least 80% of graduates already in professional jobs or further study 15 months after their degrees.

Art and Design

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Oxford	81.5	74.6	88.8	248	—	100
2 University College London	89.1	84.2	64.7	194	80.8	96.7
3 Loughborough	87.4	84	51.7	174	81.2	93.7
4 Goldsmiths, London	90	85.6	57.5	179	72.9	93.2
5 Newcastle	87.7	81.2	61	212	62.7	92.1
6 Kingston	86.1	77.6	63	171	69.2	90.5
7 Lancaster	80.1	78	59.5	156	78.0*	90
8 Leeds	80.6	77.1	54.8	165	76	89.7
9 Manchester	83.8	82.9	63	157	68.4	89.3
9 Reading	85.9	82.7	51.8	132	77.3	89.3
11 Dundee	84.4	76.6	57.2	180	66	89.1
12 Sunderland	89.5	82.4	49.8	121	76.2	88.9
13 Northumbria	86.9	79.2	45.8	149	73.7	88.7
13 Bournemouth	92.1	88.2	38.5	108	78.7	88.7

15 Bangor	96.6	92.6	40.2	127	66.7	88.5
15 Nottingham Trent	85.1	81.8	53	141	72.5	88.5
15 Glasgow	70.5	62.3	68.8	209	—	88.5
18 Manchester Metropolitan	82.3	77.4	51.7	155	72.7	88.2
19 Southampton	86.4	77	56.5	149	67.8	88
20 Edinburgh Napier	86.5	77	23.5	177	73	87.8
21 Coventry	85.4	78.6	54.2	127	72.7	87.5
22 Robert Gordon	91.9	83.9	13.8	166	70.1	87.2
22 Sheffield Hallam	87.9	82.9	57	122	67.9	87.2
24 Staffordshire	89.2	81.7	53.5	130	65.8	87
24 Cardiff Metropolitan	84.4	75.9	56.2	132	70.8	87
26 Canterbury Christ Church	96.3	90.5	38	104	—	86.8
27 Teesside	92.3	82.9	49.2	116	63.2	85.8
28 Edinburgh	80.7	72.5	54	172	61.5	85.7
29 Central Lancashire	92.8	87.2	35.2	126	63.3	85.6
30 Ulster	83.7	75.3	54.5	127	67.9	85.5
30 Aberystwyth	89.8	79	41	138	63.9	85.5
32 Portsmouth	85.5	77.8	41.8	121	71.8	85.4
32 Lincoln	90.1	81.6	43.8	126	63.8	85.4
32 Glasgow Caledonian	84.8	80.1	13.8	177	68.3	85.4
35 Falmouth	85.5	79.4	48.8	143	62	85.2
36 University of the Arts London	80.9	74.7	46	154	65.5	85
37 West of England	85.1	77.9	36	152	63.9	84.8
38 Westminster	80	75.9	75.5	142	55	84.5
39 Liverpool John Moores	80.1	74.2	38.2	178	61	84.4
40 De Montfort	86.5	81.1	32	125	68.3	84.3
41 Gloucestershire	82.9	73.4	45	125	67.4	83.9
42 Norwich University of the Arts	83.6	78.8	38.8	133	63.8	83.5
42 South Wales	90	83.1	35.8	121	60.8	83.5
44 Buckinghamshire New	90.2	81.4	41.2	115	60.1	83.4
44 Middlesex	85.2	81.5	41.2	115	64.8	83.4
46 Suffolk	96.5	94.9	—	122	63.3	83.2
47 Oxford Brookes	88.1	76.2	25.5	128	64.7	82.8
47 Worcester	82.4	76.3	19.2	117	75.2	82.8
49 Huddersfield	82.4	75.1	30.8	127	68.3	82.7
50 Greenwich	77	66.7	30	124	76.9	82.6
50 London Metropolitan	86.3	79.1	42.2	121	59.5	82.6
52 Brighton	76.1	68.6	53	143	62.6	82.5
52 Abertay	82.5	73.7	—	154	73.3	82.5
52 Heriot-Watt	79.6	68	34.2	166	61.2	82.5
55 Birmingham City	85.3	80.8	31.2	130	60.9	82.3
56 Leeds Beckett	83.5	78.4	29.2	110	67.3	81.8
57 York St John	83.2	76.3	5.8	118	75.6	81.7
58 University for the Creative Arts	83.3	73.4	41.2	140	56	81.6
59 Wales Trinity St David	86.2	74.2	20.8	155	56.9	81.5
60 Plymouth	77	70.3	26.5	128	70.4	81.1
60 Salford	87.4	81.2	—	136	64.9	81.1
62 Arts University, Bournemouth	82.2	77.6	23	150	57.7	80.9

Art and Design cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
63 Northampton	88.9	83.3	12.2	115	61.7	80.6
64 Wolverhampton	83.3	76.6	35.2	115	59.5	80.5
65 Leeds Arts	82.5	78.6	6.2	154	59.1	79.9
66 Chester	81.1	73.6	26.2	125	61.1	79.8
67 Bolton	87	75.9	17.8	116	59.8	79.6
68 Liverpool Hope	88.4	85	12.5	131	53.2	79.5
69 Derby	81.2	70.4	19.5	120	64.8	79.4
70 Winchester	75.4	65.4	—	112	81.5	79.3
71 London South Bank	83.6	74.1	—	107	70.6	79
72 Wrexham	86.7	80.8	3.2	130	56.9	78.7
=73 East London	90.1	85.7	14.8	91	55.2	78.1
=73 Bath Spa	77.8	68.1	18.5	127	62.3	78.1
75 Cumbria	71.1	64.2	23.2	135	65.8	78
76 Anglia Ruskin	76	67	31.2	121	57.3	77.1
77 Hertfordshire	82	72.4	24.2	112	51.6	76.3
=78 Bedfordshire	79.7	70.3	—	89	68	75.7
=78 West London	77.3	65.5	—	113	65.8	75.7
=80 Chichester	79.2	70.3	—	134	54.2*	75
=80 Solent, Southampton	81.6	74	—	106	57.6	75
82 Kent	80.2	71.6	—	119	55.9	74.8

Employed in high-skilled job	50%	Employed in lower-skilled job	30%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	2%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	3%	Unemployed	8%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£24,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,000

Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering

Dundee takes the lead in our dedicated Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering table, now in its fourth year of publication and extending to 23 universities this year, nine more than last year. Dundee's win is based on strong performance across the table's metrics, without coming top in any individually. The highest entry standards are at Strathclyde (eighth overall), while runner-up Imperial achieved the best results in the subjects in the latest Research Excellence Framework 2021.

Ageing populations, the demand for new treatments for chronic conditions and the need to respond rapidly to evolving disease challenges have brought about growth in biomedical engineering and bioengineering among universities worldwide over the past two decades. The discipline collectively involves a range of engineering and scientific skills, including some of the newest areas of science in genomics imaging and computing to meet those challenges. "We apply maths and physics in context, bringing everything together in a practical way.

We measure human signals to better understand the body, focusing on preventing and curing diseases, healthy ageing, and enhancing human potential," says Dr Markus Pakleppa, senior lecturer in biomedical engineering, School of Science and Engineering, University of Dundee.

For student satisfaction with both teaching quality and the wider experience Reading does best, followed by Sheffield and King's College London respectively. At the opposite end of

the scale, students at Aston expressed much lower rates of satisfaction in our latest National Student Survey analysis, and the university comes bottom for the wider experience and second-from-bottom for teaching quality, only Queen Mary London fares more poorly. In 12th place Nottingham Trent is the highest-ranked post-1992 university.

Graduate bioengineers may go on to develop prosthetics and biomedical implants, 3D medical imaging or image-guided and robot-assisted surgery – among a range of career pathways. Some biomedical graduates apply for places on the Graduate Entry into Medicine programmes. There is insufficient employment data so far for seven out of the 23 universities in our table, of which Imperial stands out for achieving the highest rate (98.1%) of graduates in high-skilled work or further study 15 months on from their degrees, closely followed by Aston and Reading (both 96%). In our graduate prospects ranking of 70 subject areas, bioengineering and biomedical engineering sit 18th. Full-time further study accounts for a sizeable proportion (15.4%) of the 77.3% of graduates who were in high-skilled jobs and/or studying 15 months on from their degrees. The subjects rank 20th for starting salaries.

Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Dundee	81.7	77.5	78	194	—	100
2 Imperial College	76.3	72.7	81	198	98.1	99
3 Oxford	80.8	76.1	69.5	216	94	98.9
4 Sheffield	87.4	85.7	66.8	164	92	97.1
5 Leeds	78.1	77	64.8	194	—	95.5
6 Reading	93.5	96.9	54	123	96	95.4
7 Loughborough	78.2	81.7	66.8	163	92.5	94.3
8 Strathclyde	80.5	74.4	52.8	218	84.3	93.9
9 King's College London	86.9	90.5	50	153	83.8	92.1
10 University College London	74.4	72.7	64	164	—	90.6
11 Cardiff	82.2	78.5	54	149	—	90.3
12 Nottingham Trent	84.7	82	59	118	80.8	89.4
13 Ulster	83.4	79	49.8	128	89.1	89.3
14 Surrey	83.2	82	55.2	116	—	88.4
15 Essex	85.5	83.4	42.5	135	—	88
16 Birmingham	77.9	77	55	128	—	87
17 Queen Mary, London	66.9	67.9	50.5	144	88.9	85.1
18 Swansea	75.8	77.2	48.8	140	72.4*	84.7
19 Aston	72	54.5	46	127	96.0*	84.5
20 Salford	74	74.6	37	127	74.8	81.3
21 City	77.8	79.7	32.5	114	—	80.4
22 Birmingham City	80	75.3	—	114	65.2	73.5
23 Bradford	78.9	79.8	—	125	57.1	72.9

Employed in high-skilled job	58%	Employed in lower-skilled job	10%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	15%	Unemployed	5%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£28,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£22,000