Creative Writing cont.	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
40 Chichester	88.9	79.2	37.2	109	44.8	87
41 Westminster	76.2	72.7	55.5	107	—	86.1
42 Winchester	84.3	77.3	16.2	116	56.1	85.8
43 Worcester	84.4	74.4	19.2	105	60.7*	85.5

Employed in high-skilled job	36%	Employed in lower-skilled job	30%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	3%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	2%
Studying	6%	Unemployed	10%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£24,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£19,000

Criminology

"What is crime? Why does it occur? And what are the best ways to address it?" asks Dr Donna Marie Brown, associate professor in criminology, Durham University. Covering topics including policing, prisons and youth justice, criminology students learn about criminological theory, the roles of criminal justice agencies and the impact of crimes on victims and communities. Now in its ninth year and stretching to 88 universities, our Criminology table reflects this growing undergraduate field, offered by 159 universities and colleges across 1,225 courses for 2025–26, either by itself, as part of a joint honours degree, or within a broader social science degree. Sociology and psychology are welcomed by some university departments, but there are no specific entry requirements for criminology degrees, apart possibly from GCSE maths, since the course is likely to involve the use of statistics.

Loughborough has ousted Durham at the top of our Criminology table, a position it last held three years ago. Loughborough performs strongly across all metrics without coming first in any individually. In second place overall Sheffield does best for graduate job prospects – based on 82.8% of its criminology graduates being in high-skilled work and/or further study within 15 months. Kent comes out top for research in our analysis of the latest Research Excellence Framework 2021. Wrexham, in 10th place overall, has the most satisfied criminology students for the second year running – outdoing all others in the table for teaching quality and the broader experience – both measures derived from the National Student Survey. Surrey, Worcester and Bedfordshire also feature in the top three for these student-led measures.

Career opportunities further down the line include in the police force, prison service, Home Office, charities or law practice. But overall, criminology comes second from bottom of our employment index (though this represents a one-place improvement on the last two years), where it is held back by the almost equal proportion of graduates that start out in low-skilled jobs (36.2%) as in high-skilled employment (37.2%). Average early career salaries of £23,000 compare more favourably with other subject areas, and criminology ranks =61st out of 70.

Criminology	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Loughborough	85.5	87.3	55.8	149	82.5	100
2 Sheffield	82	82.2	55	147	82.8	98.3
3 University College London	79.6	75.5	61.5	154	—	95.4
4 Durham	81.2	76.7	53	154	70.7	95.1
5 Bath	80.3	78.3	59.5	148	—	94.9
6 Lancaster	84.3	79.9	48	146	69.7	94.8
7 York	79.9	77.2	58	143	72.2	94.7
8 Southampton	75	75	66.8	144	71.1	94.1
9 Exeter	78.8	78.9	46.8	152	70.8	93.9
=10 Wrexham	95.6	91.1	20.5	—	66.7	93.8
=10 Nottingham	84.2	82	54	137	65.3	93.8
=12 Bedfordshire	91.8	89.2	50.2	104	—	93.1
=12 Stirling	74	71.4	47.5	178	64.6	93.1
=12 Cardiff	75.6	78.1	54	149	69	93.1
15 Leicester	83.4	83.8	52.2	125	67.3	92.8
16 City	78.5	78.6	64	136	64.2	92.7
17 Birmingham	78.4	79.8	61	143	61.5	92.6
18 Queen's, Belfast	74.7	72	56.5	147	69.8	92.5
19 Plymouth	83.5	80.7	50.5	119	69.7	92.2
20 Huddersfield	87.5	85.6	43.5	114	65.3	91.4
21 Surrey	90.2	89.9	—	140	67.7	90.7
22 Worcester	93.4	89.7	12.8	124	64.3	90.6
=23 Sussex	80.6	79.8	41	132	63.8	90.2
=23 Central Lancashire	79.2	77.7	51.5	124	64.6	90.2
25 Kent	81	79.8	72.2	111	56.1	90.1
26 Essex	79.3	79.9	62.5	118	59.3	90
=27 Swansea	79	77.2	27.8	132	72.2	89.9
=27 Portsmouth	84	81	33	124	65.9	89.9
29 Bangor	83.3	76.6	33.2	134	—	89.7
30 Hull	83.2	78	53.8	119	57.9	89.5
=31 Royal Holloway	76.1	74.4	38	129	70.9	89.4
=31 Manchester Metropolitan	85	85.3	32.8	122	61.5	89.4
=31 West London	83.5	79.1	39	117	65.4	89.4
34 Manchester	78.4	75.3	40.8	151	55.8	89.2
35 Ulster	85.3	80.6	53.8	127	47.7	88.8
36 Lincoln	76.9	74.5	51	117	62.9	88.1
37 Newman	86.7	82.3	13.8	94	76.8	88
=38 Abertay	86.6	84	—	148	58.5	87.8
=38 Aberystwyth	80.6	80.4	34.2	120	61.9	87.8
=38 Edinburgh Napier	80.7	77.4	35.2	167	42.2	87.8
=41 Keele	82	79	33.2	116	62	87.5
=41 Liverpool	70.5	70.6	55	131	61.3	87.5
=43 West of England	75	73.3	35.2	116	69.7	87.1
=43 Sunderland	86.5	81.1	39.5	104	56	87.1
45 Nottingham Trent	84.3	81	29.5	114	58.7	86.9
=46 Staffordshire	87.1	78.8	18.2	101	66.4	86.6
=46 Middlesex	82.2	79.5	27.8	103	66.1	86.6
=48 Liverpool John Moores	79.9	77.1	15.8	133	62.1	86.5
=48 Bournemouth	80.7	77.7	10.2	110	73.4	86.5
=50 Northumbria	69.9	64.5	42	139	63.1	86.4

Criminology cont.

		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=50	Westminster	79.8	76.9	31.5	111	63.4	86.4
52	Suffolk	87	82	21.8	106	—	86.3
=53	Salford	81.3	79.1	44.5	117	51	86.2
=53	Birmingham City	83.2	78.9	25.8	116	58.6	86.2
55	Sheffield Hallam	84.5	79.4	26.2	110	58.7	86
56	Edge Hill	82.2	77.9	17.5	127	56.6	85.5
57	South Wales	76.6	70.1	33.5	113	64.2	85.4
=58	Liverpool Hope	84	79.8	21.2	112	57	85.2
=58	Greenwich	76.1	71.8	37	119	58.6	85.2
60	Coventry	86.4	87.1	—	104	64.4	85
61	East London	85.1	75.2	40	93	53.2	84.4
62	Derby	80.4	77	25.5	111	56.7	84.3
63	Leeds Beckett	83.6	83.2	17.8	102	56	83.8
64	Cumbria	86.4	80	8.2	107	—	83.7
65	Roehampton	79.8	70.5	40.2	96	56.9	83.6
66	Goldsmiths, London	70	63.3	48	118	—	83.3
=67	De Montfort	77.4	75.7	43.2	98	52.5	83.2
=67	York St John	86.7	84.7	—	105	56.6	83.2
69	Winchester	77.9	74.2	16.5	107	61.3	82.9
70	Kingston	81.1	80.6	27	102	50.2	82.7
71	Leeds Trinity	85	79.3	—	110	56.2	82.6
72	Solent, Southampton	80.4	76.2	9.5	107	57.2	82
73	Hertfordshire	78.4	76.2	—	99	66.2	81.8
74	Teesside	81.3	70.6	18.2	108	52.7	81.7
75	St Mary's, Twickenham	83	77.6	10.5	99	—	81.6
=76	London South Bank	78.9	74.3	27.8	96	52.8	81.5
=76	Anglia Ruskin	75.4	66.7	35.5	108	51.4	81.5
=76	Oxford Brookes	80.1	78.2	28.2	111	42.9	81.5
79	London Metropolitan	82.6	80.3	—	87	63.5	81.4
80	Chester	85.6	80.8	12.8	119	38.5	81.2
81	Brighton	72.9	65.1	34	105	55.4	81.1
82	Buckinghamshire New	83.9	83.4	12.5	82	—	80.8
83	Gloucestershire	75.6	72.1	—	115	60.3	80.7
84	Bath Spa	79.5	74.5	—	97	58.9	79.9
85	Wolverhampton	81.3	72.5	12.2	93	—	79.6
86	Canterbury Christ Church	78.7	77.2	—	95	56.6	79.3
87	Northampton	82.6	81.3	4.2	97	39.6	77.5
88	Bradford	62.6	59	—	111	51.4	73.5

Employed in high-skilled job	37%	Employed in lower-skilled job	36%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	2%
Studying	6%	Unemployed	5%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£24,700	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,500

Dentistry

The increasing demand for dentistry degrees continued to climb in 2023 when applications were up 18% year on year, to over 23,100. The number of dental school places available is capped by the government, as with medicine, and in 2023 1,505 dentistry students began courses. Career prospects are reliably positive. Dentistry remains the No 1 most lucrative option for graduates, with a median starting salary of £42,000 according to the latest figures. Although graduate outcomes are not as consistently high as for medicine, most graduates (88.4%) from five-year dentistry courses are in a high-skilled job as a dentist or enrolled on postgraduate study within 15 months – which ranks dentistry sixth in our employment index (down three places this year).

Queen's, Belfast retains the lead in our new Dentistry table for the second year running, while Glasgow – which topped it for seven years before – is steady in the runner-up spot again this year. With just 15 undergraduate dental schools across the country, this is one of the smaller and more stable subject rankings and this year's table differs very little from our previous edition, albeit with some reshuffling, such as Bristol moving up to third place from fifth, and Birmingham shifting down from =10th to 14th.

The dental school at Queen's has been delivering dental education in Northern Ireland since 1920. It has the highest average entry grades in the UK (179 UCAS points), sits fourth for research and second for student satisfaction with the broad experience, as well as fourth for teaching quality – both measures derived from our National Student Survey analysis. Dundee and Liverpool each achieve perfect 100% rates of graduate employment in high-skilled jobs and/ or further study 15 months after degrees. King's College London is top for research but bottom for student satisfaction with teaching quality, while Manchester students expressed the lowest rates of satisfaction with the wider experience. The table is dominated by older universities, with only Plymouth and Central Lancashire representing the modern university sector.

"With growing evidence linking oral and general health, a sound understanding of biological sciences – in addition to practical skills – is essential to diagnose and manage dental conditions," comments Professor Ewen McColl, head of the Peninsula Dental School, University of Plymouth.

Dentistry

		Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1	Queen's, Belfast	92.8	88.3	66.2	179	93.4	100
2	Glasgow	95.2	85.7	63.5	—	97.4	97.6
3	Bristol	90.6	82.6	70.9	168	95.5	97.4
4	Dundee	95.4	93.6	60.8	—	100	97.3
5	Newcastle	92.1	86.4	65.8	168	97.3	96.6
6	Cardiff	86.2	71.7	58.8	174	96.2	95.1
7	Sheffield	88.9	75.2	63.7	166	94.8	94.6
8	King's College London	54.5	45.1	76.2	176	94.2	93.6
9	Liverpool	93.3	85.2	63.2	155	100	92.5
10	Queen Mary, London	78.1	64.7	54.8	173	96.8	92.3
= 11	Leeds	79.4	71.8	65	159	95.2	91.3
= 11	Manchester	62	44.5	71.2	168	96.8	91.3
13	Plymouth	91.7	88.2	39.5	170	95.6	91
14	Birmingham	82.1	59.1	55	166	95.7	90.6
15	Central Lancashire	85.1	69.7	35.5	145	97.7	80.9