

English has not been immune to the declining popularity of humanities subjects, but despite some universities making the controversial decision to drop their degrees in English literature (amid pressure from government to ensure graduates go straight into well-paid jobs) applications and enrolments to English literature degrees edged up by around 4% in 2023, to around 21,500 and 3,800 respectively – although demand was still lower than four years earlier. Applications and enrolments in English language and English studies degrees decreased in 2023, however, and compared with four years earlier English language attracted a third fewer new starters in 2023 and English studies admissions were down by 17%. Our analysis of the latest Graduate Outcomes survey shows almost six in ten English graduates (59.5%) employed in high-skilled jobs and/or postgraduate study 15 months on, ranking the subject =52nd out of 70. These outcomes vary considerably by university, ranging from 91.5% in high-skilled jobs/postgraduate study at Aston to 60.8% at Hertfordshire. Average graduate salaries of £24,500 put English 52nd.

There remain plenty of universities to study English. The UCAS website showed 965 courses in English literature at 110 universities and colleges for 2025–26. For English degrees more broadly, there were 1,666 courses offered by 130 providers.

English	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 St Andrews	90.2	88.5	61.8	200	84.3	100
2 Oxford	92.6	71.7	69.8	191	83.3	99.2
3 Cambridge	86.2	75.1	65	188	88.3	98.6
4 University College London	85.9	82.1	61.5	183	83.2	96.9
5 Strathclyde	87.5	83.9	58.8	199	76.5	96.3
6 Aberdeen	91.2	89.2	53.8	173	80.2	96.1
7 Warwick	86.6	83.4	64.8	156	84.6	96
8 Durham	83.9	72.5	55.5	186	85.6	95.7
9 Southampton	88.5	84.1	69.2	142	82.4	95.5
10 Leicester	87.8	87.6	67.8	124	86.9	95.4
11 Surrey	94	89.7	63	122	83.4	95.3
12 York	83.5	81.4	70.2	157	81.9	95.2
13 Nottingham	86.9	82.4	70.5	146	81.4	95.1
14 Exeter	86.5	82.5	59.5	161	82.5	95
15 Newcastle	84	79.7	83.8	141	78	94.7
16 Leeds	81.1	78.4	73.2	160	79.4	94.2
17 Edinburgh Napier	93.7	87.6	48.2	155	75.5	93.2
=18 Liverpool	86	82.8	65.5	135	80	93.1
=18 Liverpool John Moores	92.1	90	58	131	77.3	93.1
=18 Birmingham	84.6	78.3	68.8	150	77.1	93.1
21 Glasgow	81.7	73.8	61.8	188	73.2	92.7
22 Sheffield	87.8	86.8	62.3	150	73.2	92.6
23 Aston	88	85.4	38	123	91.5	92.5
=24 Loughborough	88.2	86.9	54.5	149	75.1	92.1
=24 Edinburgh	70.5	66.6	74.5	178	79.1	92.1
=26 Manchester	81.2	72.3	66.5	166	75	92
=26 King's College London	78	69.8	70.8	157	78.9	92
=28 Birmingham City	86	80.7	65.5	111	82.6	91.9

=28 Royal Holloway	81.1	77.1	60.5	139	82.9	91.9
=30 Lancaster	90.1	84.2	48	149	75.9	91.7
=30 Cardiff	83.1	78.5	67.2	139	77	91.7
32 City	91.9	89.3	43.8	109	84.0*	91.4
33 Reading	87.6	83.8	51	122	81.4	91.1
=34 East Anglia	83.9	80.2	67	141	73.1	91
=34 Falmouth	89.7	83.4	48.8	—	77.4*	91
=36 Bath Spa	88.6	83.3	51.7	110	82.8	90.9
=36 Sussex	83.9	79.1	67	135	74.6	90.9
38 Bristol	78.3	72.9	54.5	167	77.7	90.6
39 Manchester Metropolitan	85.4	81.1	61.8	116	78.1	90.4
40 Queen's, Belfast	83.5	78.8	47.5	148	78.5	90.3
=41 Swansea	90.4	85.4	60	134	67.3	89.9
=41 Huddersfield	85.3	75.3	60	111	80	89.9
=43 Hull	90.8	88.8	55.5	118	71.6	89.8
=43 Dundee	85.9	78.6	40.8	170	72.6	89.8
45 Northumbria	87	82.2	54	128	74.1	89.6
=46 Stirling	84.1	79.8	47.5	177	67.4	89.4
=46 Newman	97	94.4	43.8	93	—	89.4
48 Keele	87.9	83.7	54.8	114	74.4	89
=49 Oxford Brookes	90	79.5	72.8	105	66.5	88.7
=49 Kent	85.3	77	64.5	121	70.7	88.7
51 Canterbury Christ Church	91.1	85.1	53.2	106	72.3	88.6
52 Plymouth	87	79.9	60.5	128	68.1	88.5
53 Ulster	94.1	90.7	41	114	71	88.3
54 Derby	96.2	95.2	—	118	83.9	87.7
=55 Queen Mary, London	81.8	74.9	59.5	124	71.4	87.4
=55 Northampton	96.8	91.3	30.2	101	—	87.4
57 Goldsmiths, London	83	68.1	46	117	80.1	87.2
58 De Montfort	84.1	78.6	54.5	98	76.3	87.1
59 Edge Hill	81.9	76.8	32.8	124	81.6	86.9
60 Essex	88.5	84.3	49.8	112	68.4*	86.7
=61 Sheffield Hallam	83.2	80.4	50.7	106	74.2	86.5
=61 Teesside	88	79.2	49.2	100	—	86.5
=61 Westminster	84.5	76.5	55.5	103	72.7	86.5
64 Coventry	85	75.9	54.2	106	71.8	86.4
65 Central Lancashire	91.8	88.7	33.8	112	70.1	86.3
66 Worcester	88.4	78.7	19.2	106	82.9*	85.9
=67 Nottingham Trent	91.3	86.1	39.2	108	68	85.7
=67 Anglia Ruskin	87.3	82.7	46	99	71.2	85.7
69 Brunel	84.5	81.6	42.8	104	73.3	85.5
=70 Lincoln	88.8	83.9	36	116	68.8	85.3
=70 Liverpool Hope	92.6	83.7	36	107	67.6	85.3
72 Bangor	90	82.8	44.2	117	63	85.1
=73 Brighton	83	76.5	44.2	100	74.7	85
=73 Wolverhampton	87	80.8	44	100	70	85
=73 Greenwich	91.3	83.6	26.5	111	71.3	85
76 Aberystwyth	88.3	88.1	25.5	119	70.2	84.7



## English cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=77 Portsmouth	91.2	88.5	30.8	108	66.7	84.4
=77 West of England	89.9	85.7	32.2	115	66.1	84.4
=77 Hertfordshire	93.9	90.5	42.5	98	60.8	84.4
=80 Roehampton	89	80.9	50.5	103	62.5	84.3
=80 Chester	93.1	83	25	113	67.6	84.3
82 Salford	84.2	78.5	26.5	110	75.7	84.1
83 York St John	90.6	87.1	22.8	103	69.7	83.6
=84 Kingston	91.1	87.5	47	98	56.1*	82.8
=84 Leeds Beckett	92.7	88.3	30.8	96	62.8	82.8
=84 Leeds Trinity	88.4	74.1	32.5	98	—	82.8
87 Bishop Grosseteste	93.8	79.5	19	96	—	82.6
88 Bournemouth	81	70.4	22.5	105	70.8	80.3
=89 Gloucestershire	80.3	65.5	32.8	110	65.2	79.8
=89 Chichester	69.8	76.9	37.2	116	—	79.8
91 Winchester	85	82	16.2	117	61.9	79.7
92 Sunderland	57.5	34.5	40.5	—	87.5	77.6

Employed in high-skilled job	43%	Employed in lower-skilled job	23%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	12%	Unemployed	6%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£25,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£19,500

## Food Science

Queen's, Belfast takes the lead in our new Food Science table's tightly packed top three, where it is followed by Glasgow Caledonian (No 1 for the past two years) and Surrey – which maintains its long-held top three record in the ranking. Queen's, Belfast is in front for research quality, based on its results in food science areas in the Research Excellence Framework 2021. For metrics of student satisfaction Nottingham Trent ranks first for teaching quality and St Mary's, Twickenham leads for students' evaluation of the broad experience.

Nottingham Trent, in 17th place overall, is top for student satisfaction with teaching quality while St Mary's, Twickenham (27th in the main table) is unbeaten for the wider experience in our National Student Survey analysis. At the other end of scale, students at Liverpool Hope reported the lowest rates of satisfaction with both teaching quality and the wider experience.

Degrees under this grouping encompass a broad range of courses, from nutrition and dietetics – which offer opportunities to study alongside doctors, nurses and other health professionals in hospitals – to food manufacturing and professional cookery. There is even a BSc in Baking Science and Technology offered by London South Bank at its National Bakery School. "Never has there been a more critical time for our global society to comprehend the importance of what we feed our bodies and how nutrients (fat, protein, vitamins and minerals, etc) affect our short and long-term health. Understanding our human metabolic demands for nutrients and improving health through optimal, safe and appropriate food is exactly what is studied in the subject areas of nutrition science and food science," says Professor Susan Lanham-New, head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Surrey. Applicants

are advised to ensure that courses are approved by the accrediting bodies – for nutrition science degrees it is the Association for Nutrition and for food science degrees it's the Institute of Food Science and Technology. Food science courses usually feature in the top 30 of our employment and salaries rankings, as they do this year in 29th and =28th place respectively.

## Food Science

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 Queen's, Belfast	86.9	92.4	69.2	151	92.6	100
2 Glasgow Caledonian	80.4	79.1	61	190	90	99.6
3 Surrey	90.6	91.1	58	149	95.1	99.4
4 Plymouth	88.3	80.5	58.2	149	87.8	96.4
5 Hertfordshire	86.1	83.2	42.5	—	100	95.8
6 Nottingham	84.6	79.2	52	146	88.6	94.3
7 Reading	89.9	86.7	42.5	134	90.9	94
8 Ulster	86.1	83.4	53.5	135	87.3	93.9
9 Leeds	80.2	81.7	45.5	155	87	93.1
10 Northumbria	89.5	85.9	53.5	—	70.8*	92.5
11 Oxford Brookes	91.8	93	39.5	125	—	92.4
12 Abertay	92	88.5	28.2	155	76.9	92.2
13 Nottingham Trent	92.7	90.2	30.8	127	—	90.8
14 Westminster	87.3	80.4	36.8	—	73.5	88.3
15 Coventry	85	76.4	24.8	134	82.4	87.6
16 Manchester Metropolitan	84	76.6	36	127	76.5	87.3
17 Chester	76.8	72	31	121	95	87
18 Bournemouth	85.1	83.8	29.2	119	79.4	86.8
19 Harper Adams	87.1	78.1	19.5	103	92.7	86.1
20 Newcastle	73.9	69.2	42.8	148	68.6	85.9
21 Robert Gordon	72.6	69.9	—	174	83.3	84.7
22 Liverpool Hope	89.6	85.4	15	116	—	84.3
23 Bath Spa	91.5	91.1	—	105	84	84
24 Sheffield Hallam	85.4	81.3	—	127	82	83.6
25 Leeds Beckett	84.5	83.5	—	114	85.1	82.8
26 Queen Margaret, Edinburgh	77.3	81.6	—	155	70	82.4
27 St Mary's, Twickenham	91.8	93.3	—	104	73.5	82.3
28 Cardiff Metropolitan	75.9	68.8	—	128	81.2	80
29 London South Bank	92.4	80.4	—	129	50	79.6
30 Liverpool John Moores	71.3	68.7	26.5	135	54.2*	78.8
31 Edge Hill	83.2	77.8	—	117	62.5	78.1

Employed in high-skilled job	60%	Employed in lower-skilled job	18%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	2%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	8%	Unemployed	3%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£26,325	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£21,000