

Physiotherapy cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
33 Sheffield Hallam	72.3	66.2	29.8	145	96.7	88.1
34 Wolverhampton	70.6	63.3	24.2	139	100	88
=35 Leicester	88.8	86.8	—	135	94.4	86.8
=35 Gloucestershire	76.6	68.6	24.5	146	—	86.8
37 Winchester	83.7	78.6	—	123	98.4	86.2
38 East London	86.5	74.9	25.5	134	88.9	86
39 St George's, London	70.9	59.3	—	153	97.9	85.6
40 London South Bank	73.6	55.2	34.5	125	79.5	79

Employed in high-skilled job	87%	Employed in lower-skilled job	2%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	4%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	0%
Studying	1%	Unemployed	3%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£26,000	Low-/medium-skilled salary	N/A

Politics

The UK government has been led by four different prime ministers in the same timeframe that St Andrews has led our Politics table. In its sixth year at the top, St Andrews continues to attract the highest average entry standards, of 208 UCAS points, and performs strongly across all other metrics in the table – placing in the top three for graduate outcomes and top 11 for both measures of student satisfaction: teaching quality and the wider experience. There is stability at the upper end of the table more widely, with most of the top 15 featuring in successive annual tables – albeit reshuffled to an extent. Oxford has ousted Warwick from the runner-up spot this year and the London School of Economics (LSE) is up two places in third. Sheffield has gained four places to rank tenth while Exeter is down six to place 15th. Strathclyde, fifth overall, was the top scorer in politics in the Research Excellence Framework 2021, where its results are followed by those of Royal Holloway (11th), Edinburgh (17th) and the LSE.

Northumbria – in 33rd place – is the top-ranked modern university. Another, Salford (in 22nd place overall), has outdone all others for student satisfaction with teaching quality while 20th-place Surrey does best for students' evaluation of the wider experience.

"There is no one way to study politics at university. Whatever you decide to focus on, you'll confront some of the biggest challenges facing contemporary society and develop a set of skills, including critical thought, data analysis and self-expression, that can be applied to a wide range of career paths, such as in journalism, public service or the world of business," says Dr Rod Dacombe, reader in politics, department of political economy, King's College London. The leading universities look for humanities and social sciences A-levels in general – English, economics, sociology and history among them – without demanding any specifically. Dr Rod Dacombe advises that "To get the most out of studying politics you need to find out what it is you really care about. Read about what is going on in the world, form opinions and be prepared to be challenged."

Average starting salaries for politics graduates rank the subject =28th in our pay index of 70 areas. In 43rd place of the employment table it compares less favourably with other subject groupings. When surveyed 15 months after their degrees, 62.4% of graduates were employed in professional-level jobs and/or furthering their studies, but over a fifth were working in jobs classified as "low-skilled". These figures vary widely by institution – from Oxford, the LSE and

St Andrews where more than 90% of graduates achieved the desired career outcomes within 15 months, down to four universities (West of England, Westminster, Canterbury Christ Church and Winchester) where under 60% had reached the same professional goals. Demand for the subject boomed in the decade up to 2019, and after a dip in 2020 applications climbed again – to over 49,300 in 2023 – and 11,175 students were accepted onto courses.

Politics

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 St Andrews	88.7	85.5	47	208	90	100
2 Oxford	83.3	70.4	61.3	205	91.9	99.2
3 London School of Economics	81.5	77.3	65.8	177	91.4	98.1
4 Warwick	85.6	85.8	60.5	172	82.6	96.9
5 Strathclyde	83.7	76	70.5	202	75.6	96.8
6 University College London	75.3	76.8	64.5	183	89.5	96.1
7 Cambridge	84.3	67.8	50.2	192	85.4	95.3
8 Glasgow	82.1	77.1	50.2	203	80	95
9 Durham	83.3	77.1	42.5	176	88.6	94.8
10 Sheffield	81.9	76.4	58	154	84.6	94
11 Royal Holloway	83.9	80.2	67.2	126	82.7	93.9
12 King's College London	78.8	72.8	52.2	185	81.9	93.4
13 York	79.6	76.6	57.5	148	85.3	93.2
14 Birmingham	81.1	74.6	51.5	147	87	92.9
15 Exeter	79.4	75.8	57.5	158	82	92.8
16 SOAS London	79.2	70.6	55.5	156	84.5	92.5
17 Edinburgh	69.8	66.1	66.5	189	79.8	91.8
18 Aston	84.6	83.1	49	116	83.5	91.6
19 Loughborough	88.1	87.2	29.5	140	81.9	91.5
20 Surrey	92.3	90.2	40.2	121	75	91.4
21 Aberdeen	87	83.9	23.5	180	76.6	91.3
22 Salford	94.2	87.2	51.7	104	71.3	91.2
23 Stirling	84.3	81.7	28.7	178	77.4	91.1
24 Lancaster	82.2	77.9	49	143	79.1	91
25 Swansea	90.9	86.6	31.5	122	80.2	90.9
=26 Bristol	76.2	72.1	50.7	168	79.4	90.7
=26 Nottingham	81	79.3	46	146	79.3	90.7
=28 Aberystwyth	90.5	87.6	42.8	120	73.4	90.6
=28 Reading	87.3	80.2	49.2	119	77	90.6
30 Bath	78.6	76.9	31.8	160	85.6	90.4
31 Manchester	76.9	70.3	60.5	158	74.7	90.2
32 Queen Mary, London	77.3	70.5	61.3	142	76.3	89.8
33 Northumbria	83.2	81.4	42	127	78.8	89.7
34 Newcastle	78.8	81.4	39.5	143	78.6	89.1
35 Cardiff	79.4	77.8	49	137	74.7	88.8
36 City	82.7	80.7	40.8	116	78.7	88.6
37 Brunel	90.8	89.9	35	92	74.2	88.4
=38 Sussex	79.6	76.7	55.7	134	70.2	88.3

Politics cont.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
=38 Plymouth	83.8	80.5	37.9	107	80.1	88.3
40 Essex	84.4	84.2	60.5	112	64.4	88.2
41 Leicester	84	80.8	36.8	119	76.6	88.1
42 Southampton	76.7	70.7	39.8	136	82.4	88
=43 Queen's, Belfast	76.9	71.9	40.8	142	79.2	87.9
=43 Liverpool	81.4	76.3	39.8	132	75.7	87.9
45 Portsmouth	84.3	82.3	51.7	102	70.3	87.7
46 East Anglia	79.2	72.6	56.2	123	70.6	87.3
47 Leeds	73.6	73.4	35.8	154	78.8	87.2
48 Bournemouth	80.6	70.5	47.2	103	77.6	86.8
49 Chester	92.3	84.5	12.8	101	77.2*	86.6
50 Coventry	91.1	89	39.5	96	63.6	86.5
51 Nottingham Trent	85.1	81.2	29.5	103	75.9	86.4
52 Kent	82.5	78	41	112	69.8	85.8
53 Ulster	83.9	80.4	53.8	109	60.4	85.6
54 Manchester Metropolitan	86.6	79.6	29	114	68.3	85.3
=55 Brighton	85.4	60.9	44.2	95	71.7	84.8
=55 Leeds Beckett	89.9	86.8	15.5	93	71.9	84.8
57 Lincoln	82.6	74.5	34	109	69.6	84.4
58 Hull	88.6	80.8	11.2	117	69.9	84.2
59 Sheffield Hallam	89.7	75	—	102	78.9	83.8
60 Westminster	85.3	80.3	41.5	108	57.8	83.6
61 West of England	85.4	83.1	35.2	108	56.9	83
=62 West of Scotland	88	78.4	13.2	—	66.1	82.7
=62 Dundee	80.9	71.2	—	179	65.8	82.7
64 Oxford Brookes	81	76	27.5	103	67.7	82.4
=65 Canterbury Christ Church	93.4	85.7	13.2	89	58.3	81.7
=65 De Montfort	88	76.2	—	97	73	81.7
67 Northampton	79.5	71.4	1.2	—	81.0*	81.6
68 Keele	78.6	73.4	28	110	64.8	81.3
=69 Greenwich	81.3	76.7	—	105	71.4	80.1
=69 Liverpool Hope	86.4	76.1	5.5	107	63	80.1
71 Goldsmiths, London	71.4	62.8	29	108	67.9	79.1
72 Winchester	77.3	52.7	19.8	101	59.7	76

Employed in high-skilled job	46%	Employed in lower-skilled job	22%
Employed in high-skilled job and studying	5%	Employed in lower-skilled job and studying	1%
Studying	10%	Unemployed	7%
High-skilled work (median) salary	£27,500	Low-/medium-skilled salary	£20,352

Psychology

The London School of Economics (LSE) is No 1 out of the 115 universities in our Psychology table. It is the third year running that LSE has topped the ranking, where its eminence is secured

with the top research rating by a clear margin, based on our analysis of the Research Excellence Framework 2021, as well as rates of student satisfaction which place the LSE third for teaching quality and fourth for the wider experience. St Andrews, in second place overall, is top for graduate prospects and one of only 11 universities where at least 80% of graduates were in high-skilled jobs or postgraduate study 15 months after their degrees. While the older institutions dominate the upper ranks of the main table, Cumbria (in 59th place overall) outdoes all others for students' evaluation of teaching quality, followed by Wales Trinity (32nd). Cumbria also leads for the wider student experience, followed by Bath (fifth overall). Conversely, Northampton gets the lowest ratings for both of these student-led metrics and places 115th overall.

Most undergraduate programmes are accredited by the British Psychological Society, which ensures that key topics are covered, but the clinical and biological content of courses varies considerably. Some courses require maths and/or biology A-levels among three high grade passes, while others are much less demanding. The contrast is evident in the table, with 35 universities averaging at least 144 points in the UCAS tariff (equivalent to three As at A-level) and another 24 falling below 110 points.

Professor Peter Fonagy, head of the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, UCL explains that "Psychologists ask fundamental questions about consciousness, memory, language and other aspects of people that are not yet fully understood. They address mental health issues that pervade society, from day-to-day wellbeing to treatment of clinical disorders. They use their knowledge of how to change human behaviour to respond to global challenges such as climate change, pandemic disease and artificial intelligence."

The numbers of psychology students accepted onto courses grew by 50% in the decade up to 2018 and have continued their incline more recently. Even after a 3% decline in 2023, psychology still received over 126,000 applications and 26,775 new students were accepted onto courses. Immediate career prospects are unlikely to be what is attracting so many students: psychology ranks 67th in our 70-subject employment table, based on only half of graduates being employed in professional-level jobs and/or studying within 15 months of finishing their degrees. The proportion working in "low-skilled" jobs at this point after graduation (31.9%) is not far below the proportion that had secured full-time professional jobs (34.2%). Explaining this, commentators within psychology suggest that graduates may benefit from a more gradual transition into complex psychological roles, such as those involving direct work with clients and service users, and that experience gained in non-graduate jobs can help to build confidence and serve as stepping stones to putting their university-acquired skills into practice. Average graduate salaries of £23,000 rank the subject 61st out of 70.

	Teaching quality %	Student experience %	Research quality %	Entry standards (UCAS points)	Graduate prospects %	Overall score
1 London School of Economics	91.3	90.9	86.2	197	—	100
2 St Andrews	85.2	84.8	61.8	201	90.6	97
3 Cambridge	86.6	70.7	75	188	83.3	94.3
4 Oxford	87.6	68.9	75.5	195	—	94
5 Bath	85.4	91.3	37.2	185	83.4	92.8
6 University College London	77.3	78.9	73.2	180	84.2	92.6
7 Strathclyde	82.5	79.9	65.8	195	76.4	92.5
=8 Glasgow	82.5	79.2	65.8	205	73.4	92.4
=8 York	87.2	87.3	69.2	159	76.5	92.4
10 King's College London	82.7	81	69	176	79.3	92.3