

RUSSELL GROUP

UCAS

Conservatoires



Gaining a place at a Top University

Highcliffe Sixth Form

What is a top university?

1. Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge

2. Russell Group – 12% of the Higher Education sector

The Russell Group represents 24 major research universities committed to maintaining the very best research, outstanding teaching and learning and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. Over 60% of the UK world leading research took place in Russell group universities

3. Top universities outside of the Russell Group

- University of Bath
- Loughborough University
- University of Reading
- University of St Andrews
- University of Lancaster
- University of Surrey
- University of East Anglia (UEA)
- Plus others depending on the subject choice!

RUSSELL

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Leeds

University of Liverpool

London School of Economics and Political Science

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York

GROUP

WELCOME TO AUB

STUDY >

INDUSTRY >

ENGAGEMENT >

Drawing studio



 Loughborough University

Loughborough named world's best sporting university
QS World University Rankings

What is a top university?

- The 2024 university league tables, which rank the best universities in the UK, in 74 subject areas.
- Knowing how best to choose your future university can be tough, league tables can help by showing you the top universities in the UK and allowing you to sort them by what's important to you.

University ranking	University name
1	University of Oxford VIEW COURSES →
2	University of Cambridge VIEW COURSES →
3	London School of Economics and Poli... VIEW COURSES →
4	University of St Andrews VIEW COURSES →
5	Imperial College London VIEW COURSES →
6	Durham University VIEW COURSES →
7	Loughborough University VIEW COURSES →
▲ 2	University of Bath VIEW COURSES →
▼ 1	UCL (University College London) VIEW COURSES →
▼ 1	University of Warwick VIEW COURSES →

TOP
10 UK UNIVERSITY
The Guardian 2020

TEF Gold

TOP 5 FOR GRADUATE
PROSPECTS 2020
The Times and The Sunday Times

- QS World University Ranking

[QS World University Rankings 2024: Top Global Universities | Top Universities](#)

Guardian UK University league tables

[The Guardian University Guide 2024 – the rankings | University guide | The Guardian](#)





TEF award...

TEF AWARD

Teaching and Excellence Framework

Measure
Course teaching
Assessment and feedback
Academic support
Non-continuation (student retention)
Employment or further study
Highly-skilled employment or further study

[TEF outcomes - Office for Students](#)

Award	Awarded to institutions that...
 The logo for TEF Gold, featuring the letters 'TEF' in white on a gold rectangular background, followed by the word 'Gold' in white on a darker gold background.	consistently deliver outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students.
 The logo for TEF Silver, featuring the letters 'TEF' in white on a blue rectangular background, followed by the word 'Silver' in white on a darker blue background.	deliver high-quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students, and consistently exceeds "rigorous national quality requirements" for higher education in the UK.
 The logo for TEF Bronze, featuring the letters 'TEF' in white on an orange rectangular background, followed by the word 'Bronze' in white on a darker orange background.	deliver teaching, learning and outcomes for its students that meet "rigorous national quality requirements" for higher education in the UK.
 The logo for TEF Provisional, featuring the letters 'TEF' in white on a green rectangular background, followed by the word 'Provisional' in white on a darker green background.	meet "rigorous national quality requirements" for higher education in the UK, but which do not currently have enough data to be fully assessed.



Music Drama



Conservatoire

University
Degree

*As a general guide, if your interests are focused on a **practical** discipline, such as acting, instrumental or vocal performance, a **conservatoire** is likely to be your best option.*

*If your prime interest is more **academic**, with a focus on such things as history, analysis, criticism, harmony and counterpoint, and the philosophy and psychology of the performing arts, a **university course** may suit you better.*

Conservatoires – Music & Drama

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>

- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Guildhall School of Music & Drama
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (BOVTS),
- LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art),
- National Centre for Circus Arts,
- The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA).



Each conservatoire has a different atmosphere, reputation and specialism, so choosing one is a hugely personal decision

**ARTS
UNIVERSITY
BOURNEMOUTH**



FOUNDATION COURSES

PORTFOLIO

INTERVIEW



Why aim for a top university?

- **ACADEMIC QUALITY** – Research on a grand scale, ground breaking inventions and discoveries, Learning and Teaching delivered by the Finest scholars and research scientist, outstanding student experiences.
- **ALUMNI** - Produce the most distinguished contributors to society. Graduates more likely to gain jobs in top companies and have influence /connections.
- **EMPLOYABILITY** – Enhance your chances for shortlisting. Graduating from a top university can hold enormous sway. In addition, leading graduate employers visit top universities to meet the very best students.
- **EARNING POWER** – Research conducted by the Sutton Trust found that those who earned their degree at a top university went on to earn £90,000 more during the course of their career than those who gained an identical degree elsewhere



Some course statistics:

- **Medicine:**
 - 87,730 choices
 - 8,560 places
- **Law:**
 - 128,580 choices
 - 16,979 places
- **Engineering:**
 - 171,600 choices
 - 28,650 places
- **Computing:**
 - 123,900 choices 23,540 places



What qualities are Universities looking for?



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GROUP

- Academic results – GCSE / A Level
- Attitude and Preparation - students who work hard, are inquisitive and thorough in their research.
- Self motivation and commitment to the subject
- That you have done more than the A Level specification demands
- That you can think critically and independently
- The ability to engage with ideas
- Wide range of enriching experiences

‘Students who stick up for themselves stand out. What we are looking for is a student who can address issues in a logical fashion, reason from premises to conclusion. Even if a student is hesitant or shy, how well they think will still be evident.’

Professor Thomas Noe, Oxford





Common errors students make.....

- **Left their research too late...**
- **Not checked GCSE requirements**
- **Choosing the wrong combination of course at A Level**
- **Not enough academic depth and enriching experiences during Sixth Form**



Securing your place at a top university:

GCSE Results...

Ofqual

New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Medicine – 5 Grade 7+*

Economics – 7+* Maths

English – Modern Foreign
Language 6 or above

Psychology – Science /
Maths GCSE grades 6+

The better the grades, the
better the chances

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

**Informed
Choices**

What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career. Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at Russell Group universities.

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

Securing your place at a top university:

Choose the correct combination of courses at A Level

- Subjects that support a wide range of degree choices

Maths and Further Maths; Physics; Biology; Chemistry; History; Geography; Modern and classical languages; English Literature.

- EPQ
 - Maths and Further Maths may be deemed as 'one' subject'...
however.....
 - Core Maths qualification would generally not be a suitable substitute. It is important to check entry requirements carefully.
 - BTEC's – Not considered suitable preparation for some Russell Group university courses
-

How A Levels are graded

A*

A

B

C

D

E

Securing your place at a top university:

What kind of A Level grades will I need?

- English at Bristol **AAB**
- Psychology at Exeter **AAB**
- Geography at Cardiff **AAA – AAB**
- Economics at Southampton - **AAB** (including A level Maths at grade B or above) or **ABB** (including A level Maths at grade B or above) with grade **A** in the [Extended Project Qualification](#).
- **AAA - A*AA** for Oxford with a few **A*A*A** requirements
- **A*AA** and in some cases higher for Cambridge
- At least **AAA** in most cases for Medicine

BUT there are many other degree courses which will require lower grades than this




Securing your place at a top university:

Course-related admissions tests




Law

- [LNAT – National Admissions Test for Law](#) 

Mathematics

- [Mathematics Admissions Test \(MAT\)](#) 
- [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#) 
- [Test of Mathematics for University Admissions](#) 

Medical courses

- [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#) 
- [Graduate Medical School Admissions Test \(GAMSAT\)](#) 
- [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#) 

Thinking Skills Assessment

- [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford \(TSA Oxford\)](#) 

English and Modern Foreign Languages

- **ELAT (English Language/Literature Admission Test)**
- **MLAT (Modern Language Admission Test)**

Where do I research?

The logo for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is displayed. It consists of the letters 'U', 'C', 'A', and 'S' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is colored red, while the other letters are black.

<https://www.ucas.com/>



unifrog

Level 3 Study Programme

CORE SUBJECTS (3 A LEVELS)

Some students may study 4 subjects where appropriate

STUDY SKILLS

CAREER
AIM

ENRICHMENT

TUTORIALS



Securing your place at a top university:

Academic Support: Stretch & Challenge

CHEMISTRY – What would you expect to be the shape of Xenon tetrafluoride?

COMPUTING – What is the structure of URLs?

ECONOMICS – Discuss the interaction between fiscal and monetary policy.

ENGLISH – Has TV reduced authors like Austen and Dickens to mere costume drama?

HISTORY – Whose reputation in history would you most like to change?

LAW – It is ever justifiable to break the law?

MATHS – Is Maths a language?

MEDICINE – You have 5 organs available for transplant and 20 candidates for them. How do you decide who gets them?

PHILOSOPHY – Can it ever be right to kill?

PHYSICS / ENGINEERING – Why does a boomerang come back?

Reading list for students aiming for the top courses

ASPIRANT PROGRAMMES: Law, Medics, Allied Health Professions, Psychology, Art and design, Oxbridge

Law

Most Law books are very intimidating and full of jargon so go easy to start with – *The Justice Game* by Robertson is an excellent and very readable book by someone who has been involved in some of the leading human rights trials of the last 50 years, *Getting into Law* (ed. Lygo), *The Search for Justice* (Rozenburg), *Understanding Law* (Adams and Brownsword), *Law and Modern Society* (Atiyah), *On Evidence* (Murphy – just dip into this), *The Rule of Law* (Bingham), *Bonfire of the Liberties: New Labour, Human Rights* (Ewing) – look at general introductions to different areas of law such as Human Rights Law, Contract Law, Tort, Criminal, Land Law etc. and see which areas you find more interesting. Also very good is the *Very Short Introduction To...* series e.g. *...to Human Rights* (Clapham), *... to the Philosophy of Law* (Wacks) and the *New Penguin Guide to the Law*.

Spend a morning or day at the local Magistrates' Court and tell the ushers why you're there – they may be able to arrange for you to meet the magistrates. Spend a day at a nearby Crown Court – if you live near London, visit the Old Bailey where there are 18 courts – you will find the ushers very helpful in telling you what's on and where. Get work experience with a solicitor and/or barrister if you can – get in touch with your local Rotary Club for contacts if neither you nor the school have contacts you can use. Get involved in public speaking and debating and mock trial competitions – if your school only has them for junior students, volunteer to help coach them.

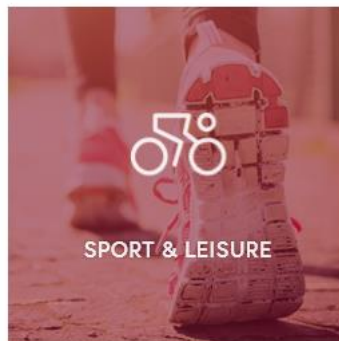
There are two radio programmes that are very good and there are pod casts of them on iPlayer – they are *Law in Action* and *Unreliable Evidence*. Useful web sites are www.ted.com, www.lawstudent.tv, www.lawcom.gov.uk (for Law Commission reports) and theguardian.com/law/studying-law. Look at campaign groups such as Liberty and the Howard League for penal reform.

Qualities required

Economist: Analytical, logical and intuitive. An avid reader but with good mathematical ability and keen on statistics. Having good debating and communication skills, sceptical and questioning, can write well and with a strong sense of wanting to get to the bottom of why things happen as they do.

Engineer: A keen problem solver, with strong mathematical ability, analytical powers and the capacity to see the full picture and finished products. Fine eye for detail, meticulous, patient, determined, a good communicator and team worker and able to work under pressure.

MOOCs – All free



MOOCs e.g. Law/Criminology



UNIVERSITY OF YORK

From Crime to Punishment: an Introduction to Criminal Justice

What is crime? How does criminal justice work in England and Wales? Find out more by following a case through the system.

 4 weeks  4 hrs per week

[Join now](#)



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Forensic Psychology: Witness Investigation

Discover how psychology can help obtain evidence from eyewitnesses in police investigations and prevent miscarriages of justice.

 8 weeks  3 hrs per week

[Join now](#)



MONASH UNIVERSITY

Law for Non-Lawyers: Introduction to Law

Understand the common law system used worldwide, and your legal rights and responsibilities, with this free online law course.

 4 weeks  3 hrs per week

[Join now](#)



Universities recognise the benefits of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the opportunities it provides for applicants to develop independent study and research skills.

- ‘Dental Phobia: getting to the root of it.’
- ‘How does the media portray gender inequalities both globally and through different cultures?’
- ‘Are the current human uses and impacts on the oceans sustainable?’
- ‘Is antibiotic resistance a threat to the human race?’
- ‘Can electricity alone power the cars of the future?’
- ‘Should English football be ‘English?’
- ‘Is sustainable zero emission air travel possible?’
- ‘What is the future of print journalism?’

Securing your place at a top university:

A Strong application



Compelling personal statement listing extra curricular success can set you apart:

You will need convincing answers to:

- Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?
 - Why does this subject interest you?
 - Why do you think you're suitable for the course(s)? Do you have any particular skills and experience that will help you to succeed on the course?
 - Enrichment activities – beyond the specification and beyond the curriculum!
-

Thank you – Key Websites

RESEARCH

English - EN4 (Session 1)

Maths – EN1

Sciences – EN2

Languages – EN6 (Session 1)

History, Law and Politics – EN8

Psychology – EN9

