

# **THE SUNDAY TIMES UNIVERSITY LEAGUE TABLE**

**The 2006 Sunday Times league table of UK universities and higher education colleges has been compiled using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (Hesa), the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, the national funding councils, head teachers, peers and the 119 institutions themselves.**

**Each university and college is ranked according to the total mark it achieved across nine distinct areas. The maximum possible mark for the first eight categories is shown in brackets at the top of each column.**

Ranking	Ranking in 2005		Teaching excellence (100)	Student satisfaction (150)	Heads/peer assessments (100)	Research quality (200)	A/S-level/Higher points (250)	Employment (100)	First/2:1\$ awarded (100)	Student/staff ratio (100)	Dropout rate	Total
1	1	University of Cambridge	96	78	61	185	250	81	84	82	9	926
2	2	University of Oxford	86	78	59	178	250	73	90	83	12	909
3	4	London School of Economics	88	78	54	179	233	83	75	81	10	881
4	3	Imperial College London	82	81	54	167	226	84	75	100	2	871
5	5	University College London	77	81	51	156	212	76	74	100	4	831
6	6	University of Warwick	74	78	49	161	224	67	79	65	13	810
7	7	University of York	94	82	44	158	214	48	71	79	8	798
8	9	Durham University	67	90	47	149	223	67	75	56	22	796
9	8	University of Bristol	66	81	51	148	216	69	81	69	8	789
10	14	University of St Andrews	67	103	41	152	219	59	76	65	4	786
11	10	University of Bath	69	70	47	148	217	76	76	61	17	781
12	11	University of Nottingham	75	73	47	142	214	65	75	68	15	774
13	13	King's College London	75	88	45	134	196	78	67	81	2	766
14	12	University of Edinburgh	66	74	50	143	204	72	78	69	9	765
15	18	University of Manchester	69	73	48	145	200	56	69	100	4	764
16	17	University of Southampton	68	88	41	154	198	60	72	62	10	753
17	15	Loughborough University	95	101	37	123	182	66	64	57	17	742
18	25	University of Exeter	68	90	35	133	193	53	75	63	27	737
19	16	University of East Anglia	72	101	35	143	178	47	65	60	30	731
20	24	University of Sheffield	70	77	40	129	200	62	73	71	2	724
21	28	Lancaster University	61	84	36	154	182	49	64	69	17	716
22=	21	Soas	71	71	38	151	174	64	69	100	-23	715
22=	19	Cardiff University	68	79	39	128	186	65	63	73	14	715
24	22	University of Leicester	71	101	34	129	184	54	63	65	7	708
25=	27	Royal Holloway, London	54	81	38	150	175	52	71	72	14	707
25=	26	Newcastle University	68	76	38	125	192	70	68	64	6	707
27	20	University of Sussex	65	62	33	147	186	52	70	75	11	701
28	23	University of Birmingham	65	76	42	122	194	62	70	66	3	700
29	31	University of Leeds	60	76	43	127	190	60	71	70	2	699
30	30	University of Glasgow	67	84	41	121	203	63	65	72	-24	692

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31	29	University of Liverpool	60	78	38	131	182	65	64	68	5	691
32	34	Queen Mary, London	38	74	38	135	169	70	63	93	5	685
33	32	Aston University Birmingham	62	79	29	111	171	76	64	68	18	678
34	35	University of Reading	52	85	35	139	175	57	69	60	3	675
35	37	University of Aberdeen	58	78	40	114	182	69	64	75	-7	673
36	33	University of Essex	85	76	34	136	156	53	57	68	6	671
37	39	Queen's University Belfast	61	79	38	122	179	69	69	65	-12	670
38	36	University of Hull	67	92	30	91	191	67	57	54	10	659
39=	38	University of Dundee	69	78	31	120	170	72	59	61	-5	655
39=	40	University of Surrey	47	66	31	134	167	75	62	63	10	655
41	47	Keele University	71	73	31	115	154	54	56	55	36	645
42	43	University of Stirling	50	78	31	111	171	64	62	74	0	641
43	41	Heriot-Watt University	56	78	31	120	195	59	56	60	-17	638
44	42	Swansea University	66	82	31	125	143	45	54	60	14	620
45	45	Goldsmiths College, London	60	78	38	139	143	49	59	63	-10	619
46	46	University of Kent	40	85	33	115	160	56	61	61	5	616
47	48	University of Strathclyde	53	78	33	103	190	70	65	57	-35	614
48	50=	City University	36	76	31	107	156	81	64	53	7	611
49	49	University of Wales, Aberystwyth	44	96	33	114	147	44	61	52	7	598
50=	52	University of Wales, Bangor	46	88	30	111	141	59	50	63	8	596
50=	44	Brunel University	71	60	31	89	150	59	64	62	10	596
52	50=	University of Bradford	47	82	27	96	139	74	53	56	11	585
53	59	University of Wales, Lampeter	40	90	27	124	128	45	61	40	9	564
54=	53	Oxford Brookes University	71	79	31	47	143	67	56	59	10	563
54=	57	University of the Arts London	70	50	50	50	187	42	58	53	3	563
56	56	University of Brighton	65	75	29	48	135	59	55	56	10	532
57	55	Queen Margaret Univ College	38	78	32	42	158	73	60	50	-3	528
58	64	Nottingham Trent University	60	64	28	39	139	76	53	53	11	523
59	65	Bath Spa University	57	69	28	44	127	47	68	56	23	519
60	58	University of Chichester	50	84	29	49	115	57	45	48	40	517

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61	60	University of Ulster	50	77	32	68	137	55	62	53	-23	511
62	61	University of Plymouth	55	78	25	44	112	46	56	74	4	494
63	54	Northumbria University	60	74	27	32	146	54	52	47	-3	489
64	66	Bournemouth University	43	68	27	20	136	60	60	56	17	487
65=	70	Kingston University	67	70	26	34	115	62	49	55	8	486
65=	62	University of the West of England	68	71	28	46	130	54	56	52	-19	486
67	68=	University of Salford	37	68	29	60	133	53	53	60	-8	485
68	72	The Robert Gordon University	36	78	23	24	149	84	53	53	-18	482
69	74	University of Portsmouth	39	73	24	49	126	55	47	50	18	481
70	67	University of Winchester	45	77	23	42	127	44	55	48	16	477
71	68=	Sheffield Hallam University	48	64	25	31	136	57	55	42	17	475
72	71	University of Hertfordshire	52	70	21	39	120	58	45	55	14	474
73	63	College of St Mark & St John	57	91	21	9	107	66	53	37	31	472
74	80=	University of Glamorgan	50	79	18	37	129	43	52	62	-1	469
75=	86	University of Teesside	38	83	20	21	117	58	45	52	27	461
75=	82=	University of Huddersfield	57	84	23	25	120	48	46	49	9	461
77	82=	UCE	21	72	25	22	128	59	58	62	12	459
78	82=	Canterbury Christ Church Univ	31	81	28	31	124	60	46	54	3	458
79	73	University of Central Lancashire	57	76	25	24	124	62	48	58	-17	457
80	94=	University of Sunderland	42	72	22	49	117	49	50	68	-13	456
81	79	Staffordshire University	57	82	22	32	120	43	52	56	-9	455
82	78	Leeds Metropolitan University	39	64	30	24	132	53	49	43	18	452
83=	87	Glasgow Caledonian University	6	78	24	33	145	61	60	55	-12	450
83=	77	St Martin's College	43	65	28	15	122	75	42	49	11	450
85	75	Manchester Metropolitan Univ	58	69	27	34	130	44	47	53	-17	445
86	89	Liverpool John Moores University	54	74	27	35	125	52	48	55	-26	444
87=	76	Coventry University	43	78	23	29	120	55	56	51	-13	442
87=	88	Univ of Wales Institute Cardiff	50	75	26	21	120	48	48	48	6	442
89	98	University of Gloucestershire	0	77	25	48	116	45	51	62	17	441
90	91	De Montfort University	27	66	26	39	119	61	48	46	8	440

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91	93	University of Westminster	36	58	28	34	121	46	56	61	-3	437
92	80=	Roehampton University	36	72	28	56	117	48	53	49	-24	435
93	90	Napier University	29	78	24	22	121	63	57	56	-21	429
94	99	St Mary's College, Twickenham	43	85	23	21	110	60	51	46	-12	427
95	94=	Middlesex University	59	62	22	37	101	47	47	38	13	426
96	92	Leeds Trinity & All Saints	0	79	27	8	124	62	53	45	24	422
97	82=	University of Chester	43	77	22	14	125	44	46	57	-9	419
98	102	Buckinghamshire Chilterns UC	25	65	19	24	103	38	48	53	42	417
99	107=	York St John University	17	66	26	12	127	59	50	43	14	414
100	94=	Anglia Ruskin University	18	69	22	15	116	56	53	51	12	412
101	103	University of Northampton	28	79	21	29	107	50	57	52	-16	407
102	97	Edge Hill University	50	78	24	12	117	50	38	44	-14	399
103	100=	University of Worcester	33	75	22	22	107	56	45	50	-16	394
104	106	University of Bedfordshire	61	74	17	18	93	59	39	41	-12	390
105	114	University of Derby	32	77	20	25	104	48	50	45	-12	389
106	100=	London South Bank University	19	63	21	38	98	59	52	49	-11	388
107	105	Southampton Solent University	27	67	21	16	112	42	44	46	11	386
108=	112	University of East London	11	78	20	40	98	53	40	48	-8	380
108=	110	University of Lincoln	15	57	21	20	126	42	52	38	9	380
110	111	Thames Valley University	30	55	15	12	95	57	49	52	11	376
111	115	University of Greenwich	17	62	20	33	105	54	42	43	-3	373
112	117	University of Wales, Newport	0	85	23	14	105	47	57	53	-12	372
113=	109	Liverpool Hope University	36	63	23	19	108	46	47	45	-20	367
113=	118	University of Abertay Dundee	10	78	26	19	111	45	47	55	-24	367
115	107=	University of Bolton	44	82	21	22	89	55	52	59	-60	364
116	113	University of Wolverhampton	38	69	20	18	101	43	44	48	-18	363
117	104	Swansea Institute	50	80	19	8	101	48	43	40	-27	362
118	116	University of Paisley	9	78	17	19	121	55	44	52	-34	361
119	119	North East Wales Institute	0	69	17	14	106	60	44	51	-33	328
n/a	-	London Metropolitan University	Data withheld from The Sunday Times									

## HOW THE GUIDE WAS COMPILED

The Sunday Times has compiled this guide from the latest data available. The following methodology shows how we used the information in our league table and individual university profiles.

### THE LEAGUE TABLE

Universities were ranked according to marks scored in nine key performance areas.

**Teaching excellence (100 points)** Subject areas have been assessed on a rolling programme. The number of “excellent” areas is shown in university profiles as a percentage of the total number of subjects assessed at each university since 1995. Excellence is defined as: subjects scoring at least 22/24 points, those ranked excellent, or those in which there is confidence in academic standards and in which teaching and learning, student progression and learning resources have all been ranked commendable. Teacher training excellence is based on a ranking system using Ofsted assessments, produced by Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Pamela Robinson of the Centre for Education and Employment Research, University of Buckingham. Sources: Quality Assurance Agency; Scottish Higher Education Funding Council; Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; all accurate as at August 27, 2006. **Student satisfaction (150)** The results of the 2006 National Student Survey are scored taking a theoretical minimum and maximum score of 50% and 90% respectively. This meant each percentage point movement in the NSS was worth 3.75 points in the league table. Mean scores were awarded to Cambridge, Oxford, Warwick, East London and all Scottish institutions, bar Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews. Last year’s institutional scores were used for Birmingham, Royal Holloway, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester, London South Bank, Arts London, University College London and the LSE. Source: National Student Surveys 2006 and 2005.

**Heads’/peer assessments (100)** Heads were asked to identify the highest-quality undergraduate provision. The number of subject citations at each institution is expressed as a percentage of the maximum number possible. This percentage was applied to the 50 points allocated to our heads’ survey in the table. Academics were asked to rate departments in their subject field on a five-point scale for the quality of their undergraduate provision. The figure awarded was based on an institution’s overall score expressed as a percentage of the maximum possible. This was applied to the 50 points allocated to peer review and the score combined with heads’ above. Rankings for each are shown in profiles. Source: Sunday Times heads’ survey and peer assessment, 2006.

**Research quality (200)** We used data from the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, published in December 2001. Seven different ratings were awarded for quality. The number of staff entered for assessment was also recorded. We have taken into account both the quality and quantity of research assessed to produce a percentage score for excellence. Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce). **A/AS-level points (250)** Nationally audited data for the 2004/05 academic year were used for league table calculations. Points gained under the Ucas tariff system from A- and AS-levels were used to calculate scores for all universities, except those where entrants holding Highers were in the majority. Grades were awarded points according to the following scale: A-levels — A:120, B:100, C:80, D:60 and E:40; AS-levels—A:60, B:50, C:40, D:30, E:20; Highers— A:72, B:60, C:48. A ceiling was set of 500 points and a percentage of all available points calculated for each university. Source: Hesa, 2004/05 data, except Greenwich and Exeter (own calculations).

**Unemployment (100)** The number of students assumed to be unemployed six months after graduation was calculated as a percentage of the total number of known destinations. This is shown as a percentage in each profile. For the league table calculation the percentage was subtracted from 50. Separately, the percentage of full-time first-degree graduates in full-time non-graduate jobs as defined by SOC 2000 grouping was subtracted from 50. The two scores out of 50 were added to produce the league table score. Source: Hesa, 2004/05 Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education data.

**Firsts/2:1s awarded (100)** We calculated the percentage of students who graduated with firsts or 2:1 degrees. Unclassified degrees were excluded. Source: Hesa, 2004/05 data.

Student/staff ratio (100) Student/staff ratio calculated by Hesa by institution. Winchester and Nottingham Trent provided their own calculations. We took a ratio of 10:1 as a benchmark for excellence, worthy of 100 points. Source: Hesa, 2004/05 data.

Dropout rate (variable) The number of students who drop out before completing their courses was compared with the number expected to do so (the benchmark figure shown in brackets). Benchmarks vary between universities according to subject mix and students' entry qualifications. The percentage difference between the projected dropout rate and the benchmark was multiplied by five and awarded as a bonus/penalty mark. Universities that lost fewer students than their benchmark gained; those losing more had points deducted. Source: Hefce, Performance Indicators in Higher Education 2003/04 except College of St Mark & St John, Heriot-Watt, and Paisley, 2002/03.

\*London Metropolitan University is excluded from the guide after withholding data from The Sunday Times.

## **OTHER INDICATORS IN THE PROFILES**

Teaching excellence The percentage of subjects rated excellent during teaching-quality assessments from 1995 onwards.

Student satisfaction Answers to all 22 questions in the NSS on a five-point scale were analysed to produce a score for each institution expressed as a percentage of the maximum score possible. Head teacher ranking The rank achieved in a Sunday Times survey of head teachers' opinion of course quality.

Peer ranking The rank achieved in a Sunday Times survey of academics' opinion of course quality. A-levels for entry This shows the percentage of students of known background admitted to first-year courses (full-time or sandwich) in 2004/05 whose highest qualifications were A-levels (or Highers for Scottish universities). Source: UK universities/Hesa. Undergraduates/postgraduates The first figure in each category shows the number of full-time students, the second, in brackets, part-time. Source: Hesa 2004/05.

Teaching staff The number of staff at each university engaged in teaching and research. It excludes those engaged solely in research work and part-time staff, paid by the hour, who practise a profession or trade outside. Source: Hesa 2004/05.

Applications/places The ratio of degree-course applicants to the number accepted for these courses who applied through Ucas. The figure shown in brackets is the percentage increase or decrease in applications this year up to June 30, 2006. Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) annual statistical tables, 2005 entry, and Ucas 2006 data.

Clearing entry The percentage of spare places filled through clearing. Source: UK universities, 2005 entry. Bursaries The number of means-tested non-repayable bursaries expected to be awarded in 2006/07 following the introduction of £3,000 tuition fee ceiling in England and Northern Ireland, together with the minimum and maximum awards. For Scotland and Wales, where fees will not rise to £3,000 in 2006, n/a is often shown or much smaller provision.

Scholarships The number of scholarships expected to be awarded in 2006/07 on the basis of academic merit (unless specified), together with the minimum and maximum awards. For Scotland and Wales, where fees will not rise to £3,000, n/a is often shown or much smaller provision. For both bursaries and scholarships, the qualification criteria are still being finalised in many cases and may change for 2007/08. EU/overseas students This shows the percentage of students from the European Union and overseas in 2005 who applied through Ucas.

Mature students The percentage of students aged 21 or over when they began their undergraduate courses in September 2005. Source: Ucas annual statistical tables, 2005 entry.

State school The percentage of young full-time first degree students of known background drawn from state schools or colleges.

Lowest social classes The percentage of young fulltime first-degree students of known background whose parental occupation is non-skilled manual, semi-skilled or unskilled (social classes 4, 5, 6, 7). Low-participation areas The percentage of young full-time first-degree students of known background whose

home postcode has a low participation record in higher education. Source: Hefce, Performance Indicators in Higher Education, 2004/05.

Live in The percentage of full-time undergraduates living in university accommodation, 2005/06. The figure in brackets shows the percentage for first-years wanting to live in only. Also shown are the minimum and maximum costs of university-run student accommodation to the nearest pound. Source: UK universities.

Rated excellent A full list of the subjects at each institution considered to be excellent under The Sunday Times's criteria, including the pre-1995 assessments now excluded from league table calculations.

\* All telephone numbers, addresses and websites listed are for admission inquiries.