

Comparison of placings in the 2012 Times, Guardian and The Complete University Guide (formerly published by the Independent and now aligned with the Daily Telegraph) Subject League Tables.

**These tables were published in Spring 2011 and based on destinations for 2008/9 first degree graduates
Data in brackets show results for 2007/8 graduates**

Bold type indicates the publication(s) giving the highest placing(s) in the subject table (although not necessarily the highest Graduate Prospects/Career after 6 months score). The Times calculated the best results on 21 occasions, The Complete University Guide on 12 and the Guardian on 3. There were 4 instances in which The Times and Guardian agreed on placings.

Discrepancies in placings. Over the 40 subject areas listed there are 17 instances in which there are variations of five or more places in the rankings awarded by the three publications. Ten of these, (shown in red in the table below) English, History, Maths, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Law, Politics, Psychology and Sociology, show discrepancies of 10 or more places. In the case of Maths and Business Studies the discrepancy amounts to over 30 places. In instances where these discrepancies occur it is always the Guardian that is out of step with the other two newspapers. Only Materials Engineering is ranked in the same position across all of the tables.

Subject	Times		Complete University Guide		Guardian	
	Position	Graduate Prospects score	Position	Graduate Prospects score	Position	Career after 6 months
Institutional placing	17 (18)	73.6 (72.3)	26(25)	73.6 (72.3)	33 (31)	69 (69)
Faculty of Arts and Humanities						
Archaeology	18/50 (6/47)	46 (64)	18/40 (7/38)	46 (64)	16/33 (6/28)	38 (No measure)
Biblical Studies	10/37 (9/37)	56 (69)	16/37 (18/39)	55 (55)	17/36 (11/36)	No measure (No measure)
English	21/101 (12/99)	62 (68)	21/105 (13/95)	62 (68)	42 (106) (34/102)	57 (57)
French	5/49 (4/51)	79 (75)	11/54 (12/53)	76 (72)	See Modern Languages	
German	20/37 (23/36)	76 (72)	21/41 (26/42)	75 (70)	See Modern Languages	
Hispanic Studies	15/45 (6/45)	67 (73)	19/45 (13/48)	70 (70)	See Modern Languages	
History	12/90 (10/88)	61 (66)	14/90 (10/81)	61 (66)	28/92 (39/93)	57 (54)
Linguistics	10/25 (7/26)	59 (62)	6/30 (6/31)	60 (60)	See Modern languages	

Subject	Times		Complete University Guide		Guardian	
	Position	Graduate Prospects score	Position	Graduate Prospects score	Position	Career after 6 months
Modern Languages	See individual languages		See individual languages		32/64 (27/63)	64 (63)
Music	5/72 (8/66)	85 (72)	5/73 (11/67)	86 (72)	11/79 (10/71)	87 (71)
Philosophy	7/47 (9/47)	63 (63)	9/49 (12/49)	62 (62)	15/47 (21/47)	59 (58)
Russian	11/16 (8/14)	58 (61)	10/17 (10/17)	70 (70)	See Modern Languages	
Faculty of Engineering						
Aeronautical Engineering	2/37 (4/37)	87 (91)	5/39 (6/34)	86 (90)	Inc under Mech Eng	
Chemical Engineering	11/20 (8/20)	84 (94)	13/21 (4/20)	85 (94)	18/19 (13/19)	73 (No Measure)
Civil Engineering	5/49 (4/45)	89 (91)	5/50 (4/49)	88 (92))	3/41 (3/38)	88 (86)
Computer Science	23/105 (11/102)	75 (82)	25/105 (11/104)	75 (82)	20/106 (11/103)	77 (72)
Electrical /Electronic Engineering	4/65 (5/64)	92 (89)	6/68 (6/68)	92 (88)	5/62 (7/60)	91 (89)
Materials Engineering	4/17 (5/18)	95 (89)	4/19 (5/19)	94 (90)	4/14 (2/14)	No measure (No measure)
Mechanical Engineering	3/62 (2/63)	88 (94)	3/63 (3/61)	88 (94)	5/55 (8/53)	80 (87)
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health						
Dentistry	5/13 (2/13)	100 (100)	4/13 (1/13)	100 (100)	8/13 (3/13)	98 (100)
Medicine	17/30 (24/30)	100 (100)	13/30 (18/31)	100 (100)	15/30 (21/30)	100 (100)
Faculty of Science						
Biological sciences	3/87 (3/86)	71 (71)	4/92 (4/90)	71 (71)	6/95 (6/91)	69 (66)
Chemistry	9/49 (9/50)	80 (80)	10/50 (12/51)	80 (80)	18/49 (13/48)	82 (79)
Maths	26/67 (19/68)	72 (79)	23/66 (15/67)	72 (80)	57/67 (22/62)	61 (73)
Physics	11/43 (7/41)	72 (79)	20/46 (16/48)	72 (78)	26/41 (14/40)	70 (73)

Subject	Times		Complete University Guide		Guardian	
	Position		Graduates Prospects score		Position	
Psychology	5/104 (6/102)		75 (74)		5/107 (6/98)	
Faculty of Social Sciences						
Accountancy and Finance	26/77 (28/76)	60 (72)	23/87 (22/84)	60 (72)	Inc under Business Studies	
Architecture	3/45 (3/43)	80 (89)	5/48 (3/46)	80 (90)	5/43 (5/42)	78 (77)
Business Studies	23/116 (22/112)	65 (70)	25/118 (19/112)	65 (70)	58/116 (49/112)	59 (61)
Communications/Media Studies	3/91 (3/89)	63 (74)	4/90 (2/88)	63 (74)	5/86 (3/81)	61 (63)
East Asian Studies	5/12 (6/10)	57 (66)	9/11 (6/11)	55 (65)	See Modern Languages	
Economics	24/68 (19/66)	67 (71)	26/74 (25/70)	68 (72)	44/69 (49/66)	63 (63)
Geography	14/75 (23/76)	63 (63)	11/72 (18/73)	63 (63)	28/64 (46/62)	65 (57)
Information Management	2/9 (2/9)	68 (79)	2/12 (1/12)	70 (80)	Inc under Communications/Media Studies	
Law	30/95 (32/91)	78 (81)	26/94 (28/92)	78 (81)	42/95 (49/90)	66 (72)
Politics	2/71 (2/70)	69 (72)	3/76 (2/74)	70 (72)	12/72 (16/69)	65 (60)
Social policy	17/36 (10/36)	55 (62)	12/54 (6/56)	55 (60)	20/31 (11/25)	No measure (No measure)
Sociology	17/88 (21/87)	55 (52)	13/ 89 (22/89)	56 (52)	23/87 (40/86)	64 (39)
Social work	6/76 (5/74)	88 (90)	No data	No data	No data (3/69)	No data (No measure)
TRP	3/27 (2/25)	83 (94)	4/31 (3/32)	84 (94)	6/44 (12/43)	78 (85)

Criteria used in Subject Tables

Subject placings are based on a combination of factors and not just the Graduate Prospects/Career after 6 months score. Table compilers are vague about the methodology they employ to arrive at their statistics and sometimes fail to make it clear where they have introduced changes into their calculations; for this reason it is often very difficult to replicate their results. The following notes are based on the descriptions available on their websites.

The Times – 4 measures

Research Quality, Entry Standards, *Student Satisfaction, Graduate Prospects. Two years of data are aggregated ie 2007/8 and 2008/9 .

The Complete Universities Guide – 4 measures

Research Assessment, Entry Standards, *Student Satisfaction, Graduate Prospects. Two years of data are aggregated ie 2007/8 and 2008/9 .

The Guardian – 8 measures

*Student satisfaction with course, *Student satisfaction with teaching quality, *Student satisfaction with feedback, Spending per student, Staff/student ratio, Value added score, Average entry tariff , Career after six months.

Three measures are taken from the National Student Survey. This bias results in tables and placings which are often at some variance with the results reported by the Times and The Complete University Guide, both of whom place greater emphasis on research ratings.

It is not clear whether the Guardian data is based on an aggregation of the most recent two years or is based on 2008/9 results only.

* Derived from NSS survey

Access to further information

Information for all of the tables is available on interactive websites:

The Times (Good Universities Guide 2012) – subscription site: <http://extras.thetimes.co.uk/gooduniversityguide/subjects/>

The Complete University Guide 2012: <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

The Guardian (The Guardian University Guide 2012): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide>

The Times publishes the information contained on their website in book form. The Guardian have previously published a book but at the time of creating this report there was no evidence they will publish a 2012 edition.

Notes

The compilers of the tables are as follows:

The Times – Exeter Enterprises/The Complete University Guide – Mayfield University Consultants/The Guardian – Intelligent Metrix
GA/June 2012