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Progression to Russell Group Universities
Teachers' Conference
Monday 23rd April

Making an Informed Choice About University

Christine Todd – Head of UK Recruitment, University of Liverpool

Lesley Stokes – Widening Participation Manager, The University of Edinburgh

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Our workshop plan:

- Data sets: where to start
- Looking beyond the stats!
- How else to “get informed”?
- Golden rules for informed choices
- Your questions / discussion

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Data Sets: where to start

UCAS course search www.ucas.com

English Literature


Durham University

Undergraduate

For more information on this course, please see our website.

Qualification	Study mode	Location
Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) - BA (Hons)	Full-time	No college preference
Start date	Duration	
October 2018	3 years	

[Other course options](#)



Shortlist
Apply >


Warning

This course has restrictions on who can apply - [Find out more](#)

Provider information

www.dur.ac.uk

Durham University
The Palatine Centre
Stockton Road
Durham
DH1 3LE



Teaching Excellence Framework

Durham University has opted into the [TEF](#) and received a Silver award.

[Find out more about the TEF](#)

Course details

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Provider information
www.dur.ac.uk
Durham University
The Raeburn Centre
Stockton Road
Durham
DH1 1TA

TEF Silver Teaching Excellence Framework
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[Find out more about the TEF](#)

Course contact details
[View course details on provider's website](#)
The Undergraduate Admissions Office
admissions@durham.ac.uk
0191 334 6128
Fax: 0191 334 6055

Unistats
[Compare information on the Unistats website](#)

The university's own website

TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) award

Direct Contact Details

Unistats

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Unistats

BA (Hons) English Literature
 3-year course, full time, foundation year (optional), year abroad (optional)
 Durham University | Location: Durham Campus
 See this course at the Durham University website

[+ Compare](#)

[View similar courses at other universities or colleges](#)

[Find similar courses at Durham University](#)

[Student satisfaction](#) [▶](#)

See results from the National Student Survey

[▶](#)

Employment & accreditation [▶](#)

See information on salary, employment outcomes and any recognition by professional bodies.

Continuation & degree results [▶](#)

See how many students continued on the course and the degree results they got.

Entry information [▶](#)

Check the entry qualifications and UCAS tariff scores students had when they joined the course.

Course information and fees

[See course details on the Durham University website](#)

More information

See more information on the Durham University website

[How the course is taught](#)

[Video: What to be aware of when using the data to compare courses](#)

[Video: Guide to using Unistats](#)

Student satisfaction

This is the percentage of students who agreed with these statements.

What is the NSS?



96%

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course [i](#)

The teaching on my course [i](#)

Staff are good at explaining things



Staff have made the subject interesting



The course is intellectually stimulating



My course has challenged me to achieve my best work



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TEF / REF / LEO
What and why?!

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League Tables: What?

- UK Rankings, UK Specialist & International
- Times Higher Education, The Guardian, Complete University Guide
- Each has own methodology, which can lead to different positions



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League Tables: How?



THE COMPLETE
UNIVERSITY GUIDE
INDEPENDENT • TRUSTED



- Use multiple league tables
- Institutional > Subject Based > Satisfaction/Employment etc.
- Don't take it at face value! Use as 'springboard' for research

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‘We recommend that: Prospective students continue to visit as many higher education providers as possible to inform their opinions about institutions and recognise that league tables are just one tool among many that they can use to help them create a shortlist of institutions.’

Turnbull, S., ‘A Guide to UK League Tables in Higher Education’ in HEPI Report 101 (Oxford, 2018), p.38

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University guide Guardian students

University le

Find a course at a UK u

- How to use the table

Illustration: Adam Avery



University guide Guardian students

University league tables 2018

Find a course at a UK university

- How to use the tables: a step-by-step guide

Illustration: Adam Avery



Find a course All fields optional

Find a course All fields optional

Pick a subject area

Pick a subject area

2018 ↓	2017 ↓	Institution ↓
1	1	Cambridge »
2	2	Oxford »
3	3	St Andrews »
4	6	Durham »
5	10	Bath »
6	4	Loughborough »
6	7	Imperial College »
8	9	Warwick »
9	8	Lancaster »
10	4	Surrey »
10	14	UCL »

2018 ↓	Institution ↓	Guardian score/100 ↓	Satisfied with course ↓	Satisfied with teaching ↓	Satisfied with feedback ↓	Student to staff ratio ↓	Spend per student/10 ↓	Average entry tariff ↓	Value added score/10 ↓	Career after 6 months ↓
1	⊕ Liverpool »	100	94	97.0	88.7	12.4	7	152	9	100
2	⊕ Edinburgh »	91.5	89.5	91.0	77.4	11.8	9	174	7	n/a
3	⊕ Glasgow »	82.8	97	96.3	86.8	16.2	8	183	5	n/a
4	⊕ Bradford »	81	96.0	93.7	83.8	15.3	4	138	10	99
5	⊕ Sunderland »	80.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.4	4	150	6	n/a
6	⊕ Huddersfield »	75.7	90	93.3	82.1	15.9	4	152	8	98
7	⊕ UEA »	75.2	85.9	89.5	68.5	16	5	149	10	99
8	⊕ Leeds »	74	83.8	88.7	72.2	13.7	10	157	3	100
9	⊕ Keele »	72.6	96	94	85.4	14.4	6	135	3	99
10	⊕ Nottingham »	72.5	75	82.3	73.3	14.8	8	155	8	99



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Looking beyond the stats!

- Look at a **variety** of data sets to build a fuller picture
- Ask the potential applicant – what is important for you? eg:
 - future career paths
 - student life
 - methods of teaching and assessment
 - resources
- Overall, don't take any of these stats / reports at "face value"!

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How else to “get informed”?

Visit!

- Open Days
- Interview days
- Post Offer Events

Can I get in?!

- Entry requirements
- Competition for places
- Other aspects of applications (eg personal statement / reference / interviews etc)

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Example: competition for places

University of Edinburgh admissions statistics

Course	Year of entry	Number of applications	Number of offers	Percentage chance of offer	Number of entrants
Politics	2015	183	100	55%	25
	2016	256	119	47%	21
	2017	266	122	46%	22

Course	Year of entry	Number of applications	Number of offers	Percentage chance of offer	Number of entrants
Chemistry	2015	322	290	90%	43
	2016	353	317	90%	52
	2017	2397	371	94%	58

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“Golden rules” for using data to make informed choices

- Data sets can prove / disprove just about anything!
- Therefore, use with caution and not in isolation
- Don't ignore non-statistical factors
- What's very important to one person may be less important to another
- What's right for one person may not be right for another
- Know what questions to ask!

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Any questions?

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