



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

Making an Informed Choice About University

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Our workshop plan:

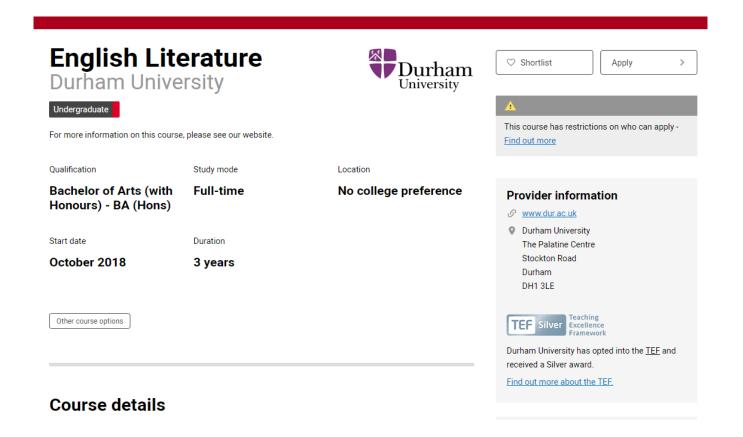
- Data sets: where to start
- Looking beyond the stats!
- How else to "get informed"?
- Golden rules for informed choices
- Your questions / discussion





Data Sets: where to start

UCAS course search www.ucas.com

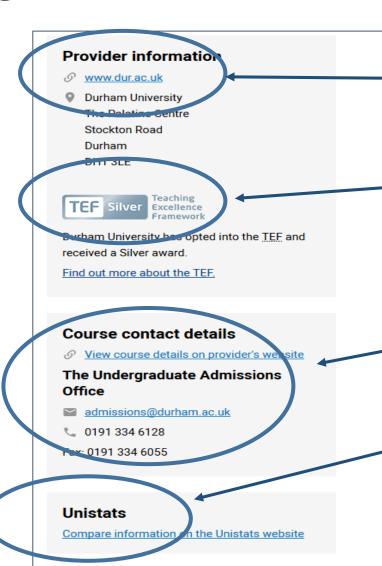






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-The university's own website

TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) award

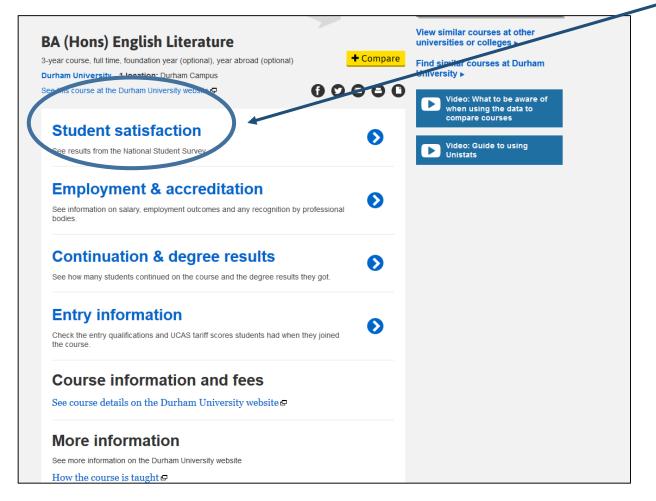
-Direct Contact Details

-Unistats



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Unistats









TEF / REF / LEO What and why?!









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















League Tables: How?









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







'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 t

• 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

Course

Find a course All fields optional

Course

Institution

Subject area

Region

Search

Pick a subject area Main table

	*	
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 »

Pick a subject area Nursing & Midwifery

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





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"!







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)



Course



Example: competition for places

University of Edinburgh admissions statistics

Year of entry Number of Number of

		applications	offers	chance of offer	entrants
Dellate	2015	183	100	55%	25
Politics	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
	Year of entry 2015			chance of	
Chemistry		applications	offers	chance of offer	entrants

Percentage

Number of







"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!







Any questions?

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