



Social Mobility
Commission



Charting your Course: Earnings boost after University and College

An Accessible Research Report

Research report

August 2024



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About the Commission

The Social Mobility Commission is an independent advisory non-departmental public body established under the Life Chances Act 2010 as modified by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. It has a duty to assess progress in improving social mobility in the UK and to promote social mobility in England. The Commission board comprises:

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Introduction

The decision on what and where to study after school has a big impact on your future job opportunities and earnings.

This report aims to help young people, parents and teachers to make informed decisions about education after secondary school. It outlines the potential earnings associated with studying for qualifications at university and college. We break these down by both subject and institution.

Why is this important?

A survey of over 1200 young people in sixth form gave a snapshot of pupils' information about potential earnings after graduating. Over 60% of respondents said that the potential salary after graduation is important when choosing where and what to study.

But is this information easily accessible?

Our survey finds that many students don't know that salary information is available.

- One in four sixth formers did not know that salary information is available when considering a degree.
- One in three sixth formers considering vocational training qualifications (VTQ) did not know this information was available to help guide their decisions.

The survey found that students use different sources for salary information. Most students check their school's website, career service sites like UCAS and Prospects, and government sources like the National Career Service.

What we mean by University and College

In this accessible report, we use the term 'university' to describe higher education and 'college' to describe further education.¹

What do these mean?

- Higher education is the learning that occurs after secondary and further education. It often leads to a qualification awarded by a degree-awarding body. This learning process usually involves working towards a degree. However, it can also result in diplomas, certificates, or other qualifications on the national framework. Higher education usually includes qualifications from level 6 to 8.²

¹ Please note that the terms "university" and "college" have been chosen to make these definitions and concepts more accessible. This is not to say that these terms are exclusive. Higher education is not just university. For example, a Higher National Diploma (HND) is considered higher education and not awarded by a degree-awarding body. Further education refers to all post-secondary education that is not part of higher education.

² Higher education qualifications can also be at levels 4 and 5.

- Further education refers to any study after secondary education that's not part of higher education. Courses range from basic English and maths to Higher National Diplomas.

See the 'Different types of qualifications' section for a guide to the different types of qualifications obtained at university and college.

Many students don't know where to find information. They need easy-to-find and easy-to-use information. The Social Mobility Commission (SMC) made this report to help young people, parents, teachers, and advisors access important information about the potential earnings from different educational choices.

This report aims to provide information on:

- How different qualifications influence your earnings³
- How your earnings vary by subject and institution
- Where to access additional resources

We use information from our longer report: "[Labour market value of higher and further education qualifications: a summary report](#)".

A couple of things to be aware of...

The earnings 'boost' might change later on in your career

In this report we talk about the 'boost' in earnings people tend to experience after a number of years following the completion of a qualification. For example, in some cases we measure the earnings 'boost' for people with 6 years of work experience after graduating from university. However, it is worth noting that this 'boost' in earnings might change later on in your career.

The earnings 'boost' might depend on where in the UK you work

How much you earn after studying for a qualification might depend on where in the UK you live and work. For example, salaries might be higher in London than in regions with a lower cost of living such as in the North East. For simplicity, we show the average 'boost' in earnings for the UK.

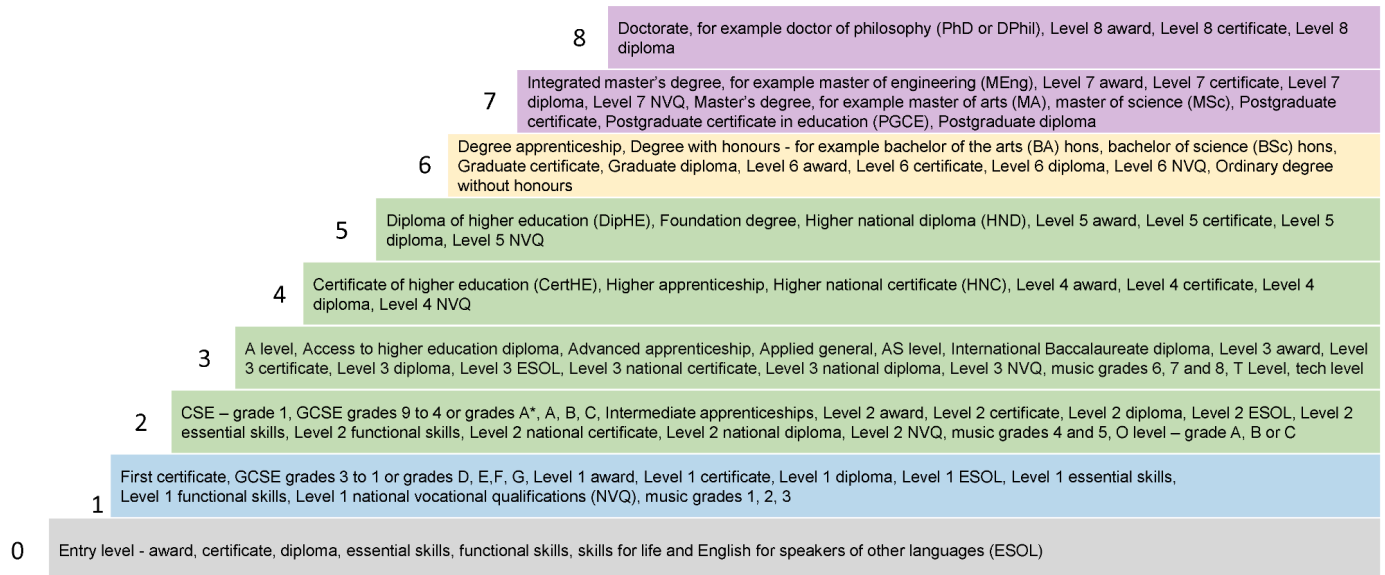
³ Throughout the report we use the term 'boost in earnings' to describe the extra money you can earn because of your education. This considers factors like where you live and your background, showing the increase in earnings associated with studying your qualification. The term 'Earnings boost' is used as a synonym for 'value-add in earnings'. See Annex A for more information.

Key findings

1. Qualifications from university and college pay off. On average, people who study these qualifications in the UK tend to earn more money than those who don't go to university or college.
2. Getting qualifications at higher levels tends to lead to higher earnings. Even if we look at a person's background or where they're from, going to university or college typically leads to higher future earnings.
3. Earnings vary by subject. At university, not all subjects are the same when it comes to boosting your potential earnings. Studying subjects like science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) often leads to a big boost in earnings. The same is true for law and economics.
4. Climbing the qualification ladder at college can mean bigger paychecks. If you study for a qualification that's at a higher level than what you have now, you tend to earn more in the future. For example, men with a level 4 qualification (such as a higher apprenticeship) earn on average 42% more than men with a level 3 or lower.
5. In colleges, outcomes for earnings are not as simple. This is because there is not a lot of data to check different courses of study. But, subjects like business administration and engineering can help women and men earn more after a few years.

Different types of qualifications

It's important to understand what qualifications exist before considering what earnings they might lead to. The figure below illustrates the types of qualifications across different levels.



There are 9 qualification levels in England.^{4 5} For university, the information in this report relates to university degrees at level 6. For college, most of the information relates to qualifications at levels 2 to 5.

⁴ The qualification system may differ slightly in different parts of the UK, such as Scotland.

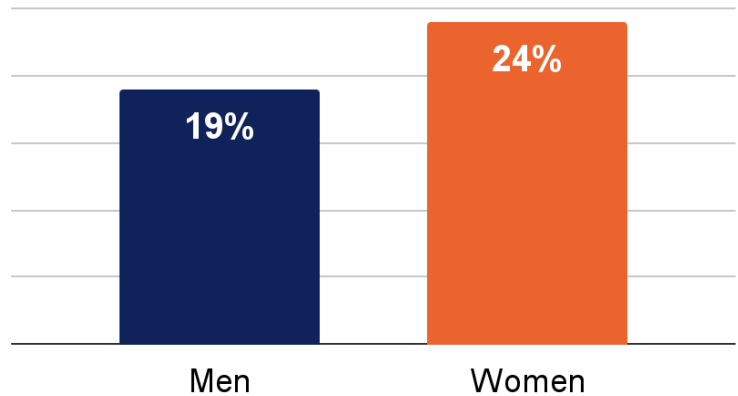
⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

Higher education (university)⁶

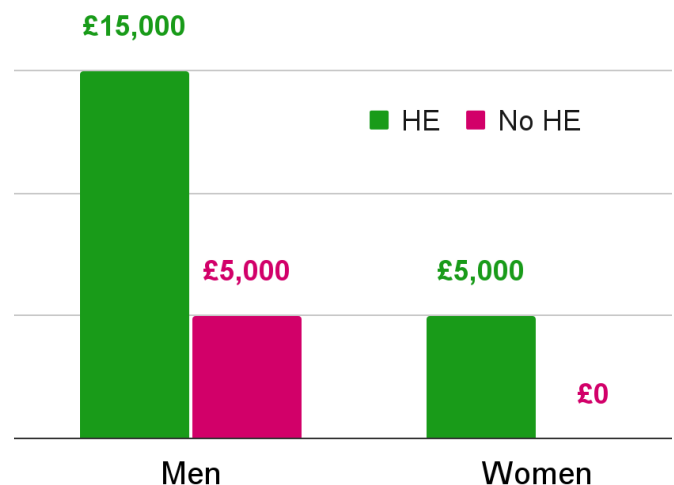
Research on the earnings boost from going to university shows that:

- After 6 years of work experience, incomes are on average 19% higher for men and 24% higher for women who went to university.
- The boost in earnings after attending university differs for men and women. On average, male graduates increased their earnings by £15,000 between the age of 30 and 40, compared to £5,000 for non-graduates. Female graduates increased their earnings by £5,000 between the ages of 30 and 40 compared to no change for female non-graduates.

Earnings boost after university and 6 years of



Earnings boost from 30 to 40 years old



Good grades also matter

In the UK, university grades are usually grouped into three categories:

1. First-Class Honours (1st): This is the highest grade and indicates excellent performance.
2. Upper Second-Class Honours (2:1): This is a good grade and shows a strong level of achievement.




⁶ Please note that the terms “university” and “college” have been chosen to make these definitions and concepts more accessible. This is not to say that these terms are exclusive. Higher education is not just university. For example, a Higher National Diploma (HND) is considered higher education and not awarded by a degree-awarding body. Further education refers to all post-secondary education that is not part of higher education.

3. Lower Second-Class Honours (2:2)
4. Third-Class Honours (3rd)

If we look at boosts in earnings for the different grades we find that:

- Getting a 1st can increase earnings by about **4%** for women and **7%** for men compared to getting a 2:1.
- Getting a 2:2 can lead to about **7%** lower earnings for women and **11%** lower earnings for men compared to having a 2:1 degree.


Top 5 earnings boosters 			
Men		Women	
Economics	33%	Medicine	75%
Medicine	24%	Economics	61%
Architecture	19%	Maths	42%
Business	17%	Business	41%
Law	17%	Law	40%

Subjects and earnings boost

Studying economics and medicine tends to boost your future earnings by the highest amount.

Men who study economics tend to earn 33% more by age 29 than men who didn't go to university.⁷

Women in medicine can earn 75% more than those who didn't attend university.

Bottom 5 earnings boosters 			
Men		Women	
Comms	-2%	Veterinary science	16%
Agriculture	-4%	Psychology	15%
Philosophy	-4%	Social care	14%
English	-7%	Agriculture	11%
Creative arts	-14%	Creative arts	9%

In contrast, some subjects don't tend to increase earnings. For example, men who study creative arts earn 14% less than men who didn't go to university. Women who study creative arts only earn 9% more than those who didn't go to university.

Men who study creative arts, communications, English, agriculture, sociology, philosophy, or languages tend to earn less than men who didn't go to university.⁸


See in Table 1 of the [Annex B](#) information on boost in earnings for all the subjects

However, it is not all about what you earn. Studying these subjects can have other advantages and open up opportunities in certain careers. For example, someone may study a qualification (such as art) that often leads to relatively low earnings but is more fulfilled in their career and life, or enter an occupation that better utilises their full talent and potential, and contributes to their social and emotional development.

⁷ We compared people with similar background characteristics. For more information see [Annex A](#).

⁸ Keep in mind that these findings may have some uncertainty, and it's possible that a few subjects might not significantly reduce earnings.


Future earnings by university

Top 5 earnings boosters 			
Men		Women	
LSE	58%	LSE	94%
Imperial	47%	Imperial	68%
Oxford	44%	Harper Adams	50%
Cambridge	34%	UCL	45%
Bristol	32%	Oxford	45%

Your future earnings can vary depending on the university you go to.

We examined how earnings vary by university. Here's what we discovered:

For men at age 29, the earnings boost compared to those who didn't go to university has a wide range, with Falmouth university being joint-bottom at 16% lower earnings and LSE at the top with 58% higher earnings.

Bottom 5 earnings boosters 			
Men		Women	
Ravensbourne	-11%	Bangor	5%
Bath Spa	-14%	Wales Trinity St David	1%
Glamorgan	-16%	Writtle C	-6%
Leeds City	-16%	UC Falmouth	-8%
UC Falmouth	-16%	Bolton	-11%

The same is true for women. Earnings can vary from a decrease of 11% for those studying at Bolton University to an increase of 94% for those attending LSE.

Generally, Russell Group universities often lead to higher earnings, but exceptions exist. Many of them have fewer students from disadvantaged backgrounds.⁹

Going to a Russell Group university can help you earn more. But getting into selective universities is hard. If students from some backgrounds find it harder to get into these universities, it can affect their future earnings and social mobility.

See in Table 2.1 and 2.2 in the [Annex B](#) information boost in earnings for all the universities

University types

Examples of how universities are grouped:

- **Most selective:** University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, The London School of Economics and Political Science, and Imperial College London.¹⁰
- **The 'Russell Group' includes:** those universities listed above as well as University of Glasgow, University of Birmingham, University of Warwick, Durham University, and University of Edinburgh¹¹
- **The 'pre-1992 universities' group includes:** University of St Andrews, Brunel University London, University of Bath, Loughborough University, University of Sussex, University of Hull, Keele University
- **The 'post-1992 universities' group includes:** Anglia Ruskin University, Bath Spa University, De Montfort University, Teesside University, Oxford Brookes University
- **The 'other universities' group includes:** Leeds Trinity University, Newman University, Liverpool Hope University

⁹ 'Disadvantaged' is defined as pupils who were eligible for free school meals in Jack Britton and others, 'Which university degrees are best for intergenerational mobility?', 2021. Published on IFS.ORG.UK

¹⁰ These are also Russell Group universities, but in some studies these universities have been treated independently from the Russell Group due to their highly selective entry requirements and difference in earnings outcomes.

¹¹ <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

Courses at universities: Which of these have the highest earnings boost?

Looking at subjects (such as economics) or universities (such as Nottingham University) on their own, doesn't give you the full picture. It's better to consider them together (such as by looking at economics at Nottingham University).

However, it's harder to do this. It's hard to accurately determine how much a certain subject at a certain university boosts your earnings. This is because we have data for only a small group of students.

We find:

- Subjects such as law, economics, maths and business have the highest earnings boost at Russell group universities. This is followed by pre-1992 universities and then post-1992 universities.
- Across all university groups, people who study creative arts experience the smallest earnings boost.

Earnings boost by subject and university		
Law		
1	Cambridge	108%
2	Oxford	92%
3	UCL	88%
Economics		
1	Cambridge	127%
2	UCL	108%
3	St Andrews	97%
Medicine		
1	Aberdeen	88%
2	Hull	78%
3	Edinburgh	77%
Creative arts		
1	Durham	13%
2	Warwick	12%
3	Bournemouth	9%



Check Tables 3 in the [Annex B](#) for complete information of boost in earnings by subjects and universities

College education (vocational and technical courses, apprenticeships among other options)¹²

Main challenges in understanding earnings boosts from college

Some college qualifications, like levels 4 and 5, have very few students, so it's hard to be sure about how qualifications affect earnings.¹³

Also, the college system has gone through a lot of changes, especially in the last ten years. New qualifications were made, and existing ones were changed. This makes it even more challenging to study.

Understanding how qualifications from college can increase earnings is more complicated than for university courses. This is because there are many more college qualifications and these may be taken by a smaller number of students.

Becoming more qualified tends to pay off

If you get a qualification at a higher level than what you already have, it usually means that you will earn more. However, the amount by which your earnings might increase is harder for us to determine. This is because there are various pathways and qualifications at different levels, and a lot of variation in returns by where you choose to study.

Some research finds that men with a level 4 qualification earn 42% more than similar men with a level 3 qualification.¹⁴

Whereas, women with a level 5 qualification earn 57% more than similar women with a level 3 qualification.

Intermediate and advanced apprenticeships

Apprenticeships at different levels can help you earn more than other vocational qualifications, but the effect depends on your work field. Women often pick lower-paying sectors such as

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¹³ DfE data on adult education shows that in the academic year 2021/22, there were around 3,000 learners aged 19 to 24 participating in vocational education and training at level 4 or above. See more information in [Further education and skills statistics \(DfE\)](#).

¹⁴ Héctor Espinoza and others, [‘Post-18 education: who is taking different routes and how much do they earn?’](#), 2020. Published on CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE LSE.AC.UK.

social care, so apprenticeships tend to have a bigger impact on men's pay who often choose higher-paying sectors such as construction and engineering.

Subjects and earnings boost

Fewer people study at colleges than universities, and there are many courses and qualifications. As a result, understanding the earnings boost from colleges is more challenging.

However, some research shows that young men who study engineering and manufacturing technology, business administration and law at college tend to earn more compared to those who study different subjects such as history, arts and agriculture.¹⁵ This may suggest that subjects in engineering and manufacturing, business and law may lead to higher paying careers or help develop a skillset which employers are willing to pay more for.

Women who study subjects such as arts and media, business administration or law also tend to have higher earnings compared to women who study other subjects such as languages and social care.

Future earnings by college

There are significant differences in how colleges affect your future earnings. Research shows that moving from a low-performing college to a high-performing one could increase your earnings by about 3%.¹⁶ More research is needed to understand the link between college choice, teaching style, and your earnings potential.

What about the type of teaching?

College courses are taught in a variety of ways such as in the workplace, in the classroom or as distance courses.

Classroom courses boost earnings more than workplace or distance courses. Colleges that focus on competency-based assessments over exams may not boost earnings as much.¹⁷

¹⁵ Esteban Aucejo and others, 'Where versus what: college value-added and returns to field of study in further education', 2020. Published on CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE LSE.AC.UK.

¹⁶ Esteban Aucejo and others, '[Where versus what: college value-added and returns to field of study in further education](#)', 2020. Published on CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE LSE.AC.UK.

¹⁷ Chiara Cavaglia and others, '[Do apprenticeships pay? Evidence for England](#)', 2020. Published on OXFORD BULLETIN OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ONLINELIBRARY.WILEY.COM.

Annex A: Understanding value-add

What is Value-Add in earnings?

Value-add can be thought of as the average boost in earnings you get from your education beyond the age of 16 - whether it is university or college. It's the extra money you can earn because you went to university or college. This extra money shows how studying helps you earn more compared to someone who didn't do that qualification.

To determine how much money you make after getting a degree or completing a course, we consider various factors. These factors include your location, if you received free school meals, and the type of school you attended. These factors can influence your earnings.

Why does value-add matter?

What you earn after finishing a qualification is one of many important factors to consider when choosing what to study. In this report we present the 'earnings boost' people on average achieve after gaining a qualification after their school-years.

Why do we need to be careful?

When we calculate the boost in earnings, we need to make some assumptions. This is because there could be some hidden things which drive your earnings and as we don't observe these things, it is hard to factor them in. For example your motivation, personal aspirations and personality may also influence how much you go on to earn after studying for a qualification. We should also note that the 'earnings boost' we estimate is just an average – this means not everyone gets the same salary. So, one person might earn more, and another might earn less after studying for the same qualification. It's not a guarantee of how much you will make but it can be a good indicator of what your earnings potential is a few years after completing your qualification.

Annex B: Data tables of boost in earnings

At this stage, we only have the data tables of boost in earnings for universities. This is because there are many more courses and qualifications at college than at university and these tend to be taken by fewer people. There is also more variation in the type of people who study college courses. This means understanding the earnings boost from colleges is more challenging.

Table 1: Value-add in earnings by subject for men and women

Men			Women		
1	Economics	33%	1	Medicine	75%
2	Medicine	24%	2	Economics	61%
3	Architecture	19%	3	Maths	42%
4	Business	17%	4	Business	41%
5	Law	17%	5	Law	40%
6	Computing	14%	6	Engineering	39%
7	Engineering	13%	7	Pharmacology	39%
8	Education	12%	8	Computing	38%
9	Maths	8%	9	Physics	35%
10	Physics	7%	10	Nursing	34%
11	Politics	6%	11	Politics	33%
12	Geography	6%	12	Architecture	29%
13	Technology	6%	13	Geography	28%
14	Pharmacology	4%	14	Comms	27%
15	Allied to med	4%	15	Technology	27%
16	Sportsci	3%	16	Sport Science	26%
17	Sociology	2%	17	Allied to med	25%
18	Biosciences	1%	18	Education	24%
19	Physsci	1%	19	Sociology	23%
20	History	1%	20	Languages	23%
21	Languages	-1%	21	Biosciences	22%
22	Psychology	-1%	22	Physical science	22%
23	Comms	-2%	23	English	21%
24	Agriculture	-4%	24	History	21%
25	Philosophy	-4%	25	Philosophy	20%
26	English	-7%	26	Veterinary science	16%
27	Creative arts	-14%	27	Psychology	15%

28	Social care	14%
29	Agriculture	11%
30	Creative arts	9%

Table 2.1: Value-add in earnings by university for men

1	LSE	58%	30	Sheffield	14%	59	Central Lancashire	3%	88	UC Birmingham	-2%
2	Imperial	47%	31	Portsmouth	14%	60	Leeds Met	3%	89	Lincoln	-2%
3	Oxford	44%	32	Hertfordshire	13%	61	Edge Hill	2%	90	Manchester Met	-2%
4	Cambridge	34%	33	Leeds	13%	62	Hull	2%	91	Buckingham New	-3%
5	Bristol	32%	34	Bournemouth	12%	63	Sunderland	2%	92	Roehampton	-3%
6	UCL	30%	35	Swansea	12%	64	L'pool John Moores	2%	93	London South Bank	-3%
7	Bath	28%	36	Aston	11%	65	Chester	2%	94	U Creative Arts	-3%
8	Warwick	27%	37	Manchester	11%	66	London Met	2%	95	Cumbria	-4%
9	Harper Adams	27%	38	Royal Holloway	10%	67	Greenwich	1%	96	Bedfordshire	-4%
10	Loughborough	26%	39	UEA	10%	68	Glasgow	1%	97	Wales Trinity St David	-4%
11	City	26%	40	Lancaster	9%	69	Coventry	1%	98	Gloucestershire	-4%
12	Durham	24%	41	U West England	9%	70	Kingston	1%	99	Derby	-4%
13	Nottingham	22%	42	Keele	9%	71	East London	0%	100	L'pool Hope	-4%
14	Exeter	22%	43	Chichester	9%	72	Teesside	0%	101	Wolverhampton	-5%
15	Oxford Brookes	21%	44	Liverpool	9%	73	Bradford	0%	102	Bangor	-5%
16	Reading	21%	45	Kent	9%	74	Anglia Ruskin	0%	103	Arts Inst Bournemouth	-6%
17	York	21%	46	Essex	8%	75	Salford	0%	104	Goldsmiths	-7%
18	Surrey	20%	47	Royal Agricultural C	8%	76	York St John UC	0%	105	West London	-8%
19	Brunel	19%	48	Prifysgol Aberystwyth	8%	77	Winchester	0%	106	U Arts London	-9%
20	Newcastle	19%	49	Northampton	8%	78	Birmingham City	0%	107	Middlesex	-10%
21	Cardiff	19%	50	De Montfort	7%	79	Plymouth	0%	108	Bolton	-11%
22	Birmingham	17%	51	S'ton Solent	7%	80	Westminster	-1%	109	Ravensbourne	-11%
23	Edinburgh	16%	52	Brighton	7%	81	Cardiff Met	-1%	110	Bath Spa	-14%
24	KCL	16%	53	Aberdeen	6%	82	Canterbury Christchurch	-1%	111	Glamorgan	-16%
25	Southampton	16%	54	Northumbria	6%	83	SOAS	-1%	112	Leeds City	-16%
26	Nottingham Trent	15%	55	Sussex	6%	84	St Mark & St John	-1%	113	UC Falmouth	-16%
27	St Mary's UC Twickenham	15%	56	Sheffield Hallam	6%	85	Staffordshire	-1%			
28	St Andrews	14%	57	Leicester	4%	86	Worcester	-1%			
29	QMU	14%	58	Leeds Trinity	4%	87	Huddersfield	-1%			

Table 2.2: Value-add in earnings by university for women

1	LSE	94%	31	Westminster	29%	61	Bishop Grosseteste	21%	91	Roehampton	14%
2	Imperial	68%	32	Newman	29%	62	De Montfort	20%	92	Northampton	14%
3	Harper Adams	50%	33	Cambridge	29%	63	Swansea	20%	93	Bradford	14%
4	UCL	45%	34	Keele	28%	64	Huddersfield	20%	94	Worcester	14%
5	Oxford	45%	35	Greenwich	28%	65	St George's Hospital	20%	95	Royal Veterinary C	13%
6	Bath	43%	36	Nottingham Trent	28%	66	York	20%	96	Anglia Ruskin	13%
7	KCL	43%	37	Edinburgh	28%	67	Birmingham City	20%	97	York St John UC	13%
8	Durham	43%	38	Brighton	27%	68	Essex	19%	98	Glamorgan	12%
9	Bristol	40%	39	Portsmouth	26%	69	Chester	19%	99	Plymouth	12%
10	Nottingham	40%	40	Oxford Brookes	25%	70	Goldsmiths	19%	100	Sunderland	12%
11	Loughborough	39%	41	U Arts London	25%	71	Royal Holloway	19%	101	Derby	12%
12	Liverpool	38%	42	Sussex	25%	72	UEA	18%	102	Royal Agricultural C	11%
13	SOAS	38%	43	Aston	25%	73	Edge Hill	18%	103	Gloucestershire	11%
14	Surrey	37%	44	Reading	25%	74	Bedfordshire	18%	104	Staffordshire	11%
15	Bournemouth	36%	45	Kent	25%	75	Lincoln	18%	105	London Met	11%
16	Southampton	36%	46	S'ton Solent	24%	76	Coventry	18%	106	Cumbria	10%
17	QMU	36%	47	St Andrews	24%	77	Canterbury Christchurch	18%	107	Prifysgol Aberystwyth	10%
18	Warwick	36%	48	St Mary's UC Twickenham	24%	78	Salford	17%	108	Chichester	10%
19	Birmingham	35%	49	East London	24%	79	L'pool John Moores	17%	109	St Mark & St John	9%
20	Leeds	35%	50	UC Birmingham	24%	80	Leeds Met	17%	110	Cental Lancashire	8%
21	Cardiff	34%	51	Leicester	24%	81	Glasgow	17%	111	Teesside	8%
22	City	33%	52	Hertfordshire	24%	82	U Creative Arts	17%	112	Ravensbourne	8%
23	Manchester	33%	53	Lancaster	23%	83	U West England	17%	113	Norwich UC Arts	7%
24	Newcastle	33%	54	Exeter	23%	84	Arts Inst Bournemouth	17%	114	Bangor	5%
25	Sheffield	32%	55	Central Sch Speech/Drama	23%	85	Wolverhampton	16%	115	Wales Trinity St David	1%
26	Brunel	31%	56	L'pool Hope	23%	86	Manchester Met	16%	116	Writtle C	-6%
27	Kingston	31%	57	Middlesex	22%	87	Winchester	16%	117	UC Falmouth	-8%
28	Leeds Trinity	31%	58	Cardiff Met	22%	88	Buckingham New	16%	118	Bolton	-11%
29	Hull	30%	59	Sheffield Hallam	22%	89	London South Bank	16%			
30	West London	30%	60	Northumbria	22%	90	Bath Spa	16%			

Value-add in earnings by university and subject

Please note, these figures are **only estimates**. They represent a **'best guess'** of how much more you might earn on average when compared to someone similar to you who didn't attend university. **Caution should be taken when interpreting these figures as there is a lot of uncertainty over what the actual impact on your earnings might be.** This is because your earnings depend on a wide range of factors. We **do not advise** you to make any decisions on which university to study at based on these figures alone. Instead, we encourage you to consider these estimates **alongside a wide range of resources**.

These estimates come from the [appendix](#) in 'How much does degree choice matter?' published by the Institute of Fiscal Studies in 2021.¹⁸

Table 3.1: Value-add in earnings at age 30 by university for people who studied law

Note: All value-add figures are relative to someone of a similar background who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University. For example, a value-add of 100% means that the average person who studied a given subject at a given university earns twice as much as someone of a similar background (in terms of school grades, gender, region they went to school in and socio-economic background) who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University.

Rank	University	Value-add (in%)
1	University of Cambridge	108%
2	Oxford University	92%
3	University College London	88%
4	University of Durham	87%
5	University of Nottingham	80%
6	London School of Economics and Political Science	75%
7	University of Exeter	65%

¹⁸ Please note, in our [2022 technical report](#) we used estimates from an older paper by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and therefore they won't match our tables for value-add by subject and university here. This is because we wanted to make the latest information more accessible and have updated these tables to reflect the latest estimates.

8	King's College London	65%
9	University of Bristol	59%
10	University of Birmingham	54%
11	University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	52%
12	School of Oriental and African Studies	51%
13	Queen Mary, University of London	49%
14	University of Reading	48%
15	University of East Anglia	46%
16	University of Manchester	44%
17	University of Southampton	42%
18	University of Warwick	41%
19	University of Sheffield	38%
20	University of Leeds	37%
21	Liverpool Hope University	33%
22	Cardiff University	30%
23	University of Northumbria at Newcastle	29%
24	University of Buckingham	29%
25	University of Essex	28%
26	University of Surrey	28%
27	City University	27%
28	University of Liverpool	26%
29	Swansea University	26%
30	Keele University	26%
31	Lancaster University	26%
32	University of Sussex	25%
33	University of Hull	24%
34	Prifysgol Aberystwyth	23%
35	University of Leicester	23%
36	University of Westminster	23%

37	University of Portsmouth	21%
38	University of the West of England, Bristol	21%
39	University of Glamorgan	21%
40	Brunel University	21%
41	University of Kent	20%
42	Nottingham Trent University	20%
43	Bournemouth University	18%
44	University of Brighton	16%
45	Oxford Brookes University	15%
46	Kingston University	15%
47	Southampton Solent University	14%
48	University of Bradford	14%
49	Liverpool John Moores University	13%
50	University of Greenwich	12%
51	Manchester Metropolitan University	11%
52	Sheffield Hallam University	11%
53	Leeds Metropolitan University	7%
54	Canterbury Christ Church University	7%
55	Bangor University	6%
56	Middlesex University	6%
57	University of Sunderland	4%
58	University of Plymouth	4%
59	London South Bank University	4%
60	University of Huddersfield	3%
61	Staffordshire University	3%
62	University of Gloucestershire	2%
63	University of Hertfordshire	1%
64	University Of Teesside	0%
65	Birmingham City University	0%

66	University of Central Lancashire	-1%
67	University of Lincoln	-3%
68	University of East London	-3%
69	Coventry University	-4%
70	Edge Hill University	-5%
71	University of Derby	-6%
72	Anglia Ruskin University	-6%
73	De Montfort University	-6%
74	University of Wolverhampton	-9%
75	University of Northampton	-9%
76	Buckinghamshire New University	-9%
77	University of Bedfordshire	-12%
78	London Metropolitan University	-20%

Table 3.2: Value-add in earnings at age 30 by university for people who studied Economics

Note: All value-add figures are relative to someone of a similar background who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University. For example, a value-add of 100% means that the average person who studied a given subject at a given university earns twice as much as someone of a similar background (in terms of school grades, gender, region they went to school in and socio-economic background) who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University.

Rank	University	Value-add in earnings (%)
1	University of Cambridge	127%
2	University College London	108%
3	University of St Andrews	97%
4	University of Warwick	96%
5	Oxford University	94%

6	University of Edinburgh	86%
7	University of Durham	83%
8	University of Bristol	77%
9	University of Sussex	77%
10	London School of Economics and Political Science	75%
11	University of Birmingham	74%
12	University of Bath	72%
13	University of York	71%
14	University of Nottingham	69%
15	University of Exeter	65%
16	London Metropolitan University	65%
17	University of Southampton	65%
18	University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	64%
19	Loughborough University	62%
20	University of Northumbria at Newcastle	59%
21	City University	58%
22	Royal Holloway,	57%
23	University of Liverpool	54%
24	University of Reading	54%
25	Queen Mary, University of London	54%
26	University of Portsmouth	53%
27	University of Sheffield	52%
28	University of East Anglia	51%
29	University of Central Lancashire	49%
30	University of Leeds	47%
31	Brunel University	45%
32	University of Leicester	43%
33	University of the West of England, Bristol	42%

34	University of Manchester	41%
35	Cardiff University	41%
36	Nottingham Trent University	40%
37	University of Bradford	40%
38	Keele University	39%
39	Coventry University	38%
40	University of Essex	35%
41	School of Oriental and African Studies	35%
42	University of Surrey	34%
43	University of Plymouth	32%
44	University of Hertfordshire	31%
45	Kingston University	30%
46	Leeds Metropolitan University	29%
47	Manchester Metropolitan University	28%
48	Swansea University	25%
49	University of Hull	25%
50	Liverpool John Moores University	25%
51	Lancaster University	23%
52	University of Kent	19%
53	University of Salford	17%
54	University of Greenwich	16%
55	Oxford Brookes University	16%
56	Goldsmiths College	16%
57	Prifysgol Aberystwyth	15%
58	Middlesex University	12%

Table 3.3: Value-add in earnings at age 30 by university for people who studied medicine

Note: All value-add figures are relative to someone of a similar background who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University. For example, a value-add of 100% means that the average person who studied a given subject at a given university earns 50% more than someone of a similar background (in terms of school grades, gender, region they went to school in and socio-economic background) who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University.

Rank	University	Value-add in earnings (%)
1	University of Aberdeen	88%
2	University of Hull	78%
3	University of Edinburgh	77%
4	University of Liverpool	70%
5	University of Sussex	66%
6	University of St Andrews	66%
7	University of East Anglia	66%
8	University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	66%
9	University of Sheffield	64%
10	University of Exeter	62%
11	University of Brighton	60%
12	Keele University	59%
13	St George's Hospital Medical School	58%
14	Cardiff University	57%
15	University of Plymouth	57%
16	Oxford University	57%
17	University of Cambridge	54%
18	University of Bristol	53%
19	University College London	53%
20	University of York	53%

21	University of Glasgow	52%
22	Imperial College London	51%
23	University of Birmingham	51%
24	University of Nottingham	50%
25	University of Southampton	49%
26	University of Leeds	43%
27	University of Manchester	42%
28	King's College London	41%
29	Queen Mary, University of London	37%
30	University of Leicester	31%
31	University of Dundee	17%

Table 3.4: Value-add in earnings at age 30 by university for people who studied creative arts

Note: All value-add figures are relative to someone of a similar background who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University. For example, a value-add of 100% means that the average person who studied a given subject at a given university earns 50% more than someone of a similar background (in terms of school grades, gender, region they went to school in and socio-economic background) who studied History at Sheffield Hallam University.

Rank	University	Value-add in earnings (%)
1	University of Durham	13%
2	University of Warwick	12%
3	Bournemouth University	9%
4	Brunel University	9%

5	Oxford University	8%
6	Nottingham Trent University	6%
7	University of Sheffield	5%
8	King's College London	3%
9	Cardiff University	2%
10	University of Liverpool	1%
11	Loughborough University	-1%
12	Coventry University	-2%
13	Central School of Speech and Drama	-2%
14	Liverpool John Moores University	-2%
15	University of Birmingham	-3%
16	Lancaster University	-3%
17	University of Huddersfield	-3%
18	University of Nottingham	-4%
19	Keele University	-4%
20	Queen Mary, University of London	-4%
21	Leeds Metropolitan University	-4%
22	Southampton Solent University	-4%
23	Edge Hill University	-5%
24	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	-5%
25	University of Northumbria at Newcastle	-5%
26	Royal Holloway,	-6%
27	University of Kent	-6%
28	University of Bristol	-6%
29	St Mary's University College, Twickenham	-6%
30	University of East London	-6%
31	Birmingham City University	-6%
32	Royal Northern College of Nursing	-7%
33	Roehampton University	-7%

34	University of Winchester	-7%
35	University of Wolverhampton	-7%
36	Cardiff Metropolitan University	-8%
37	University of Sunderland	-8%
38	Kingston University	-8%
39	De Montfort University	-8%
40	University of Hull	-8%
41	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	-8%
42	University of Gloucestershire	-9%
43	University of Reading	-9%
44	University of York	-9%
45	Sheffield Hallam University	-9%
46	University of Leeds	-9%
47	Buckinghamshire New University	-9%
48	University of Salford	-9%
49	University of Portsmouth	-9%
50	University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	-9%
51	University Of Teesside	-9%
52	University of Exeter	-10%
53	University of the West of England, Bristol	-10%
54	Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	-11%
55	University for the Creative Arts (Formerly University College for the Creative Arts)	-11%
56	University of Lincoln	-11%
57	University of Worcester	-11%
58	University of West London	-11%
59	Oxford Brookes University	-12%
60	University of Manchester	-12%
61	University of Chester	-12%

62	University of Hertfordshire	-12%
63	University of Bedfordshire	-12%
64	University of Surrey	-12%
65	Guildhall School of Music and Dance	-12%
66	Norwich University College of the Arts	-12%
67	Leeds City College	-12%
68	Staffordshire University	-13%
69	Prifysgol Aberystwyth	-13%
70	Manchester Metropolitan University	-13%
71	York St John University College	-13%
72	University of Westminster	-13%
73	Middlesex University	-13%
74	University of East Anglia	-14%
75	University of Central Lancashire	-14%
76	Edinburgh Napier University	-14%
77	Canterbury Christ Church University	-14%
78	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	-14%
79	University of Cambridge	-15%
80	University of Northampton	-15%
81	University of Glamorgan	-15%
82	University of the Arts London	-15%
83	University of Greenwich	-15%
84	University of Derby	-16%
85	Arts Institute at Bournemouth	-16%
86	Glyndwr University	-16%
87	Anglia Ruskin University	-16%
88	University of Cumbria	-16%
89	University of Plymouth	-16%
90	Ravensbourne	-17%

91	University of Bolton	-17%
92	Bath Spa University	-17%
93	University of Brighton	-17%
94	University of Chichester	-18%
95	Royal College of Music	-18%
96	Royal Academy of Music	-18%
97	Liverpool Hope University	-18%
98	Trinity LABAN Conservatoire of Music and Dance	-19%
99	Rose Bruford College	-20%
100	University of Southampton	-20%
101	University of Essex	-20%
102	Goldsmiths College	-21%
103	University of Edinburgh	-21%
104	Bangor University	-22%
105	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	-23%
106	Newman University College, Birmingham	-23%
107	City University	-25%
108	Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	-25%
109	University College Falmouth	-25%
110	London Metropolitan University	-25%
111	University of St Mark & St John	-27%
112	Glasgow School of Art	-27%
113	London South Bank University	-29%
114	University of Glasgow	-29%
115	University College London	-31%
116	University of Sussex	-33%