

# Complete University Guide 2021 Summary

## 1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE 2021

2021 Rank 86<sup>th</sup>

2020 Rank 70<sup>th</sup>

BU has dropped 16 places in this year's Complete University Guide (CUG), ranking 86<sup>th</sup> out of the 130 Universities listed. BU's overall score (relative to the top ranked institution) has decreased this year by over 11% from 649 to 574. The average overall score in 2021 was 626 compared to 673 in 2020.

	Rank	Entry Standards (1.0)	Student Satisfaction (1.5)	Research Quality (1.0)	Research Intensity (0.5)	Graduate Prospects (1.0)	SSR (1.0)	Academic Services Spend (0.5)	Facilities Spend (0.5)	Good Honours (1.0)	Degree Completion (1.0)
2021	86	116	3.93	2.72	0.29	68.2	17.6	1640	736	78.8	84.2
2020	70	122	3.95	2.72	0.29	68.2	17.0	1519	742	76.4	85.3
	-16	-6	-0.02	N/A REF 2014		N/A DLHE 2016/17	0.6	121	-6	2.4	-1.1

Rank 2021	93	113	63	72	105	99	70	49	45	62
Rank 2020	85	105	63	72	105	89	72	39	54	66
	-8	-8	0	0	0	-10	2	-10	9	4

BU has shown improvements in the following measures: -

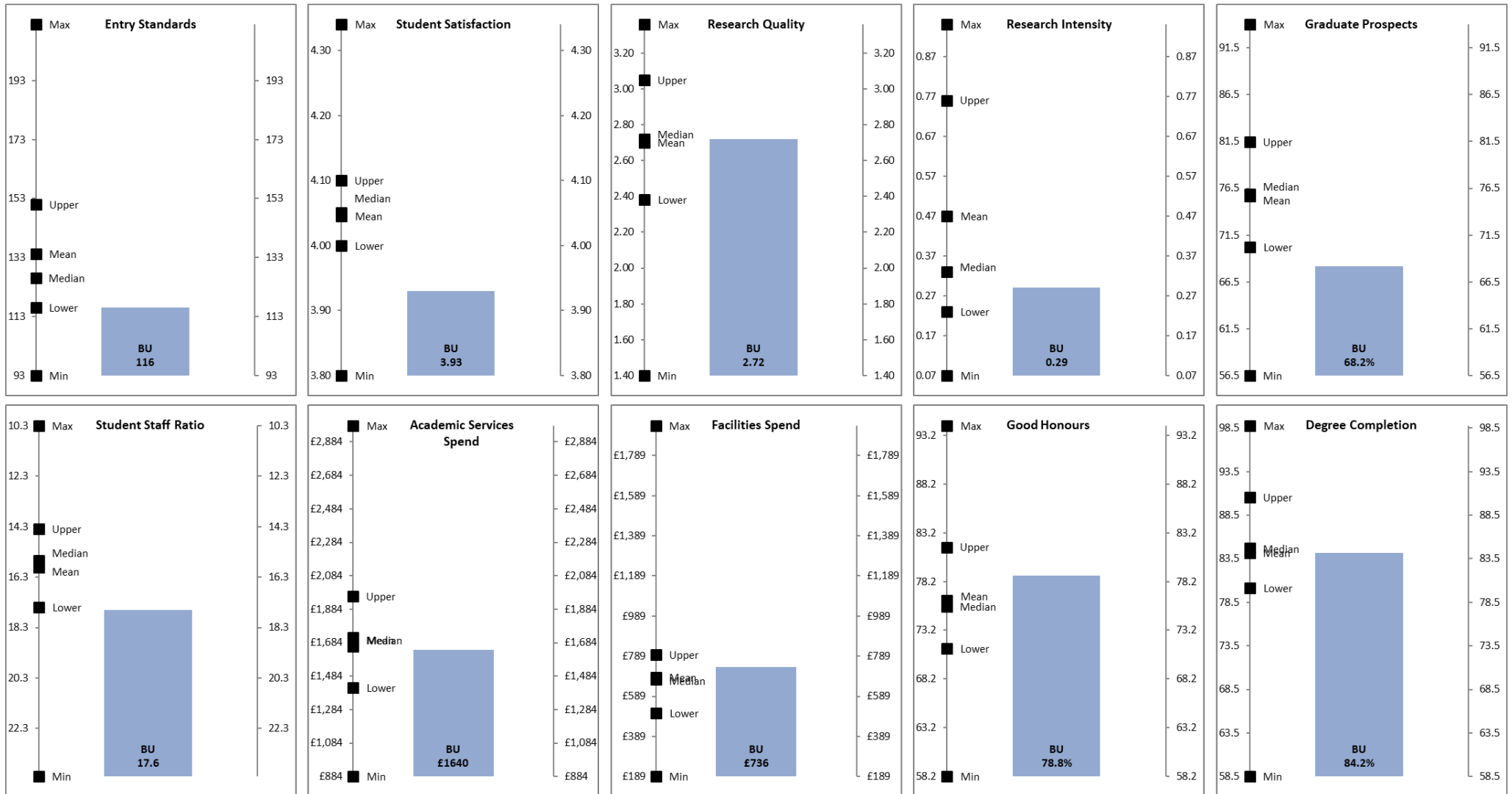
- **Academic Services Spend** – the expenditure per student on all academic services has seen an increase of £121 to £1,640. A median rise of £78 per student still leaves BU in the lower inter-quartile range, however, BU is now only £22 below the median compared to £65 below in CUG2020 resulting in a climb of 2 places in the rankings to 70<sup>th</sup>/130.
- **Good honours** – the percentage of first-degree graduates achieving a first or upper second-class honours degree has increased by 2.4 to 78.8 seeing BU climb 9 places to 45<sup>th</sup>/130. BU remains in the upper inter-quartile range with the median only seeing a slight rise in this measure, from 75.1 to 75.6. This is now the best performing area for BU in terms of rank.

The areas that have seen a fall in the rankings are: -

- **Entry Standards** – the average UCAS tariff score of new undergraduate students has fallen by 6 to 116. The sector median has also seen a decline this year, although marginally less than that of BU, from 130 to 126, resulting in a fall of 8 places for the University to 93<sup>rd</sup>/130.
- **Student Satisfaction** – BU sees a decrease of 0.02 to 3.93. This places BU below the sector median which has risen by 0.01 to 4.05 resulting in a fall of 8 places in the rankings for BU to 113<sup>th</sup>/130. It must be noted that student satisfaction is the only measure to be weighted at 1.5 adding further significance to the overall BU score.
- **Student-Staff Ratio (SSR)** – the number of students per academic member of staff has increased by 0.6 to 17.6, moving BU into the lower quartile. The sector median has risen marginally from 15.6 to 15.7 and this has seen BU fall 10 places in the rankings to 99<sup>th</sup>/130.
- **Facilities Spend** – having been the best performing area for BU in terms of rank in CUG2020, the expenditure per student on staff and student facilities has decreased by £6 to £736. Despite the median seeing a rise of £51 per student to £674, BU remains in the upper inter-quartile range. The improvement to the median has however seen BU fall 10 places in the rankings for this measure to 49<sup>th</sup>/130.

## 2. SECTOR COMPARISON CHARTS

BU has maintained its position in the upper-inter quartile range for Good Honours and Facilities Spend when compared to the whole sector. The other areas are unchanged from 2020 other than Entry Standards, which is now in the lower quartile ranking against the whole sector (it was in the lower-inter quartile range in 2020), and Student-Staff Ratio which has fallen into the lower quartile.



Appendix 1 shows detailed data for BU against our 3 identified competitor sets.

BU appears in 30 of the CUG subject tables this year, the same number as in 2020. BU has kept its top 10 position in **Complementary Medicine** (4<sup>th</sup>/8) and has regained its top 10 position in **Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation & Tourism** (10<sup>th</sup>/54). BU also appears in the top 10 in both **Occupational Therapy** (8<sup>th</sup>/30) and **Social Work** (7<sup>th</sup>/83) this year.

BU has improved its ranking in 9 subjects since 2020. The overall score has improved for 8 of the 30 subjects whilst a further 2 subjects have maintained their 2020 scores. BU are ranked in the top half of their respective tables in 7 subjects this year compared to 6 in 2020; **Occupational Therapy** improving from the top 75% to the top 27% in 2021. **Social Work** has improved its ranking by 21 places (7<sup>th</sup>/83), the most from any subject area at BU this year. Two further subjects have seen improvements in rankings of 10 places or more; **English** (64<sup>th</sup>/106) and **Occupational Therapy** (8<sup>th</sup>/30). **Sports Science** fell 25 places between 2019 and 2020 and has seen a further decline this year, by 8 places to 55<sup>th</sup>/84. **Art & Design** (35<sup>th</sup>/86) and **Sociology** (87<sup>th</sup>/102) are the only subjects to see a decline in rankings of 10 places or more since 2020.

When analysing the subject data, Student Satisfaction sees the most positive changes (16 out of 30) compared to entry standards (6 out of 28), most notably in **Materials Technology** (up 0.34 to 3.99) and **Law** (up 0.23 to 3.74). Of the 11 subjects to see a decline in Student Satisfaction this year, **Art & Design** (down 0.21 to 4.05) and **Politics** (down 0.26 to 3.57) are the only 2 subjects to fall by 0.2 or more.

Subject Table	Rank	No. HEPs	BU Centile	Rank	No. HEPs	BU Centile	Ranking Change	Overall Score			Entry Standards			Student Satisfaction			Research Quality	Research Intensity	Graduate Prospects
	2021			2020			2020/21	2021	2020	2020/21 Change	2021	2020	2020/21 Change	2021	2020	2020/21 Change	REF 2014	REF 2014	HESA 2016/17
Accounting & Finance	82	103	80%	81	102	79%	-1	83.3	84.4	-1.1	106	117	-11.0	3.85	3.77	0.08	2.65	0.30	56
Anthropology	24	34	71%	32	35	91%	8	85.2	84.2	1.0	99	107	-8.0	4.05	3.98	0.07	n/a	n/a	60
Archaeology	28	32	88%	25	31	81%	-3	87.3	89.7	-2.4	95	101	-6.0	3.90	3.95	-0.05	2.65	0.78	70
Art & Design	35	86	41%	25	85	29%	-10	90.5	93.5	-3.0	108	118	-10.0	4.05	4.26	-0.21	3.00	0.33	76
Biological Sciences	102	103	99%	100	102	98%	-2	82.5	84.3	-1.8	110	118	-8.0	3.79	3.71	0.08	2.56	0.19	51
Business & Management Studies	69	123	56%	64	122	52%	-5	87.7	89.1	-1.4	118	123	-5.0	3.93	4.01	-0.08	2.65	0.30	68
Communication & Media Studies	45	97	46%	48	96	50%	3	91.3	91.3	0.0	125	125	0.0	3.81	3.81	0.00	3.10	0.31	60
Complementary Medicine	4	8	50%	3	6	50%	-1	95.7	96.9	-1.2	n/a	n/a		4.19	4.14	0.05	2.56	0.19	100
Computer Science	68	110	62%	61	111	55%	-7	85.3	87.4	-2.1	123	128	-5.0	3.94	4.08	-0.14	2.31	0.69	75
Creative Writing	40	53	75%	33	51	65%	-7	83.7	85.9	-2.2	119	141	-22.0	3.82	3.79	0.03	3.10	0.31	30
Drama, Dance & Cinematics	61	102	60%	52	102	51%	-9	88.8	90.0	-1.2	124	141	-17.0	3.80	3.66	0.14	3.10	0.31	54
English	64	106	60%	77	107	72%	13	87.8	88.2	-0.4	119	110	9.0	4.22	4.04	0.18	3.10	0.31	59
Food Science	23	39	59%	29	39	74%	6	90.4	88.6	1.8	130	124	6.0	4.49	4.32	0.17	2.56	0.19	65
Forensic Science	24	34	71%	23	34	68%	-1	83.5	86.7	-3.2	116	127	-11.0	3.83	3.83	0.00	2.65	0.78	50
General Engineering	24	32	75%	20	29	69%	-4	86.8	89.9	-3.1	105	127	-22.0	4.06	4.12	-0.06	2.31	0.69	82
Geography & Environmental Science	64	72	89%	61	73	84%	-3	85.1	87.5	-2.4	95	103	-8.0	4.02	4.05	-0.03	2.65	0.78	54
History	67	93	72%	66	93	71%	-1	84.3	86.3	-2.0	97	106	-9.0	4.17	4.17	0.00	3.10	0.31	n/a
Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation & Tourism	10	54	19%	11	57	19%	1	97.2	95.5	1.7	122	121	1.0	3.99	3.98	0.01	3.13	0.19	68
Law	58	103	56%	60	103	58%	2	88.4	89.1	-0.7	106	118	-12.0	3.74	3.51	0.23	2.65	0.30	81
Marketing	38	84	45%	35	81	43%	-3	88.9	90.3	-1.4	113	122	-9.0	4.03	3.99	0.04	2.65	0.30	76
Materials Technology	18	20	90%	17	19	89%	-1	82.4	80.0	2.4	102	107	-5.0	3.99	3.65	0.34	2.31	0.69	46
Music	57	85	67%	55	82	67%	-2	85.2	86.3	-1.1	n/a	n/a		3.78	3.66	0.12	3.00	0.33	58
Nursing	63	72	88%	58	72	81%	-5	91.6	92.4	-0.8	118	121	-3.0	3.83	4.02	-0.19	2.56	0.19	99
Occupational Therapy	8	30	27%	21	28	75%	13	90.6	87.3	3.3	160	129	31.0	82	89	-7.00	2.56	0.19	92
Physiotherapy	23	39	59%	19	37	51%	-4	95.9	92.2	3.7	134	144	-10.0	4.00	99	-95.00	2.56	0.19	100
Politics	66	85	78%	57	83	69%	-9	85.3	89.2	-3.9	105	113	-8.0	3.57	3.83	-0.26	3.10	0.31	n/a
Psychology	92	118	78%	93	117	79%	1	85.8	86.3	-0.5	110	114	-4.0	4.05	3.91	0.14	2.54	0.57	52
Social Work	7	83	8%	28	80	35%	21	94.9	92.4	2.5	141	123	18.0	4.30	4.27	0.03	2.56	0.19	92
Sociology	87	102	85%	75	97	77%	-12	92.4	84.7	7.7	123	116	7.0	4.27	4.08	0.19	2.56	0.19	92
Sports Science	55	84	65%	47	83	57%	-8	90.4	90.4	0.0	120	128	-8.0	3.87	3.95	-0.08	3.13	0.19	67

\*Occupational Therapy (2021 & 2020) & Physiotherapy (2020) are not identifiable from NSS data so CUG has used KIS data, which shows percentages rather than average scores.

### 3. APPENDIX - PEER GROUP PERFORMANCE 2021

#### Current Competitors (6<sup>th</sup>/6)

RANK 2021	RANK 2020	UNIVERSITY	Entry Standards	Student Satisfaction	Research Quality	Research Intensity	Graduate Prospects	Student-Staff Ratio	Academic Services Spend	Facilities Spend	Good Honours	Degree Completion	Overall Score
48	51	Oxford Brookes	122	3.98	2.66	0.39	77.2	14.7	1,524	868	78.8	89.4	667
52	50	Northumbria	143	4.05	2.71	0.29	75.1	15.5	1,646	677	78.7	83.8	661
61	53	Portsmouth	115	4.06	2.75	0.27	85.2	16.1	1,512	652	73.6	83.8	625
64	55	West of England, Bristol	121	4.18	2.7	0.29	76.1	15.4	1,249	633	74.5	82.6	612
84	69	Brunel University London	120	3.88	2.67	0.85	70.7	17.7	1,442	540	75.6	87.5	576
86	70	Bournemouth	116	3.93	2.72	0.29	68.2	17.6	1,640	736	78.8	84.2	574

#### Aspirational Competitors (6<sup>th</sup>/6)

RANK 2021	RANK 2020	UNIVERSITY	Entry Standards	Student Satisfaction	Research Quality	Research Intensity	Graduate Prospects	Student-Staff Ratio	Academic Services Spend	Facilities Spend	Good Honours	Degree Completion	Overall Score
30	26	Cardiff	153	3.99	3.27	0.62	81.9	14.3	1,698	709	81.8	91.8	739
38	44	Leicester	133	3.99	2.93	0.82	74.9	13.7	2,014	779	78.9	94	709
41	44	Essex	107	4.08	3.05	0.82	73.8	16.7	1,950	1469	75.4	84.4	684
56	52	Keele	124	4.13	2.88	0.59	81.7	14.3	1,508	631	76	86.9	652
57	57	City, University of London	137	4.01	2.95	0.53	72.9	17.3	1,920	625	75.6	87.4	644
86	70	Bournemouth	116	3.93	2.72	0.29	68.2	17.6	1,640	736	78.8	84.2	574

#### Stretch Aspirational Competitors (6<sup>th</sup>/6)

RANK 2021	RANK 2020	UNIVERSITY	Entry Standards	Student Satisfaction	Research Quality	Research Intensity	Graduate Prospects	Student-Staff Ratio	Academic Services Spend	Facilities Spend	Good Honours	Degree Completion	Overall Score
12	11	Exeter	163	4.06	3.08	0.82	85.5	15.2	1,594	1191	86.7	94.7	834
17	20	Southampton	155	4.03	3.15	0.9	82.1	13.3	1,978	746	85.8	92	803
39	40	Reading	126	3.92	3.03	0.83	75.8	15.8	1,890	844	81.9	91.3	706
40	32	Sussex	143	3.95	3.01	0.73	80.4	17.4	1,604	864	75.3	89.9	699
43	34	Aston	126	4	3.05	0.57	79.2	16.1	1,473	517	81.9	89.8	683
86	70	Bournemouth	116	3.93	2.72	0.29	68.2	17.6	1,640	736	78.8	84.2	574