



University of
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Russell Group Universities and competitive courses

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**RUSSELL
GROUP**



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Overview

1. Competitive courses
2. The Russell Group
3. How to be a competitive applicant



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Your selection process

Long list

Pick 8-10 different choices
– visit as many as possible
to help narrow these down.

Shortlist

You are allowed 5 choices
on UCAS – you should be
happy to go to any of them.

Final choices

Your firm choice is your
ideal scenario. Your
insurance must have lower
requirements.



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Entry requirements

Predicted grades

This is your starting point – your teachers’ professional opinion.

Be aspirational

If there is a course that is perfect but above your predicted grades – apply! However, be prepared to meet their requirements.

Be realistic

Your insurance choice needs to have lower entry requirements than your firm, so bear this in mind.



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Competitive

courses





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What is a competitive course?

Simply put, a course for which there are more applications than there are places.





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How to tell if a course is competitive

- Early UCAS deadline
- High grade requirements
- Additional entry requirements
- Sector experience required





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The Russell

Group





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What is the Russell Group?

Active in cutting-
edge global
research

Outstanding learning
and teaching
experience

Top links with
business and
public sector

Active in cutting-edge global research

- Russell Group Unis make up about 17% of the UK's universities, but produce more than 68% of the world-leading research produced in the country.
- These universities promote world-leading UK research and innovation that changes lives for the better.
- 92% of Sheffield's research is internationally recognised, internationally excellent, or world leading.
- Professors will be bringing their research expertise into the classroom, discussing their findings with students.



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Examples of research at Sheffield

- Genetics students analysing data of cancer patients to reduce the time frame to be seen by specialists for more urgent cases.
- Using dry ice pellets to clear leaves from train lines reducing delays and saving £££'s.
- Drought resistant rice – growing rice that requires less water for growth.
- Many other examples - www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/features



Outstanding learning and teaching experience

- The combination of teaching and research excellence in our universities will offer you the chance to learn from some of the world's most respected academics.
- You'll have access to some of the best teaching facilities in the UK: from libraries and lecture halls, to labs and online learning tools.



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Top links with business and public sector

- Russell Group universities work extensively with businesses of all sizes and see top graduate employment rates.
- More than half of research in our universities was deemed to have had outstanding impact on business, the economy, health, society, culture and the environment.
- Russell Group Universities inject nearly £87 billion into the national economy every year.
- Graduates are of the highest calibre, and provide businesses of all sizes and sectors with the talented recruits they will need to meet today's challenges and those of the future.
- The kinds of students who attend Russell Group universities are sought after – ambitious, hardworking, intelligent.



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Being a student at a Russell Group university

- Lower non-continuation rate.
- High levels of student satisfaction.
- Better facilities - institution typically has more money to spend on you.
- Financial support.
- 80% of graduates in highly skilled employment 15 months after graduating.



Which universities are in the Russell Group?

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Exeter

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Leeds

London School of Economics

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York



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What makes the Russell Group

stand out?

What makes the Russell Group stand out?

Opportunities

- Field trips, research projects, facilities

Experiences

- Study abroad, industry partnerships

Careers

- Higher average earnings, high employability, wide range of services



Which Russell Group is right for you?

Sheffield's culture is:

- Academically excellent
- Community-focused
- Inquisitive
- International
- Friendly





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Competitive
applicants



Career exploration

Degree-focused:

- What jobs can your ideal degree lead you to?

Job-focused:

- What do you need to study to be eligible for your dream career?



Projects and tasters

EPQ

- In-depth subject exploration
- Develops academic skills
- Mimics university learning

MOOCs

- Learn new skills
- Pursue your interests
- Demonstrate commitment



Work experience

- See your industry in action
- Learn new skills
- See the day-to-day workplace
- Talk to professionals
- Explore career prospects
- Enhance your application





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University opportunities

- Public lectures
- Taster days
- Summer schools
- Sustained engagement
- Competitions
- Open Days



Super-curricular work

- Education podcasts
- TED talks
- Documentaries
- Additional reading
 - Trade/industry press
 - Journals and e-journals
 - Current affairs
 - University reading lists



Your own thing

- Travel
- Music
- Sport
- Writing
- Part time work
- Anything that develops your skills and qualities





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Of the activities listed...

Which have you
done in the past?

Which are you
working on now?

Which do you need
to do in the future?



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Personal

statements



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Stands out from the
crowd

Shows ambition

Demonstrates
enthusiasm

What do admissions
tutors look for in an
applicant?

Shows potential

Shares relevant
experiences

Showcases their skills
with evidence

Demonstrates their
knowledge



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Access +

You may be eligible for additional support through **Access+** if:

- You live in an area with a low rate of participation in higher education
- You're a care leaver
- You're care experienced
- You're estranged from family
- You're a carer
- You're a forced migrant
- You have parenting responsibilities
- You're entitled to free school meals

To check eligibility criteria visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/access-sheffield/eligibility



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As an **Access+** student, you'll be eligible for wraparound support:

- financial support; Funded Open Days, IT & Equipment Bursaries, Sheffield Bursary
- a dedicated team on hand to answer your questions about university
- help with study skills and revision
- A reduced grade offer equivalent to one grade below the standard A Level entry requirements
e.g. if the formal entry requirements for your course are ABB and you meet the criteria, you'll receive an alternative offer of BBB.



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The University of Sheffield



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Any questions?

Sheffield Live

Insight into career opportunities, study skills and support. Our team will be on hand

Taster sessions

Experience what it's like to study your chosen subject at the University of Sheffield

Chat to current students

Start a conversation with our student ambassadors and staff