How do we measure up?
You are looking for a university that offers top-quality teaching and excellent employment prospects. You want to study somewhere with a strong research culture, an institution which is at the forefront of discovery and innovation. You want a university that measures up to your expectations.

This guide is designed to give you a brief insight into the experiences and opportunities that Birmingham can offer you. We are already among the world’s leading universities and we are determined to secure and enhance this position in the years ahead. The University of Birmingham recently won the title of ’University of the Year for Graduate Employment’ in *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016* and continues to perform strongly in league tables and in graduate employment, as you will discover when reading this booklet.

We have clear plans and an unwavering ambition to be an exceptional university at which to pursue your postgraduate study, and you can be confident that we have the high-calibre staff and students who can make this possible.

We hope you enjoy this glimpse into just some of the exciting research and developments taking place here and we hope to see you on campus soon.
Then and now

In 1900 the University had:
- 678 students (189 undergraduates and 489 postgraduates)
- 28,000 volumes in its library

Now the University has:
- 34,160 students (which includes 20,100 undergraduates and 14,060 postgraduates)
- 1,128 individual programmes (478 undergraduate, 525 postgraduate and 125 continuing professional development)
- Over 2.5 million books and over 3 million manuscripts, including 80,000 rare and important items in our Special Collections dating back to 1471
Consistently high student satisfaction scores

The National Student Survey (NSS) – the most comprehensive measure of student satisfaction within higher education – has awarded the University of Birmingham an overall satisfaction mark of between 88 and 89% for the past four years, which places us firmly in the top ten of Russell Group institutions. In particular, our students praised the quality of teaching at Birmingham, with a good number of individual courses attaining an impressive 100% score in this category.

In the 2015 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 93% of respondents agreed that their supervisor has the skills and subject knowledge to support their research. Birmingham supervision scores are some of the highest in the Russell Group and this is testimony to the skills and hard work of the many excellent supervisors at the University.
Impressive graduate employment

In the 2016 Guardian University Guide, Birmingham was ranked fourth for employability, with 84.4% of our students going into graduate-level jobs or postgraduate study within six months of graduating; a figure higher than at Oxford.

Top ten global employability ranking

The global edition of The New York Times has ranked the University 55th in the world and 9th in UK for post-qualification employability. The rankings illustrate the top 150 universities most frequently selected by global employers.
Top ten most targeted UK university by employers

We were ranked 13th in the UK in *The Graduate Market in 2015* report by High Fliers Research, which identifies the institutions that are most targeted by leading companies. Each year we welcome large numbers of top graduate employers for campus careers fairs and recruitment promotions.
One of the **most beautiful** universities in Britain

The University’s campus was recently listed in the top ten most beautiful universities in Britain by *The Telegraph*. Birmingham is the original campus-based university. Occupying 276 acres of green and leafy parkland in the suburbs of Edgbaston and Selly Oak, the campus provides students with a beautiful environment for their teaching and learning experience.
Continually improving: £175 million transformation of historic Edgbaston campus

Our campus is expanding and improving all the time, with our most recent investments being the new Bramall Music Building, a brand-new multi-million pound sports centre, a redeveloped library with a cultural hub, a new postgraduate research hub at Westmere House, a new postgraduate teaching centre in the heart of campus, and a brand-new student hub housed in the iconic Aston Webb Building.
Our Nobel Prize winners

From revealing the structure of DNA to developing new treatments for heart disease and cancer, the research and work of our Nobel Prize winners has made an impact worldwide. The University has always been at the forefront of research, and eight of our alumni and staff have been recognised with Nobel Prizes.

To learn more about the Nobel Prize, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/fact/nobelprizewinners](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/fact/nobelprizewinners)

(from right to left)
Top Row: Sir Paul Nurse, Sir Peter Medawar, Professor Peter Bullock
Bottom Row: Sir Norman Haworth, Lord Robert Cecil, Maurice Wilkins
Join one of Britain’s ‘Ivy League’ of top research institutions

Birmingham is a member of the Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities. By choosing to study at a Russell Group university, you will have access to:

- The very best research
- An outstanding teaching and learning experience
- Unrivalled links with business and the public sector
- Staff who are working at the cutting edge of research in their disciplines

*The Observer* recently described the Russell Group as ‘the equivalent of the American Ivy League of prestigious universities’. Between us, the 24 members of the Russell Group undertake over two-thirds of the research carried out by UK universities and two-thirds of the very best research deemed ‘world leading’.
Your chance to be part of a global community

We are a founder member of Universitas 21 (U21), a prestigious consortium of research-led universities spanning 15 countries. There are numerous ways in which University of Birmingham students can engage with U21 including scholarships, travel bursaries and overseas summer schools hosted by U21 partners.

Members include:
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- McGill University
- University of British Columbia
- Fudan University
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Delhi
- University of Auckland
- National University of Singapore
- University of Amsterdam
- University of Connecticut
- University of Virginia
Top three for university sport

British Universities Colleges Sport (BUCS) has consistently ranked the University of Birmingham one of the top three sporting universities in the UK for inter-university sport.

Ten University of Birmingham alumni and students competed in the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics in track and field, archery, hockey, rowing and fencing, including Paralympic gold medal-winning rower Pamela Ralph.
From among the world’s many thousands of institutions, we are 64th in the QS World University Rankings 2014–15. In the 2015 Academic Ranking of World Universities (published by Jiao Tong University) we were ranked 101 out of 500 universities, placing us 10th out of the 38 UK institutions that appear in the list.

The 2016 Guardian University Guide ranked Birmingham 17th out of 119 institutions. Thirty-three of our subjects were in the top 20, five of which were placed in the top five. The Complete University Guide 2015 ranked Birmingham 17th out of the 123 institutions surveyed. Forty-three of our subjects were in the top 20, with five placing in the top five.
Placing you at the heart of British culture

A short train ride from Birmingham is Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of Shakespeare and home not only to the Royal Shakespeare Company, but also to our Shakespeare Institute, containing a library of over 60,000 volumes, including 3,000 early printed and rare books.

The University also has its own museum and art gallery, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, which has been described as one of the finest small art galleries in Europe.

You can also enjoy the Edwardian elegance of Winterbourne House and Garden. Recently restored, this Arts and Crafts-style house is set within seven acres of beautiful botanic gardens that are home to over 6,000 plant species from around the world.
One of Britain’s best-value universities

The University is ranked as one of the ten best-value universities in the UK by The Telegraph, which has confirmed that Birmingham gives you real value for money, considering such factors as:

- Academic league table standings
- Tuition fees
- Average local rental prices

Birmingham has been named the UK’s sixth best-value university in a study designed to make it easier for students to see where money goes the furthest at the UK’s top 20 universities. The study, conducted by online cash provider Ukash and based on figures from the Guardian 2014 University Guide League Table, considers a range of factors from university fees, car insurance and insurance to the cost of gym membership, the cost of attending events and free entry to the Students’ Union.
Helping you fund your postgraduate study

Birmingham is offering £24 million in postgraduate student support and scholarships to enable the most talented postgraduate students from across the world to realise their potential with us.

For further information about the funding opportunities that are available in your subject area and how to apply for them please visit our funding database www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding

Helping you earn while you learn

Birmingham offers you a wide range of student employment opportunities on campus. Around 1,500 students work for the University or its partners. Working for departments such as Academic Services, Student Recruitment, the Guild of Students or one of the University’s libraries will help you to build valuable office, research and management experience.

The Worklink team are the connection to on-campus casual work at the University of Birmingham, for University of Birmingham students.

www.worklink.bham.ac.uk
Who wants to be a millionaire?

The University of Birmingham has been rated among the top ten UK universities for producing millionaires. Research by investment firm Skandia highlights that 2.7% of the UK’s millionaires went to the University of Birmingham, placing us seventh overall. Birmingham graduates who struck it rich after leaving the institution include TV star Chris Tarrant, who made the bulk of his fortune with the aptly named game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*

The independent survey of 549 millionaires and multi-millionaires, which featured in *The Telegraph*, also revealed that 65% of those interviewed went to university, with a third achieving a Masters.
Birmingham named as one of the world’s best places to live

London and Birmingham are the highest-ranking cities for quality of life in the UK, followed by Glasgow and Aberdeen, an influential survey suggests. Vienna retains the top spot worldwide, with Zurich, Auckland and Munich following respectively, according to the Mercer Quality of Living Survey.
Visit us to see for yourself

Our open days offer a great opportunity to find out more about the area and the University. To see when the next open day is taking place and to book your place go to:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgopendays