

**HEIRNETWORK**

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL  
RESEARCH NETWORK

The Guardian University Guide:  
the methodology behind  
the compilation

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**University of Brighton**

**Session begins at 12...**

## The best UK universities 2021 - league table

Find a course at one of the top universities in the country

- [How to use the tables](#)
- [View the full guide](#)

Illustration: Janne Iivonen



### Find a course

All fields optional






Pick a subject area

2021	2020	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 15 months	Continuation
1	3	<a href="#">Oxford</a>	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.3	10	203	7.1	93	99
2	2	<a href="#">St Andrews</a>	98	94	93	80.8	11.2	7	211	6.3	84	97
3	1	<a href="#">Cambridge</a>	95.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.2	9.9	212	5.4	93	99
4	5	<a href="#">Durham</a>	81.5	86.1	85.3	71.8	14.7	5.9	188	7	89	98

# Objectives

- Explain principles of the guide
- Explain the methodology
  - Flow from metrics to subject rankings
  - Institutional rankings
  - Individual metrics
- Utility of rankings within providers
  - Explaining and reporting results
  - Which metrics support institutional research?
- Affecting the rankings
- Methodology detail
  - Changes in 2022 guide

# Principles of the guide

What the Guardian want from the guide, who it is trying to reach, in which ways this is a different remit to other domestic rankings

# Principles of the Guardian University Guide

Aimed at prospective undergraduates

... especially those from a background where HE in the UK is not familiar

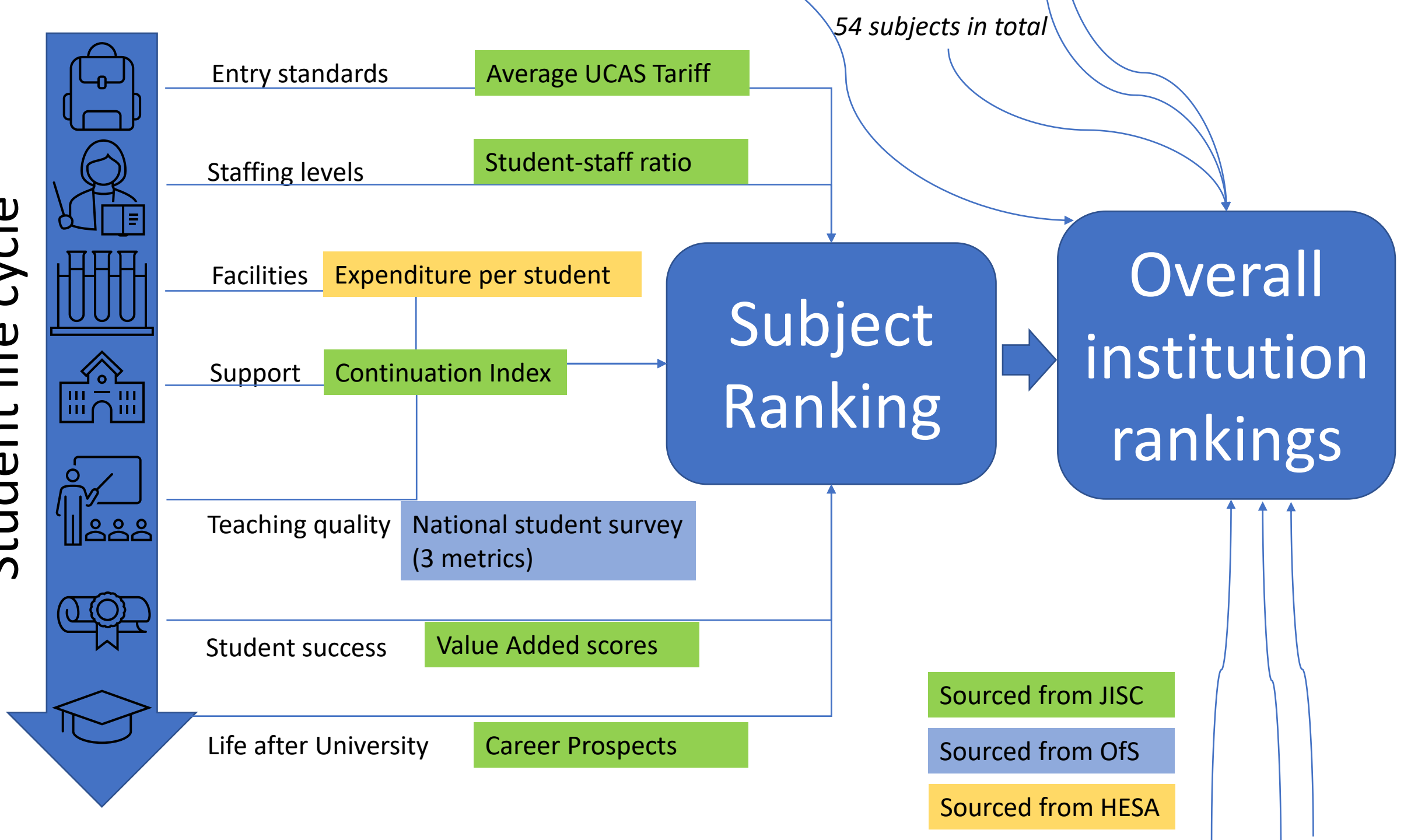
... at the point in their decision-making where they long-list options for further investigation

... with the assumption that they already know which subjects interest them

Is this  
unique?

- Other domestic rankings – the Complete University Guide and the Sunday Times – are more about overall university prestige
- The Guardian's guide is more subject-focused
- It seeks to account for latent differences between students using the guide
- There is no research metric
- We lead students to the courses that might interest them

# Student life cycle



# Questions?

Any questions about our principles, our objectives and the general approach we take?