

University	Geographical Area of Local Authority	Comparison Area Used	Number of Residents in Local Authority (LA)	Number of Residents in Built-Up Area (BUA)
Loughborough	103%	LA	84%	
LSE	8%	BUA		6367%
Reading	15%	BUA		207%
RHUL	29%	BUA		6367%
SOAS	8%	BUA		6367%
Surrey	100%	LA	69%	
Sussex	30%	BUA		309%

The geographical area data can be found on the [local government information website](#). The number of residents data can be found in the [Usual resident population](#) section of the [Nomis](#) site (a service provided by the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS)).

Based on [Table 4](#), there are seven universities which are considered to have a comparable local area to the University of York from the original 14 identified by the [research](#):

- University of Bath
- University of East Anglia (UEA)
- University of Exeter
- University of Kent
- Lancaster University
- Loughborough University
- University of Surrey

This includes one Russell Group university and six 1994 Group universities. From here, this group shall be called the Comparison Universities.

RUSSELL GROUP VS COMPARISON UNIVERSITIES

In this section, we investigate how the Comparison Universities compare to the Russell Group in terms of size and composition of student population. This is to further demonstrate why the Comparison Universities are a better group for the [Access and Participation Monitoring and Evaluation Team](#) to begin building networks with and sharing knowledge and experience.

We understand that in some instances the Russell Group may still be the best for comparison. In future work, both groups will be considered and chosen based on their relevance as a comparable group for each evaluation project.

The 1994 Group will not be considered as a comparison group. It was interesting to note which of the 1994 Group universities fell within the different groups discussed within the [research](#) section and [universities with similar local area](#) section. However, as stated in the introduction, the University of York left this group in 2012 and the group disbanded in 2013. Therefore, we no longer know how comparable the University of York is with this group since leaving and we do not know which other universities may have joined had it continued to exist.

All of the following data is open source data from [HESA - Table 1](#) and is shown as a percentage of York:

- Dark blue represents where the data is greater than 50% higher.
- Light blue represents where the data is less than 50% lower.

Table 5: Size and Composition of the Student Populations of the Russell Group (compared to York as a percentage)

University	Total Student Population	UK Student Population	Non-UK Student Population	UG Student Population	PG Student Population
York	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Birmingham	166%	167%	163%	165%	169%
Bristol	131%	129%	139%	145%	106%
Cambridge	98%	88%	124%	91%	110%
Cardiff	148%	153%	132%	157%	130%
Durham	91%	86%	106%	108%	58%

University	Total Student Population	UK Student Population	Non-UK Student Population	UG Student Population	PG Student Population
Edinburgh	167%	132%	267%	166%	168%
Exeter	133%	134%	131%	150%	101%
Glasgow	164%	142%	227%	147%	196%
Imperial	94%	60%	193%	76%	129%
King's	169%	136%	266%	144%	218%
Leeds	162%	157%	179%	182%	124%
Liverpool	129%	127%	134%	150%	89%
LSE	59%	26%	155%	38%	100%
Manchester	197%	160%	302%	195%	200%
Newcastle	122%	126%	113%	144%	82%
Nottingham	158%	167%	132%	187%	103%
Oxford	120%	108%	155%	105%	147%
Queen Mary	105%	95%	133%	109%	97%
Queen's Belfast	112%	121%	85%	118%	100%
Sheffield	135%	115%	193%	132%	141%
Southampton	94%	87%	115%	96%	90%
UCL	201%	133%	400%	146%	306%
Warwick	124%	106%	176%	127%	119%

[Table 5](#) shows the analysis of the Russell Group. Nine out of 23 universities in the Russell Group are within 50% of the University of York for student population and composition. However, the majority of universities within the Russell Group are over 50% larger than the University of York. This supports the research which showed (using statistical cluster analysis) that the majority of Russell Group universities differ from the University of York in terms of their structure.

*Table 6: Size and Composition of the Student Populations of the Comparison Universities
(compared to York as a percentage)*

University	Total Student Population	UK Student Population	Non-UK Student Population	UG Student Population	PG Student Population
York	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bath	82%	81%	84%	91%	63%
UEA	84%	94%	52%	94%	63%
Exeter	133%	134%	131%	150%	101%
Kent	82%	89%	61%	101%	46%
Lancaster	77%	71%	94%	84%	63%
Loughborough	81%	85%	67%	97%	51%
Surrey	73%	73%	73%	87%	47%

[Table 6](#) shows the analysis of the Comparison Universities. These seven universities were identified as comparable to the University of York based on 'prestige', structure and local area and do not differ noticeably when compared using the 50% more or less comparison. The University of Kent and the University of Surrey are the only universities which differ. Both have less than 50% the size of the University of York's postgraduate population, but only by less than 5 percentage points.

WORKED EXAMPLE OF COMPARISON UNIVERSITIES

In this section, we provide a worked example of how identifying the Comparison Universities will enable us to better evaluate our work within Access and Participation and begin to share best practices across institutions. All Access and Participation data is taken from the OfS' [Access and Participation data dashboard](#).