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News Release

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Oxford leagues ahead – 2010 interactive university guide

[The Complete University Guide](#) today publishes its latest league tables for universities in the UK, supported by a wealth of information to help would-be students make the right choice of course and university.

The main league table sees Oxford University retaining its position as the leading university in the UK, according to The Complete University Guide's authoritative on-line interactive guide to 113 of the United Kingdom's universities.

It is again ranked first in the UK, ahead of Cambridge and all other rivals.

However, in separate listings for the leading universities and higher education institutions covering 62 subjects, Cambridge takes top place in 33 of the 46 for which it is listed. Oxford was in the top ten for all 37 subjects it offers, heading the national table for eight of them.

Other highly rated universities are Imperial College, the London School of Economics, Durham and Warwick. Some of the newer universities make a powerful showing including the University of Hertfordshire and Nottingham Trent University.

The main tables and other information are published in today's Independent newspaper.

The Complete University Guide's pioneering on-line interactivity allows users to break away from the rigidities of newspaper and book-based guides.

Users are able to design their own league table by choosing the criteria that are directly important to them and then weighting them to reflect the significance they attach to them, such as weighting student satisfaction over entry standards or employment prospects over good degrees. This goes a long way to meeting criticisms that rankings reproduce an out-dated view of the UK university system.

Bernard Kingston, principal author of The Complete University Guide, said: "Competition for a university place is likely to be intense over the next year or so. It is essential that would-be students make the best choices in good time and on the best information available to them.

"The Complete University Guide allows would-be students to adapt the main table to their needs and explore the listings for individual subjects without charge and with confidence that the information is up to date and accurate."

This year's league table includes information on the research performance of UK universities – the first for seven years. It is the first of the league tables to be published in 2009 to do so.

Visitors to the site will also have access to information about which universities have the best sports and recreational facilities, which offer the most generous bursaries and scholarships, an extensive list of relevant internet resources, and profiles of cities with two or more universities.

The league table and other information are available at www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk.

Users will be able to search for the best-performing universities across 62 academic subjects, and will also find details of graduate employment rates and starting salaries for specific academic subjects.

For the first time this year, the on-line guide will give users access to subject-specific career and related information provided through the AGCAS and Graduate Prospects Options Series. From The CUG site users will be able to obtain the most authoritative advice on career paths that might be open to them on graduation.

Nova Jayne Heath, Director of Constable & Robinson Ltd., said: "The Complete University Guide is rapidly establishing itself as the place where young people find the information they need to make an informed choice of university course in a way that is familiar to them.

"The association with AGCAS will give students clear and accurate information on the careers they may be able to follow on graduation. This is vital when they make their choice of course even though graduate may seem a long way ahead."

The on-line Guide, a partnership between publishers Constable & Robinson and Mayfield University Consultants, is supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

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Notes for Editors

1 Mayfield University Consultants has compiled university league tables for more than 10 years. As in 2008, the main tables were published in The Independent.

2 The main table is based on nine measures: Student Satisfaction, Research Assessment, Entry Standards, Student:Staff Ratio; Spending on Academic Services; Spending on Facilities; Good Honours degrees achieved; Graduate Prospects and Completion. The Subject tables are based on four: Student Satisfaction, Research Assessment; Entry Standards and Graduate Prospects.

3 The data used for the guide is supplied from official sources, and is meticulously checked with the universities before publication.

3 University League Tables should be seen in the overall context of choosing the course and university best suited to an individual's needs.