

BUCS Team Racing Championship Proposed Changes

Subject

Mixed Team Racing Championships - Sailing

Authors

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Proposal Summary

Alterations to the structure of the Mixed Team Racing Championships to facilitate the addition of a sixth UK region. This will involve the addition of a 6th Regional Qualifier, removal of Playoffs and the addition of a Trophy Finals event. These changes will increase event capacity, allowing a greater number of teams to enter, and help to improve the quality of competition at all levels of University sailing.

Background

Currently, BUSA comprises 47 University Sailing Clubs (USCs) in 5 regions across the UK, with around 2500 student members. There are four BUCS disciplines in sailing; Fleet Racing, Team Racing, Match Racing and Yachting. Team Racing is the largest of these disciplines, with 43 USCs and over 100 teams regularly entering the competition.

The Mixed Team Racing Championships competition is currently split into a series of 5 Regional Qualifiers, comprised of up to 20 teams each, open to any BUSA USC within that region on a first-come, first-served basis (unless the region is over-subscribed, in which case an institution that has entered more than one team will have their most recently entered team rejected in order for a first team from another institution to compete).

The regional qualifiers are held simultaneously* on one weekend in early February, and from each region the top 4 teams are invited directly to the Championship Finals. The next 3 teams are invited to a national Playoffs competition held at the beginning of March. At Playoffs, the 15 teams from all 5 regions compete and the top 7 are then invited through to the Championship Finals. The Championship Finals are held over three days where 27 BUSA teams and the top ranked team from the Irish Universities Sailing Association (IUSA) compete. The top 8 institutions (excluding the IUSA invitational team) are awarded BUCS points.

Following a strategic review, there is scope to add a 6th region to BUSA and so changes must be made to the structure of the Mixed Team Racing Championships as a result. It is not possible to add a 6th region without adjusting how teams are invited to the Championship Finals, as there are limited USCs with the capacity to host an event with more than 28 teams.

Considering the addition of a 6th region gave BUSA the opportunity to evaluate the Mixed Team Racing competition structure as a whole. A consultation of the membership based on several proposed models was launched in mid 2019. One model was chosen and amended based on feedback received from the membership during the consultation period and from rigorous BUSA Team Racing sub-committee and national committee meetings over the season. The finalized model was accepted by the BUSA committee in March 2020.

**with the exception of the Scottish region (run by Scottish Student Sport), which runs a 3-weekend league event between November and February in place of a single weekend qualifier.*

Proposal

We propose the addition of a 6th Regional Qualifier to the qualifying stage of the Mixed Team Racing Championship. We also propose the removal of the existing Playoffs event, to be replaced with a Trophy Final to be delivered separately to the Championship Final.

Adding a 6th region (Eastern) has created a more balanced distribution of University Sailing Clubs *(based on geographical location) and allowed space to expand for both BUSA USCs and competitive student sailing as a whole.

Western	Midlands	Northern	South-Central	Scotland
Bath	Birmingham	Bangor	Bournemouth	Aberdeen
Bristol	Cambridge	Durham	Brunel	Dundee
Cardiff	East Anglia	Lancaster	Imperial	Edinburgh
Exeter	Loughborough	Leeds	London	Glasgow
Plymouth	Nottingham	Liverpool	Oxford	Highlands and Islands
Swansea	Kent	Manchester	Oxford Brookes	Queens Belfast
West England	Sussex	Newcastle	Portsmouth	St. Andrews
	Warwick	York	Reading	Strathclyde
		Sheffield	Southampton	
		Sheffield Hallam	Southampton Solent	
			Surrey	

Table 1: Previous BUSA Regions

Western	Midlands	Northern	Eastern	Southern	Scotland
Bath	<i>Aberystwyth</i>	Durham	Brunel	Bournemouth	Aberdeen
Bristol	Birmingham	Lancaster	Cambridge	Oxford	Dundee
Cardiff	Bangor	Leeds	East Anglia	Oxford Brookes	Edinburgh
Exeter	<i>Derby</i>	Liverpool	Imperial	Portsmouth	<i>Edinburgh Napier</i>
<i>Falmouth</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	Manchester	Kent	Southampton	Glasgow
Plymouth	Loughborough	Newcastle	London	Southampton Solent	Highlands and Islands
Swansea	Nottingham	York	Reading	Sussex	<i>Queens Belfast</i>
West England	Sheffield			Surrey	St. Andrews
	Sheffield Hallam				Strathclyde
	Warwick				

Table 2: New BUSA region structure. Clubs in italics are expected to join BUSA within the next few years.

Alongside the proposed changes to the Regional Qualifiers, it is also proposed to change the structure of the rest of the Mixed Team Racing competition to incorporate a Mixed Team Racing Championship Final and Mixed Team Racing Trophy Final (*see Appendix A*). The proposed event format change will involve the removal of the Playoffs event and introduction of a Trophy Final event, where BUCS points could be available. The Championship Final, where BUCS points are currently available, will remain the same.

The new Trophy Final could be run on the same weekend, in place of the current Playoffs weekend (early March) or closer to the Championship Finals to elongate competitors' seasons (Mid April). These two dates are proposed is due to space in the student calendar, availability of volunteers, and to avoid clashing with institutional exam periods.

With the addition of a Trophy Final, the qualifying process would be adjusted slightly. From each Regional Qualifier, teams placed 1st-4th would be invited to the Championship Final and teams placed 5th-8th would be invited to the Trophy Final (*see Appendix A, Figure 2*).

Justification

Increase competitor numbers at Qualifiers:

BUSA is creating a 6th region in order to combat the current oversubscription of teams and accommodate the inclusion of newer and smaller USCs who are intending to start competing in the Mixed Team Racing Championships (Falmouth University, Aberystwyth University, University of Lincoln, University of Derby, Queen's University Belfast, and Edinburgh Napier University) (*see Table 2, above*).

This will also allow the two newest USCs in the competition (University of Kent and University of Sussex) to be moved out of the 'Midlands' region where they were temporarily placed (in 2014 and 2019 respectively), and into the more appropriate, but currently full, 'Southern' region.

A 6th Regional Qualifier will allow some institutions to enter additional teams (up to 3 per institution) which have previously been rejected due to oversubscribed regions and will increase the number of teams entered to the qualifying stage of the competition.

Increase competitor numbers progressing past Qualifiers:

Under the current system, 27 BUCS teams attend the Championship Finals, and a further 8 attend Playoffs, meaning 35 teams in total progress through Qualifiers each year. By moving to a Championship and Trophy Final structure, 8 teams will progress through Qualifiers from each of the 6 Regional Qualifiers (4 to Championship and 4 to Trophy), meaning a total of 48 teams progress past Qualifiers each year (*see Appendix B*).

Quality of competition:

One of our main objectives for the change is to increase the number of teams able to compete in later stages of the championships, which would also extend the training and competitive season for these teams. This would also enable more teams to win BUCS Points whilst still developing the Team Racing section of their club activities.

With more teams (especially from underrepresented regions) progressing through Qualifiers, prolonging their competition season and getting the extra experience of a high standard event, there should be a 'trickle down' effect over the next few seasons as the standard of Team Racing improves progressively across the whole of the UK.

Better institutional support for clubs:

Moving to a Championship and Trophy event format will provide more support for clubs. From polling our members, the funding many clubs receive from their institution is dependent on performance at BUCS events. Whilst simply attending a Trophy event will eventually benefit clubs as they get to race teams on a similar level and train for longer, being able to compete for BUCS points adds incentive for clubs to train and perform their best.

The eventual financial reward from many institutions should further enhance the performance improvement process by allowing teams to get professional coaches, attend more events and invest in new equipment to train with.

Event delivery experience:

Hosting two smaller Finals events will increase the number of institutions capable of hosting a BUCS Sailing event. This will provide more clubs with the opportunity to host a high standard event with the support of BUSA, giving them valuable event management experience.

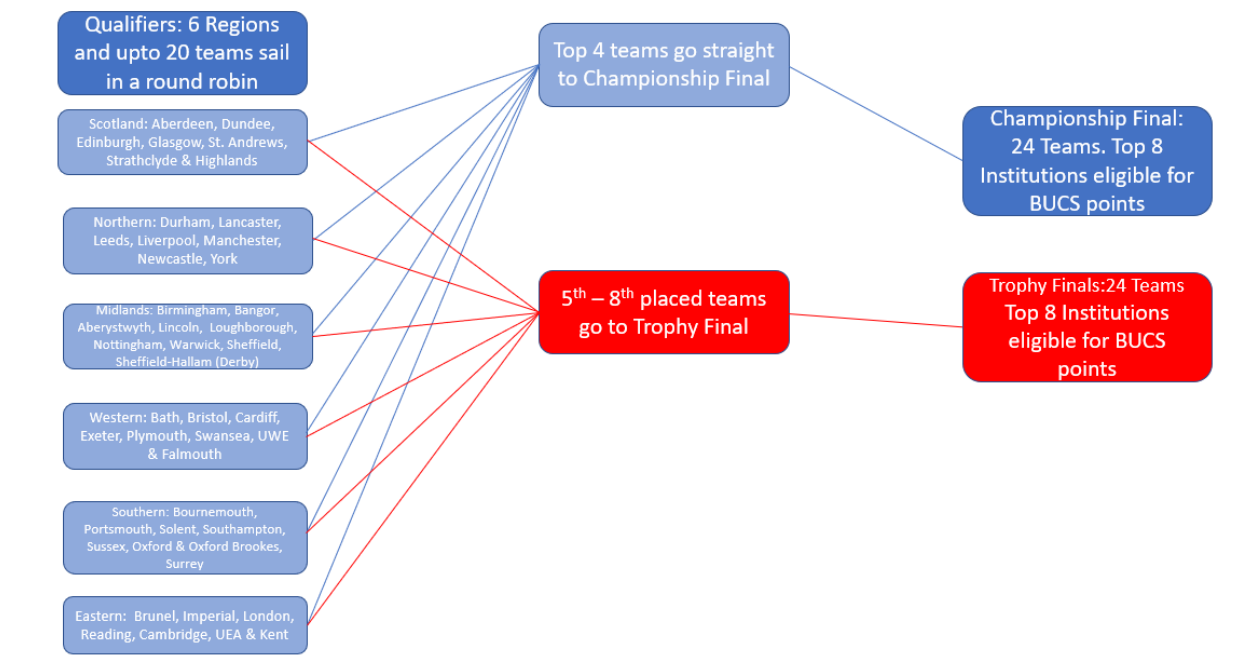
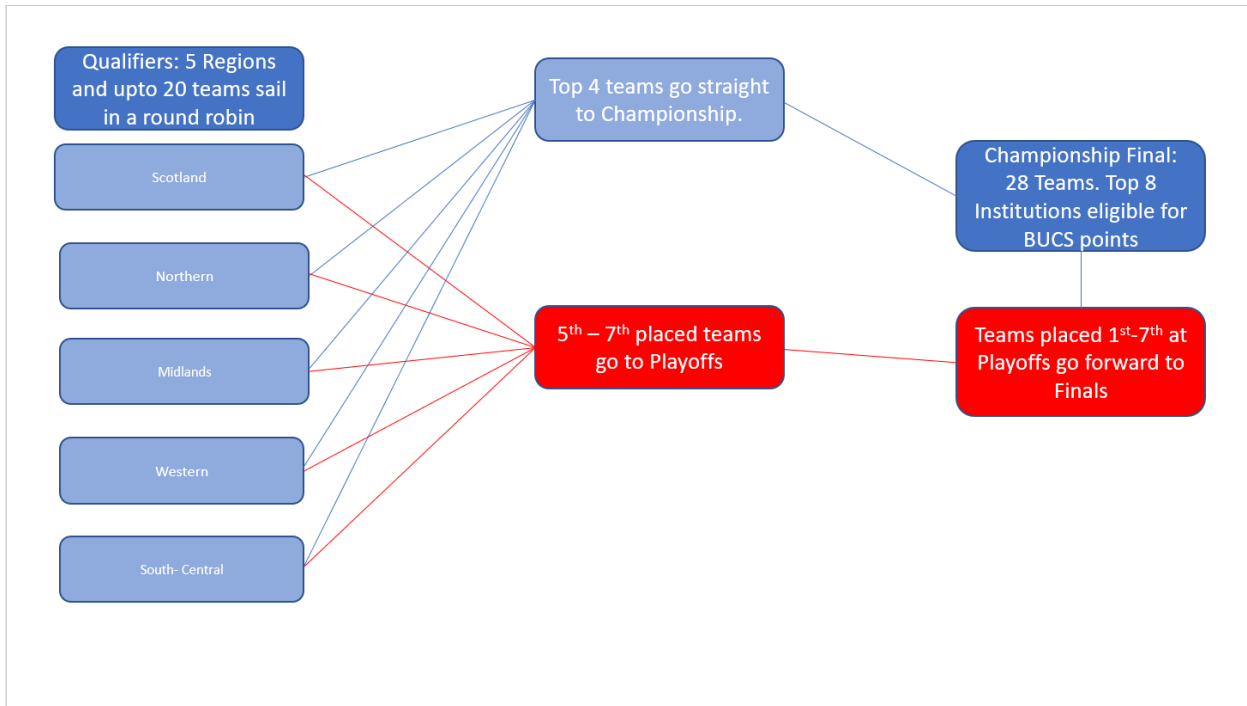
Summary

In conclusion, introducing a 6th Regional Qualifier and changing the Mixed Team Racing Championship format to include a Trophy Final will allow more teams to participate, promote growth and development of clubs, improve the standard of competition at BUCS events and increase the standard of sailing across the UK as a whole

Proposed Date of Change

Effective for the BUCS Team Racing Championships 2020-2021.

Appendix A - Event Format Change.



Appendix B - Models showing the Current and Proposed System (slides taken from BUSA committee proposal, presented to the BUSA committee in March 2020).

Using Team Racing BUCS results since the 2013-14 season, a model was created of all the teams in the country and their average finishing position. During the proposal to the BUSA committee, this model was updated to show how results would be expected to change with a 6th region and a Trophy & Championship Finals.

“Models are taken from average BUCS Team Racing performance since 2013-14. Due to the variable nature of sailing, dependency on wind conditions, and the quick turnover of students, clubs do have ‘good’ and ‘bad’ years. However, as the model now covers 6 years it has become more reflective of the USCs structure and support and is generally fairly accurate. However, to account for the variability, a lower boundary has been created to demonstrate which teams are likely to be ‘in contention’ for the qualifying places.”

Predicted University Performance – Current System
(based on average BUCS Team Racing results between 2014-2019)

Scotland	Northern	Midlands	Western	South-Central	
Strathclyde 1	16 Durham 1	15 Cambridge 1	2 Exeter 1	4 Southampton 1	7
Edinburgh 1	16 Newcastle 1	15 Cambridge 2	5 Bristol 1	11 Oxford 1	8
Glasgow 1	26 Manchester 1	19 Loughborough 1	12 Cardiff 1	12 Southampton 2	11
Strathclyde 2	30 Liverpool 1	27 Cambridge 3	18 Exeter 2	20 Southampton 3	20
Edinburgh 2	30 Leeds 1	32 Warwick 1	21 Swansea 1	23 Imperial 1	25
St Andrews 1	32 Durham 2	33 Birmingham 1	25 Plymouth 1	23 London 1	28
Glasgow 2	34 Newcastle 2	34 Nottingham 1	30 Bath 1	26 Portsmouth 1	28
Aberdeen 1	37 Manchester 2	35 Birmingham 2	33 Bristol 2	33 Oxford 2	29
Edinburgh 3	39 Sheffield 1	35 Birmingham 3	39 Cardiff 2	33 Solent 1	31
Dundee 1	39 York 1	37 Loughborough 2	39 Bath 2	34 Imperial 2	35
Strathclyde 3	39 Lancaster 1	39 Nottingham 2	39 Swansea 2	38 London 2	35
St Andrews 2	39 Durham 3	39 Warwick 2	39 Plymouth 2	40 Portsmouth 2	36
Glasgow 3	40 Newcastle 3	40 Kent 1	40 Exeter 3	41 Surrey 1	39
Aberdeen 2	44 Bangor 1	40 UEA 1	41 Bristol 3	42 Portsmouth 3	40
Dundee 2	45 Bangor 2	41 Nottingham 3	42 Plymouth 3	43 Reading	40
Highlands and Islands 1	45 Leeds 2	41 Sussex 1	42 Swansea 3	43 Oxford 3	42
St Andrews 3	45 Liverpool 2	43 Loughborough 3	43 UWE 1	43 Oxford Brookes 1	43
Aberdeen 3	46 Sheffield Hallam	44 Sussex 2	43 Cardiff 3	44 Solent 2	43
Dundee 3	47 Manchester 3	44 Kent 2	44 Bath 3	45 Bournemouth	44
	York 2	45	UWE 2	47 Surrey 2	45
	Lancaster 2	45		Brunel 1	46
	Sheffield 2	45		Imperial 3	46
				Oxford Brookes 2	46
				Brunel 2	50

Teams likely to progress straight to finals

Teams likely to go to playoffs

Teams likely to be in contention for playoffs places

Teams progressing past qualifiers	35
Additional teams 'in contention'	13
TOTAL	48

Predicted University Performance – Proposed System
(based on average BUCS Team Racing results between 2014-2019)

Scotland	Northern	Midlands	Western	South-Central	Eastern	
Strathclyde 1	16 Durham 1	15 Loughborough 1	12 Exeter 1	4 Southampton 1	6.8 Cambridge 1	1.5
Edinburgh 1	16 Newcastle 1	15 Warwick 1	21 Bristol 1	11 Oxford 1	8.3 Cambridge 2	5
Glasgow 1	26 Manchester 1	19 Birmingham 1	25 Cardiff 1	12 Southampton 2	11 Cambridge 3	18
Strathclyde 2	30 Liverpool 1	27 Nottingham 1	30 Exeter 2	20 Southampton 3	20 Imperial 1	25
Edinburgh 2	30 Leeds 1	32 Birmingham 2	33 Swansea 1	23 Portsmouth 1	28 London 1	28
St Andrews 1	32 Durham 2	33 Sheffield 1	35 Plymouth 1	23 Oxford 2	29 Imperial 2	35
Glasgow 2	34 Newcastle 2	34 Birmingham 3	39 Bath 1	26 Solent 1	31 London 2	35
Aberdeen 1	37 Manchester 2	35 Loughborough 2	39 Bristol 2	33 Portsmouth 2	36 Kent 1	40
Edinburgh 3	39 York 1	37 Nottingham 2	39 Cardiff 2	33 Surrey 1	39 Reading	40
Dundee 1	39 Lancaster 1	39 Warwick 2	39 Bath 2	34 Portsmouth 3	40 UEA 1	41
Strathclyde 3	39 Durham 3	39 Bangor 1	40 Swansea 2	38 Oxford 3	42 Kent 2	44
St Andrews 2	39 Newcastle 3	40 Bangor 2	41 Plymouth 2	40 Sussex 1	42 Brunel 1	46
Glasgow 3	40 Leeds 2	41 Nottingham 3	42 Exeter 3	41 Oxford Brookes 1	43 Imperial 3	46
Aberdeen 2	44 Liverpool 2	43 Loughborough 3	43 Bristol 3	42 Sussex 2	43 Brunel 2	46
Dundee 2	45 Manchester 3	44 Sheffield Hallam 1	44 Plymouth 3	43 Solent 2	43	
Highlands and Islands 1	45 York 2	45 Sheffield 2	45 Swansea 3	43 Bournemouth	44	
St Andrews 3	46 Lancaster 2	45	UWE 1	43 Surrey 2	45	
Aberdeen 3	46		Cardiff 3	44 Oxford Brookes 2	46	
Dundee 3	47		Bath 3	45		
			UWE 2	47		

Teams likely to progress to Championships

Teams likely to go to Trophy

Teams likely to be in contention for Trophy places

Teams progressing past qualifiers	48
Additional teams 'in contention'	14
TOTAL	62

Appendix C - Playoffs Results and Progression since 2013-14

Playoffs results analysis from the BUSA Development Review from 2019, showing teams progressions by region. Slides not including the 2019-20 Playoffs results as these were not available at the time of the 2019 Development Review.

2018-19		2016-17		2015-16		2014-15		2013-14	
Team	Region	Team	Region	Team	Region	Team	Region	Team	Region
Progressed		Progressed		Progressed		Progressed		Progressed	
Oxford Blue	South-Central	Loughborough Purple	Midlands	Bristol Red	Western	Cardiff Black	Western	Cambridge Pink	Midlands
Loughborough Purple	Midlands	Southampton White	South-Central	Southampton Red	South-Central	Cambridge Pink	Midlands	Portsmouth Black	South-Central
Bath Blue	Western	Swansea Green	Western	Swansea Green	Western	Warwick Black	Midlands	Durham Purple	Northern
Exeter Black	Western	Plymouth White	Western	Cambridge Yellow	Midlands	Exeter Blue	Western	Swansea Green	Western
London White	South-Central	Durham Purple	Northern	Swansea White	Western	Liverpool Green	Northern	Plymouth Purple	Western
Bath Black	Western	Imperial Blue	South-Central	Portsmouth Purple	South-Central	Southampton Pink	South-Central	Glasgow Black	Scotland
Nottingham Green	Midlands	London Purple	South-Central	Birmingham Green	Midlands	Birmingham Red	Midlands	Portsmouth Purple	South-Central
Did Not Progress		Did Not Progress		Did Not Progress		Did Not Progress		Did Not Progress	
Glasgow Yellow	Scotland	Manchester Yellow	Northern	Warwick Black	Midlands	Portsmouth Purple	South-Central	Did Not Progress	
Aberdeen Blue	Scotland	Cardiff Black	Western	Solent Black	South-Central	Cardiff Red	Western	Exeter Blue	Western
Leeds Pink	Northern	Birmingham Purple	Midlands	Manchester Yellow	Northern	York Black	Northern	York Black	Northern
York Black	Northern	Durham Black	Northern	Durham Black	Northern	Edinburgh Green	Scotland	Southampton Blue	South-Central
Imperial White	South-Central	Strathclyde Red	Scotland	Edinburgh White	Scotland	Leeds Green	Northern	Edinburgh White	Scotland
Dundee Black	Scotland	St Andrews Pink	Scotland	Durham Blue	Northern	Glasgow Pink	Scotland	Dundee Black	Scotland
Cambridge Purple	Midlands	Loughborough Pink	Midlands	Edinburgh Green	Scotland	Solent Red	South-Central	Nottingham White	Midlands
Liverpool White	Northern	Aberdeen Blue	Scotland	Strathclyde Red	Scotland	Glasgow Green	Scotland	Bangor Blue	Northern

Progression (/15)	
Scotland	1
Northern	3
Midlands	10
South-Central	10
Western	12

Appendix D - Team numbers reviews from 2011-2019

SUSA	Teams 2011	Teams 2012	Teams 2013	Teams 2014	Teams 2015	Teams 2016	Teams 2017	Teams 2018	Teams 2019		North	Teams 2011	Teams 2012	Teams 2013	Teams 2014	Teams 2015	Teams 2016	Teams 2017	Teams 2018	Teams 2019		Vest	Teams 2011	Teams 2012	Teams 2013	Teams 2014	Teams 2015	Teams 2016	Teams 2017	Teams 2018	Teams 2019	
Aberdeen	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	2			Durham	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		Bath	3	2	1	1	1	3	3	3		
Dundee	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	2			Lancaster	1	1	1	1	2	2	1		1		Bristol	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	3		
Edinburgh	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			Leeds	2	1	1	2	1	1	2		2		Cardiff	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3		
Glasgow	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			Liverpool	2	3	3	2	2	2	2		2		Exeter	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
St Andrews	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	3			Manchester	2	2	3	2	3	3	3		3		Plymouth	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Strathclyde	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3			Newcastle	3	3	3	3	3	3	2		3		Swansea	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3		
Highlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			Sheffield	3	2	1	1	0	1	2		2		UWE	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	1		
											Sheffield Hallam	1	1	3	2	1	1	1		0												
											York	3	1	3	2	2	2	2		2												
											Bangor	0	0	0	2	1	1	2		1												
7 universities	13	13	16	17	18	15	17	17			10 universities	20	17	21	20	18	19	20	19			7 universities	19	18	14	16	15	19	20	17		
Mid	Teams 2011	Teams 2012	Teams 2013	Teams 2014	Teams 2015	Teams 2016	Teams 2017	Teams 2018	Teams 2019		South-Central	Teams 2011	Teams 2012	Teams 2013	Teams 2014	Teams 2015	Teams 2016	Teams 2017	Teams 2018	Teams 2019		OVERALL										
Birmingham	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3			Bournemouth	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1			2011	83								
Cambridge	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3			Brunel	2	1	1	0	0	1	2		2		2012	78									
Loughborough	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3			Imperial	1	1	0	1	1	0	1		3		2013	78									
Nottingham	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			London	2	1	1	2	2	2	2		2		2014	84									
Warwick	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2			Oxford	3	3	-	3	3	3	3		3		2015	83									
Kent	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2			Oxford Brookes	1	0	-	0	1	2	2		1		2016	87									
UEA	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			Portsmouth	2	2	3	3	2	3	2		2		2017	94									
											Reading	0	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		2018	17									
Sussex (Temp 2019)									2		Southampton Solent	2	2	2	2	1	1	2		2		2019	75									
											Southampton	4	4	3	3	3	3	2		3												
7 universities	14	13	14	14	15	15	17	18			9 universities	17	17	13	17	17	19	20	21													
Additional universities											Bournemouth Arts	0	1	0	0																	
Aberystwyth	2	0	0	0																												
Coventry	1	0	0	0																												
Oxford	-	-	3	-																												
Oxford Brookes	-	-	1	-																												