

Education in Oxford

As part of the latest Census 2021 release on Education statistics, the ONS has made available data and supporting information on this topic. The Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) has produced a summary report with the latest Census figures. This summary report will explore Census 2021 figures on schoolchildren and full-time students, and highest level of qualification in Oxford compared to the county and national averages. For more information on this topic, please visit [Education: Census 2021 in England and Wales](#).

Key findings:

- In terms of the Schoolchildren and full-time students' indicator¹ (aged 5 years and over), 35.1% of respondents selected *student*; this is higher than both Oxfordshire and England averages at 21.9% and 20.4% respectively.
- In terms of highest qualifications achieved² in Oxford, the largest group was made up by those usual residents aged 16 years and over who selected *level 4* (48.1%), and *level 3* (20.6%).
- The proportion of usual residents aged 16 years and over who selected *level 4* in Oxford is higher than both Oxfordshire and England averages at 42.0% and 33.9% respectively.
- Between 2011 and 2021, the biggest increase was recorded in the proportion of residents within *level 4* (+5.5%), followed by *level 3* (+2.8%).
- The largest decrease was recorded for those *Other qualifications* (-4.6%), followed by *level 1 qualifications* (-2.2%).
- The proportion of residents aged 16+ years without qualifications is 12.6% and shows a decrease of 1.0% from the previous Census.

¹ A direct comparison between 2011 and 2021 figures cannot be made for this indicator as the definition of 'Schoolchildren and full-time students' in 2011 included residents aged 4 years and over, whereas 2021 figures include residents aged 5 years and over.

² This dataset includes various levels of education qualifications and their classification. More details can be found in the appendix section of this report.

Figure 1. Highest qualification changes between Oxford in 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1. Table of qualifications and their classification.

Qualifications
No qualifications
Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 1 to 4 GCSEs grade A* to C , Any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), 1 AS level, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic or Essential Skills
Level 2 qualifications: 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4), O levels (passes), CSEs (grade 1), School Certification, 1 A level, 2 to 3 AS levels, VCEs, Intermediate or Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First or General Diploma, RSA Diploma
Apprenticeship
Level 3 qualifications: 2 or more A levels or VCEs, 4 or more AS levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression or Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advance Diploma, NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
Level 4 qualifications and above: degree (BA, BSc), higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ level 4 to 5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy)
Other: vocational or work-related qualifications, other qualifications achieved in England or Wales, qualifications achieved outside England or Wales (equivalent not stated or unknown)

Sources:

[Education: Census 2021 in England and Wales, ONS, 2023](#)

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