

Research income for Law – 2014/15 to 2019/20

This briefing presents findings on research income in the field of Law for the period of 2014/15 to 2019/20 using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)¹.

Research income sources – Law 2014/15 to 2019/20 (£000s)

Source of Income	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	5 year % change
BEIS Research Councils, The Royal Society, British Academy and The Royal Society of Edinburgh	6,570	8,575	8,524	7,432	9,093	10,205	55.3%
UK central government bodies/local authorities, health and hospital authorities	2,237	3,689	3,697	3,419	2,881	3,058	36.7%
UK central government tax credits for research and development expenditure	14	1	1	0	0	0	-100.0%
UK industry, commerce and public corporations	337	293	352	451	304	454	34.7%
UK-based charities (open competitive process)	2,428	2,468	2,990	3,423	2,878	3,077	26.7%
UK-based charities (other)	237	691	484	664	656	722	204.6%
EU government bodies	5,289	4,961	4,370	5,049	5,795	4,595	-13.1%
EU-based charities (open competitive process)	6	14	26	24	106	374	6133.3%
EU industry, commerce and public corporations	56	7	75	89	39	88	57.1%
EU (excluding UK) other	481	545	468	665	516	476	-1.0%
Non-EU-based charities (open competitive process)	332	253	434	722	668	355	6.9%
Non-EU industry, commerce and public corporations	260	439	348	312	407	401	54.2%
Non-EU other	715	774	747	1,620	1,656	1,045	46.2%
UK other sources	1,284	379	311	636	321	477	-62.9%
Total	20,246	23,089	22,827	24,506	25,320	25,327	25.1%

¹ **Source:** HESA Finance Records 2014/15 to 2019/20. © Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited. Data extracted in May 2022 from Heidi Plus, the online data dissemination tool for the HE sector.

Advice on full comparability with prior years: From 1 January 2015 the financial reporting for universities changed in line with Financial Reporting Standards (FRS) 102. Due to these changes, absolute comparability with HESA finance records pre and post 2014/15 and 2015/16 may not be possible.

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Research Income in Law – UK Sources

Law Funding - UK Sources (£000s)	2014/15	2019/20	% Increase/Decrease	Difference
All UK Sources	13,107	17,993	37%	4,886
All UK Sources (Inflation Adjusted)	14,252	17,993	26%	3,741
UK Government Sources Only	8,821	13,263	50%	4,442
UK Government Sources Only (Inflation Adjusted)	9,591	13,263	38%	3,672

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Research income in Law – International Sources

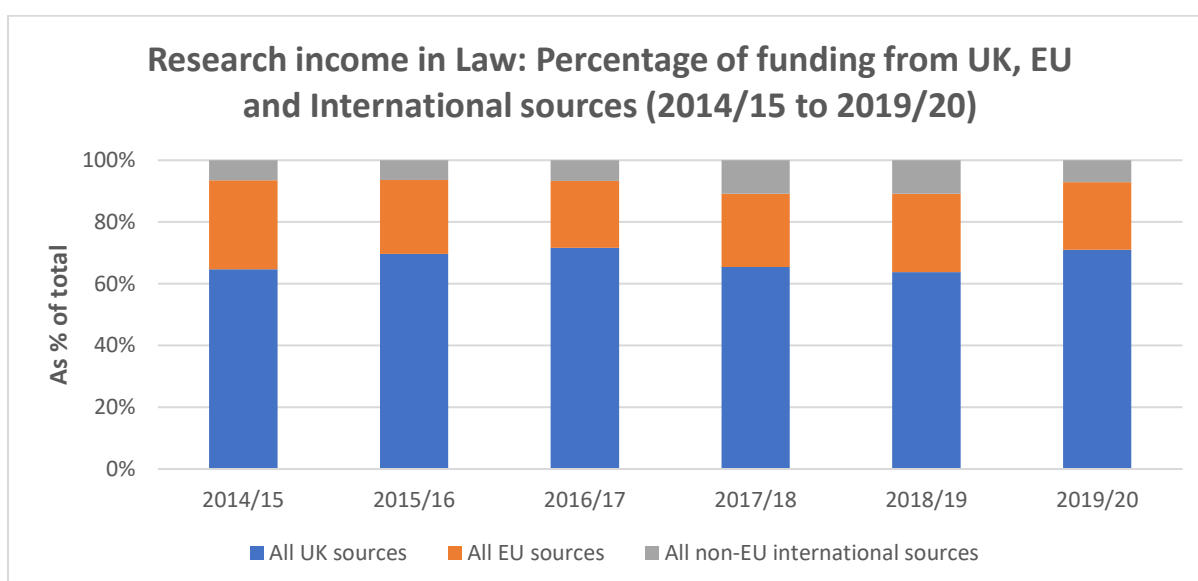
Law Funding - Intl Sources (£000s)	2014/15	2019/20	% Increase/Decrease	Difference
All EU Sources	5,832	5,533	-5%	-299
All Non-EU Intl Sources	1,307	1,801	38%	494

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Overall trends

- In 2019/20, UK Law schools received £25.3m in research funding. This is an increase of only £7,000 from the previous year and amounts to a decrease in real terms when accounting for inflation.
- In the most recent year, an increase in funding from the Research Councils (+£1.1m) made up for decreases in income from EU and Non-EU sources, in particular EU government sources (-£1.2m).

Research income in Law: Breakdown of funding from UK, EU and International sources (2014/15 to 2019/20)

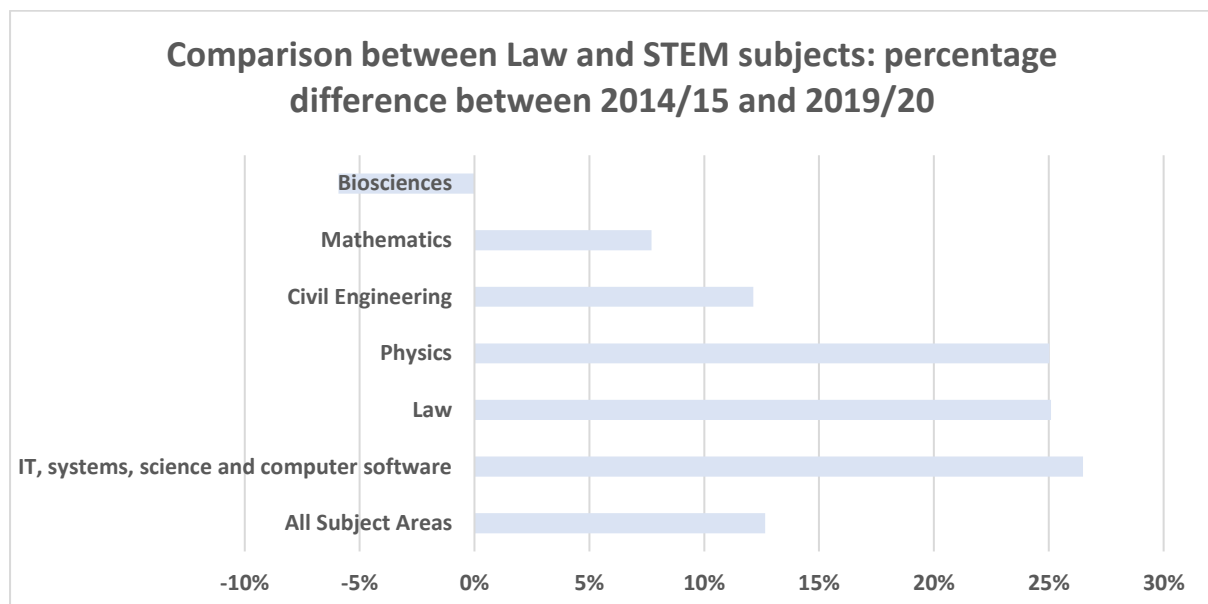


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- The proportion of funding from UK sources rose sharply in 2019/20 to 71%, up from 64% the previous year, while funding from EU and non-EU sources fell to 22% and 7% respectively. This is a reflection of the aforementioned fall in international funding (EU and non-EU) over the last year. The latest figures come close to the proportions of funding seen in 2016/17, when UK sources accounted for 72% of funding.
- In absolute terms the funding received from all EU sources in 2019/20 of £5.5m is 5% lower than in 2014/15 and the amount of £1.8m received from all non-EU sources is 38% greater than in 2014/15.

Comparison with other subjects

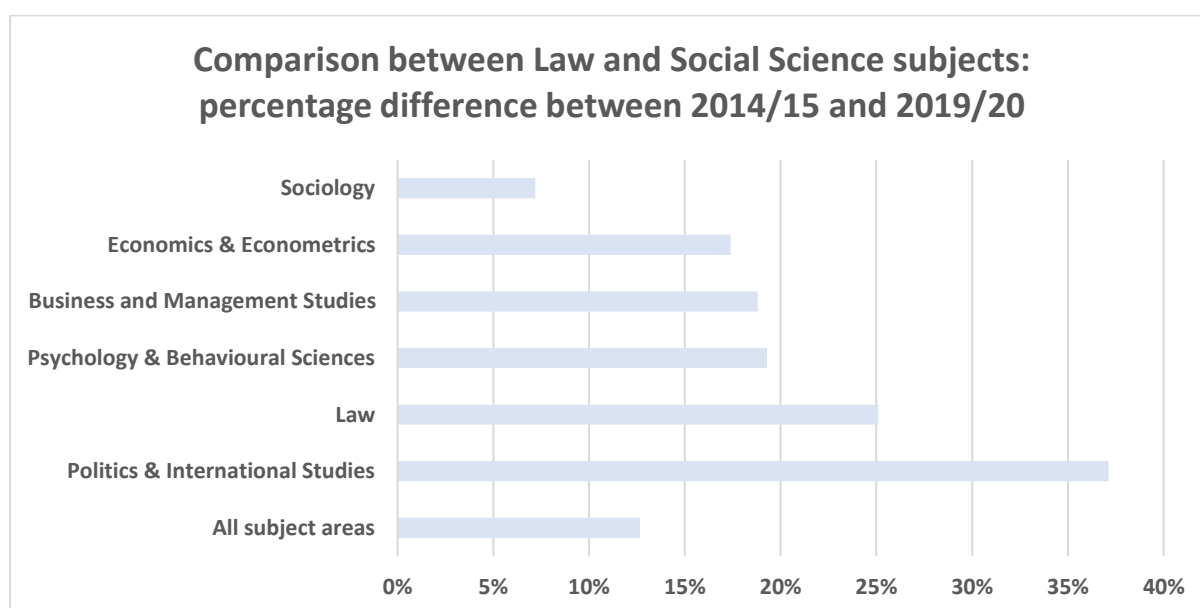
Research income in Law and STEM subjects: percentage changes between 2014/15 and 2019/20



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- Over the five year period of analysis the total research income for Law grew by 25% in nominal terms, compared to a 13% increase in funding across all subject areas.
- The percentage increase in research funding for Law is higher than for several STEM subjects, although IT/computer science received a slightly higher increase (+26%) over this period.
- When adjusting for inflation, Law schools saw a 15% real-term increase in research income over the last five years, compared to a real-term decrease of 1% across all fields.

Research income in Law and Social Science subjects: percentage increase between 2014/15 and 2019/20



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- The growth in research income for Law of 25% in nominal terms since 2014/15 is higher than for several other Social Science subjects, including Business & Management Studies, Sociology and Economics & Econometrics, but lower than that of Politics and International Studies.

Research income by region

Research income in Law by region (£000s)

Region	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
East	2,157	2,565	3,024	3,418	3,379	2,775
East Midlands	1,511	757	550	745	942	703
London	3,336	4,266	4,627	5,237	5,658	4,909
North-East	570	493	436	618	336	512
North-West	1,120	1,242	1,389	1,615	956	1,033
Northern Ireland	860	1,058	1,340	1,699	1,523	1,701
Scotland	2,990	4,481	4,018	3,093	3,899	4,469
South-East	3,265	2,922	2,439	2,584	3,400	3,695
South-West	1,741	1,685	1,167	1,001	857	677
Wales	944	1,328	1,121	1,114	1,149	1,433
West Midlands	477	585	701	1,446	1,374	1,454
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,275	1,707	2,015	1,936	1,847	1,966
Total	20,246	23,089	22,827	24,506	25,320	25,327

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- The share of total funding for research income in Law received by institutions in London and the South-East decreased from 36% to 34%.
- Over the past five years, the regions recording the largest percentage increases in research funding for Law were West Midlands (+205%) and Northern Ireland (+98%), with Yorkshire and Humberside (+54%), Wales (+52%), Scotland (+49%), and London (+47%) also reporting significant increases.
- Four regions reported decreases over the five-year period, with the South-West (-61%) and East Midlands (-53%) reporting the most significant decreases.

Research income by Law schools

- Over the combined three-year period of 2017/18 to 2019/20 the five schools that received the highest amounts of research funding for Law were:
 - The University of Cambridge (£6.6m)
 - The University of Edinburgh (£6.0m)
 - The University of Oxford (£5.6m)
 - Queen Mary University of London (£4.9m)
 - The University of Leeds (£3.7m)
- A full list of research income for Law by institution over the last five years is included in the appendix below.
- All of the five schools with the highest amounts of research funding over the combined three-year period are Russell Group institutions. Of the ten institutions with the highest amounts of research income in Law, eight belong to the Russell Group, the exceptions being Middlesex University (University Alliance) and the University of Essex (non-affiliated).
- Research income for Law shows a tendency towards distribution within a narrow group of institutions, though there are signs that this is changing. The five schools receiving the highest amounts of research income in the last three years account for 31% (down from 36% for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19) of total research funding, while the ten schools with the highest amounts of research income comprise 52% of the total, down from 54% for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Appendix – Research Income in Law by institution: 2014/15 to 2019/20 (£000s)

Provider name	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total (2014/15 - 2019/20)
The University of Edinburgh	1,589	2,748	2,741	1,610	1,977	2,408	13,073
The University of Cambridge	1,721	1,960	2,098	2,363	2,368	1,853	12,363
The University of Oxford	1,980	1,928	1,527	1,357	1,958	2,257	11,007
Queen Mary University of London	724	1,206	1,436	1,647	1,773	1,440	8,226
The University of Leeds	409	885	961	966	1,333	1,378	5,932
Middlesex University	435	760	855	1,146	1,340	841	5,377
Queen's University Belfast	676	706	711	948	1,047	1,101	5,189
The University of Essex	385	570	924	996	977	855	4,707
The University of Glasgow	750	1,090	511	634	679	682	4,346
Cardiff University	488	862	708	661	694	620	4,033
The University of Manchester	744	613	700	723	487	388	3,655
The University of Birmingham	283	213	272	784	950	1,126	3,628
University College London	579	704	716	652	498	233	3,382
The University of Bristol	627	893	743	608	183	240	3,294
The University of Kent	673	569	381	396	492	511	3,022
Ulster University	184	352	629	751	476	600	2,992
Birkbeck College	605	328	531	647	377	444	2,932
The University of Exeter	781	614	370	279	388	383	2,815
The University of Strathclyde	147	174	314	299	757	611	2,302
The University of Sheffield	428	428	478	462	263	209	2,268
King's College London	146	236	268	325	418	701	2,094
London School of Economics and Political Science	246	567	149	140	579	399	2,080
University of Nottingham	472	457	168	270	321	300	1,988
The University of Sussex	159	101	232	417	507	481	1,897
University of Durham	410	371	347	397	144	110	1,779
The University of Leicester	346	209	233	224	290	278	1,580
Swansea University	220	195	151	152	217	447	1,382
The University of Dundee	255	186	105	120	254	432	1,352
The University of York	134	281	241	241	142	285	1,324
The University of Warwick	146	163	335	237	197	235	1,313
The University of Lancaster	84	210	315	369	137	177	1,292
Aberystwyth University	62	200	239	258	204	322	1,285
The University of Southampton	236	164	214	288	211	152	1,265

University of London (Institutes and activities)	201	168	182	165	184	281	1,181
Sheffield Hallam University	288	90	271	214	80	57	1,000
The University of Aberdeen	154	184	133	107	106	205	889
The University of Liverpool	49	111	155	153	155	180	803
The University of Stirling	68	95	164	250	43	108	728
SOAS University of London	37	128	256	166	0	120	707
The University of Northampton	609	28	54	0	0	0	691
The University of Wolverhampton	7	55	0	365	200	26	653
University of the West of England, Bristol	190	170	34	72	123	-42	547
The University of Westminster	-1	13	36	160	173	158	539
The Nottingham Trent University	20	38	33	137	250	41	519
The University of Central Lancashire	155	192	135	33	1	0	516
The University of East London	152	74	42	46	149	43	506
Newcastle University	19	19	37	98	51	282	506
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	141	61	22	79	66	119	488
Liverpool John Moores University	79	36	15	236	46	72	484
Edge Hill University	3	2	29	56	127	206	423
Bournemouth University	137	8	8	8	141	90	392
Bangor University	174	71	23	43	34	25	370
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	0	38	16	28	82	188	352
The University of Greenwich	54	58	53	28	23	115	331
Keele University	38	37	91	54	25	67	312
City, University of London	-3	0	8	70	117	102	294
The University of Lincoln	10	25	31	102	68	53	289
The University of Reading	49	3	67	104	46	18	287
Brunel University London	101	16	81	3	27	32	260
Edinburgh Napier University	0	15	36	71	81	23	226
The University of Surrey	54	117	33	0	-27	32	209
The University of Hull	16	23	63	46	19	30	197
The University of East Anglia	5	8	0	50	34	57	154
De Montfort University	54	0	31	12	13	31	141
Birmingham City University	3	117	3	6	2	0	131
Teesside University	0	0	0	44	83	1	128

The Manchester Metropolitan University	6	48	36	34	-3	7	128
Canterbury Christ Church University	95	0	-39	-8	62	17	127
The University of Portsmouth	5	1	0	0	69	34	109
University of Hertfordshire	46	27	2	4	0	0	79
Kingston University	7	8	14	42	0	0	71
The University of Sunderland	0	42	30	0	-8	0	64
University of Plymouth	6	0	7	27	11	6	57
London Metropolitan University	53	0	0	0	0	0	53
University of Chester	0	30	4	9	6	3	52
University of Gloucestershire	0	0	5	7	11	0	23
University of South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	19	19
The Robert Gordon University	15	0	0	1	1	0	17
Oxford Brookes University	14	1	1	0	1	-1	16
The University of Huddersfield	0	0	1	7	5	2	15
Glasgow Caledonian University	8	0	3	1	1	0	13
The Open University	0	0	5	1	-1	6	11
Anglia Ruskin University	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Leeds Beckett University	0	0	0	0	5	5	10
University of Bedfordshire	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
University of Abertay Dundee	4	-11	11	0	0	0	4
The University of Winchester	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Liverpool Hope University	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Total	20,246	23,089	22,827	24,506	25,320	25,327	141,315

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