

This category is based on results from a survey of more 12,000 students across the country – around 1 in 20 of all full-time UK undergraduates.

Market research company YouthSight asked students about 21 aspects of campus life, included teaching, accommodation, sports facilities and social life.

The number of students interviewed at each institution varied but the minimum was 50, while at 90 universities more than 100 students were surveyed.

These results were compared with a survey conducted in 2010-11, and the winner is the institution showing the greatest average improvement in overall student satisfaction and the biggest increase in its ranked position.

"The University of Chester moved up 46 places in the rankings and improved its overall score by 6.1 points," said Mia Lorenz, associate director at YouthSight. "It improved it's score on every single attribute."

She added: "Since obtaining the right to award all degrees in 2007, the University of Chester has gone from strength to strength.

"It has invested in new facilities and in workplace learning with its Centre for Work Related Studies.

"Chester also carries out its own satisfaction survey with students, using the findings to shape policy and provision.

"Clearly these efforts are paying off – it has increased its standing not only in the Student Experience Survey, but has also improved in many National Student Survey attributes since 2008."