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Summary

This document lists Black\(^1\) female professors in the UK, who are or have been employed on a full time, permanent basis in a Higher Education Institute (HEI). Honorary Professors are for this reason not included.

At present, there are 55 (including 4 Emeritus) Black female Professors engaged across 17 different subject areas in 34 (out of 164)\(^2\) HEI’s. Most are in Law (9) with Sociology next (7), followed by Economics (6) and Health and Nursing (5).

The full breakdown is as follows:

Anthropology (1);
Business & Management (2);
Cultural Studies (1);
Development (2)
Economics (6);
Education (4);
Geography (1);
Health & Nursing (5);
History (1);
Law (9);
Literature (3);
Media & Communications (1);
Pharmacy (2);
Politics (1);
Science & Engineering (2);
Social Work & Social Policy (3);
Sociology & Social Science (7).

Two have been awarded an MBE; one has a CBE and DBE.

There are two Heads of School (Birkbeck & Kent) and one Acting Dean (Wolverhampton).

The University of Warwick has the highest overall number with seven professors - two in Sociology, two in Economics, one in Physics, one in Law and one in Politics. Kings College London is next with four, in Health and Nursing, Law, Economics and Literature. Goldsmiths, Manchester and Oxford are next with three each –in Sociology, Literature and Social Work at Goldsmiths; two in Development and one in Sociology at Manchester; in Geography, Economics and Literature at Oxford.

The data shows that there is much room for improvement.

\(^1\) Women of African, Asian and Caribbean origin and descent

\(^2\) [http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/Pages/higher-education-data.aspx](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/Pages/higher-education-data.aspx)
### Institutional Distribution of Black Female Professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birkbeck</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunel</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East London</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edge Hill</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldsmiths</td>
<td>xxx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huddersfield</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Education</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings College London</td>
<td>xxxx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeds Beckett</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeds Trinity</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>xxx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>xxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Holloway</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunderland</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Advanced Studies</td>
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<td>School of Oriental and African Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheffield Hallam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td>University College London</td>
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<td>Warwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>West London</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolverhampton</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Emeritus Professors

Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu, DBE, CBE, FRCN, PhD

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Elizabeth is a qualified nurse and health visitor tutor and has held senior executive roles at various organisations. She was appointed as the first ever UK sickle cell/thalassaemia nurse counsellor and was Head of the Brent Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Information and Screening Centre from 1979 to 1990. Elizabeth was a senior lecturer in Community Genetic Counselling at the Institute of Child Health at the University College London, and was the Dean of the School of Adult Nursing Studies and Professor of Nursing at University of West London. Elizabeth established and was Head of the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice, again at University of West London. On her retirement, Elizabeth was honoured with the award of Emeritus Professor of Nursing.
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Heidi Safia Mirza

Emeritus Professor of Race, Faith and Culture, Goldsmiths College
Heidi Safia Mirza became one of the UK’s first female black professors in the 1990s. She is an expert in equality studies in education and is internationally renowned for her research on ethnicity, gender, and human rights. She describes how Goldsmiths accepted her in the early 1980s, after 70 rejections, to pursue her PhD, at a time when opportunities for young, black women were very limited. “I wrote my first book ‘Young, Female and Black’ from the heart over 25 years ago while at Goldsmiths. It was a time of overt racism after the Battle of
Lewisham and the New Cross Fire. It was based on my own personal experiences of growing up in South London so for it to be quoted as a seminal sociological text is quite something.”

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Avtar Brah

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Avtar Brah retired as Professor of Sociology at Birkbeck as a specialist in race, gender and ethnic identity issues. She was awarded an MBE in 2001 in recognition of her research.

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Audrey Osler

Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Leeds
Audrey Osler conducts research on human rights, social justice, and democratic citizenship education policy and practice, in established democracies and post-conflict societies. She has a long-standing interest in the place of narrative and life history in education research and practice and her PhD (published as The Education and Careers of Black Teachers – 1997, Open University Press) examined the contribution of minority teachers to transformative education.
She has held professorships and visiting professorships at a number of universities in the U.S. (University of Washington, Utah State University) and in Europe. She is founding director of the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education at the University of Leeds and currently holds visiting posts at Hong Kong Institute of Education and Buskerud University College, Norway.

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