
HIGHER EDUCATION IN
FACTS AND FIGURES
2017



Universities UK

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2017 edition of *Higher education in facts and figures*. This annual publication provides an overview of UK higher education students, outcomes, staff and finances.

All data relates to UK higher education institutions unless stated otherwise. Further information on the sources used in this publication can be found on our website:

www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-figures

HIGHLIGHTS

**14% of undergraduates,
38% of postgraduates and
29% of academic staff are from
outside of the UK.**

**University
applications from
18-year-olds in areas
of England with lower
higher education participation
rates have increased
to record levels.**

**Employment rates and
median salaries continue to
be higher for graduates than
for non-graduates.**

**In 2017, overall student
satisfaction at UK higher
education institutions was 84%.**

**Just under a quarter of total
university income is from direct
UK government sources.**

**16% of research income came
from sources outside of the UK.**

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CONTENTS

STUDENTS

Students by country of provider, 2014–15 to 2015–16	7
Students by level of study and mode of study, 2015–16	8
Young university application rates, 2006 to 2017	9
Application rates from the most disadvantaged 18-year-olds, 2006 to 2017	10
Students by subject area, 2015–16	11
Students by domicile and level of study, 2015–16	12
Top 20 home countries of non-UK students, 2015–16	13
Non continuation rates, 2006–07 to 2014–15	14

OUTCOMES

Qualifications awarded by mode of study, 2015–16	16
Qualifications awarded by domicile, 2015–16	17
Destinations of UK-domiciled leavers by level of qualification and sex, 2015–16	18
Destinations of UK- and other EU-domiciled leavers, 2011–12 and 2015–16	19
Unemployment rates and median salaries in the UK, 2016	20
National Student Survey, 2017	21

STAFF

Staff by nationality and contract level, 2015–16	23
Academic staff, 2015–16	24
Staff salaries by sex, 2015–16	25

FINANCE

Income and size of higher education institutions, 2014–15 to 2015–16	27
Income of higher education institutions by source, 2015–16	28
Teaching and research income of higher education institutions, 2015–16	29
Operating expenditure of higher education institutions, 2015–16	30

ANNEXE

Sources	31
Glossary	32
Notes on data	34

STUDENTS

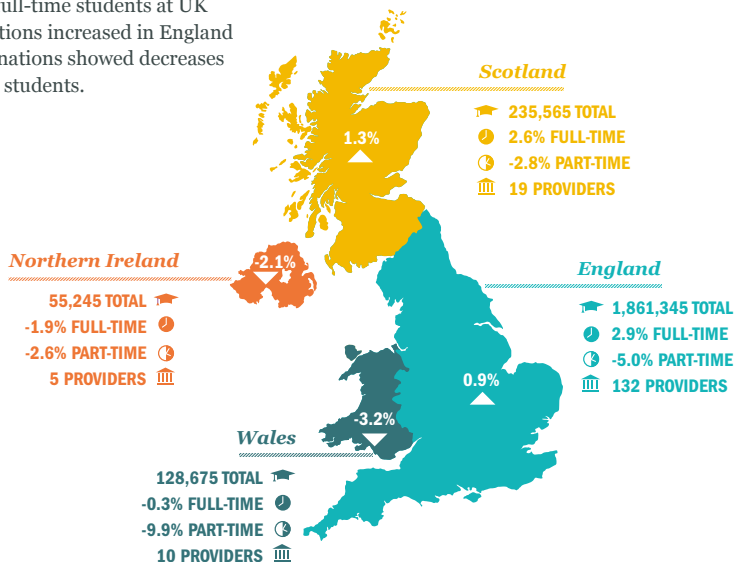
With the UK attracting more students from overseas than any other country besides the United States, its student population is incredibly diverse.

Overall, 14% of undergraduates and 38% of postgraduates were from outside of the UK.

The way that students complete their studies also varies. In 2015–16, 82% of undergraduates studied full time, whereas 43% of postgraduates studied part time.

STUDENTS BY COUNTRY OF PROVIDER, 2014–15 TO 2015–16

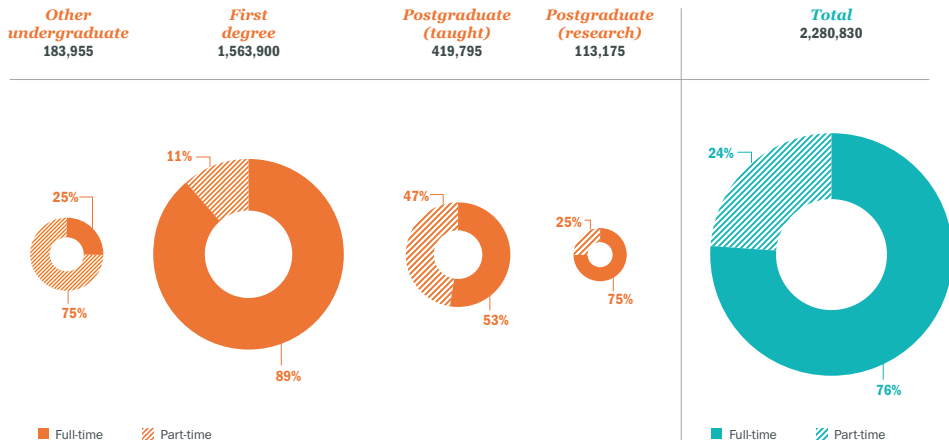
In 2015, the number of full-time students at UK higher education institutions increased in England and Scotland. All home nations showed decreases in numbers of part-time students.



Note: figures show numbers in 2015–16, and percentage changes between 2014–15 and 2015–16. The Open University has been distributed across each of the home nations.

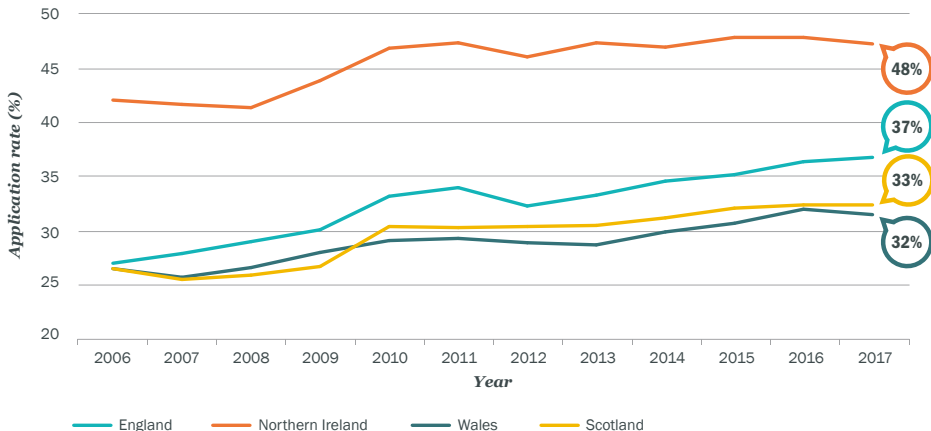
STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY AND MODE OF STUDY, 2015–16

Part-time students make up 75% of other undergraduate students and a quarter of postgraduate (research) students at UK higher education institutions. 89% of undergraduates undertaking a first degree are studying full time.



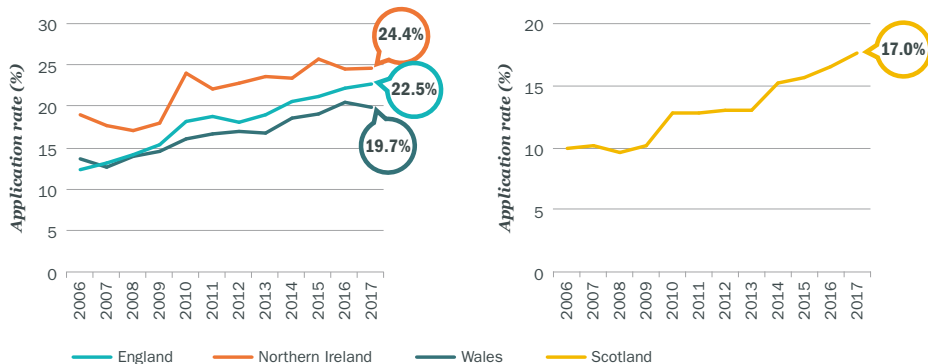
YOUNG UNIVERSITY APPLICATION RATES, 2006 TO 2017

18-year-olds from England were more likely to apply to full-time, undergraduate study in 2017 than in any previous year. From 2016 to 2017, the 18-year-old application rate decreased in Wales and Northern Ireland, and remained the same in Scotland.



APPLICATION RATES FROM THE MOST DISADVANTAGED 18-YEAR-OLDS, 2006 TO 2017

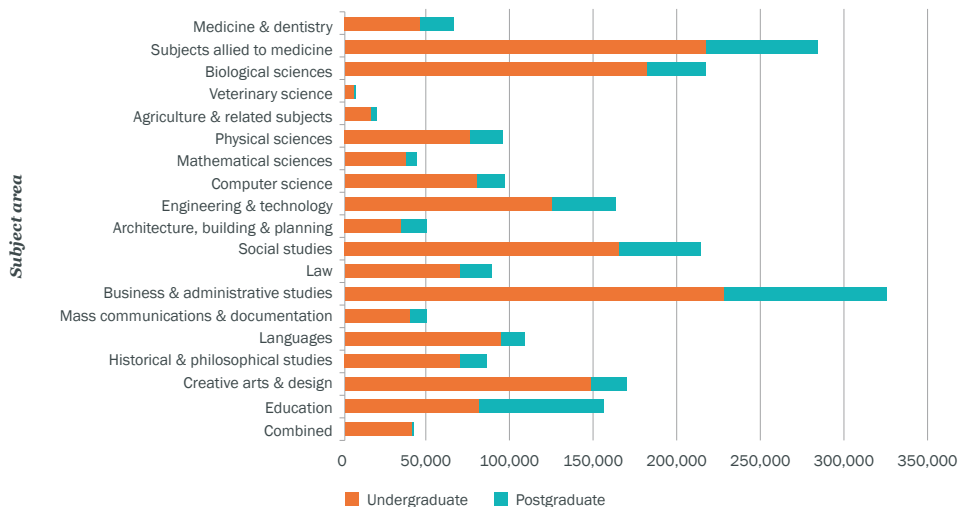
18-year-olds from the lowest areas of participation in England and Scotland are more likely than ever to apply to university.



Note: POLAR3 method is used for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, while SIMD is used for Scotland. Therefore, they are not directly comparable. Application rates reported for Scotland are lower, as a substantial section of Scottish providers do not use UCAS.

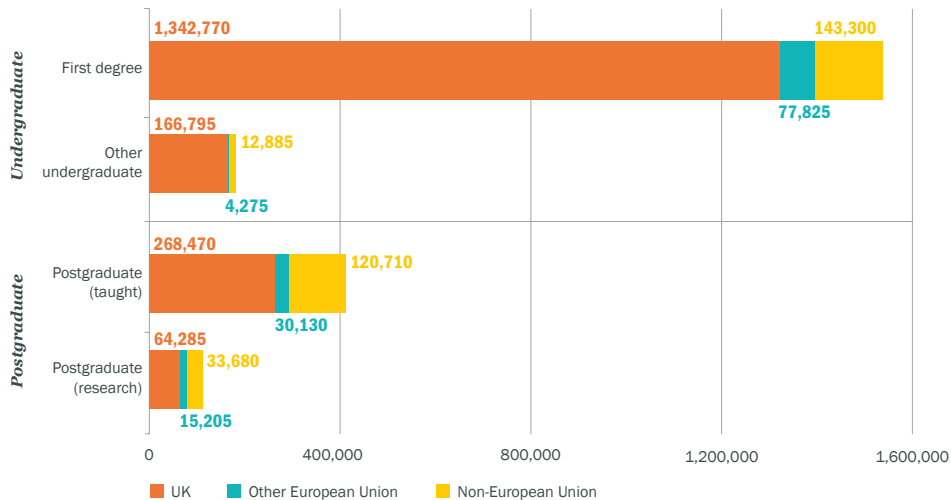
STUDENTS BY SUBJECT AREA, 2015-16

Undergraduate numbers at UK higher education institutions are highest for business, subjects allied to medicine, and biological sciences, while for postgraduates, the numbers are highest for business, education, and subjects allied to medicine.













STUDENTS BY DOMICILE AND LEVEL OF STUDY, 2015–16











14% of undergraduate students and 38% of postgraduate students at UK higher education institutions are from outside of the UK.



TOP 20 HOME COUNTRIES OF NON-UK STUDENTS, 2015–16

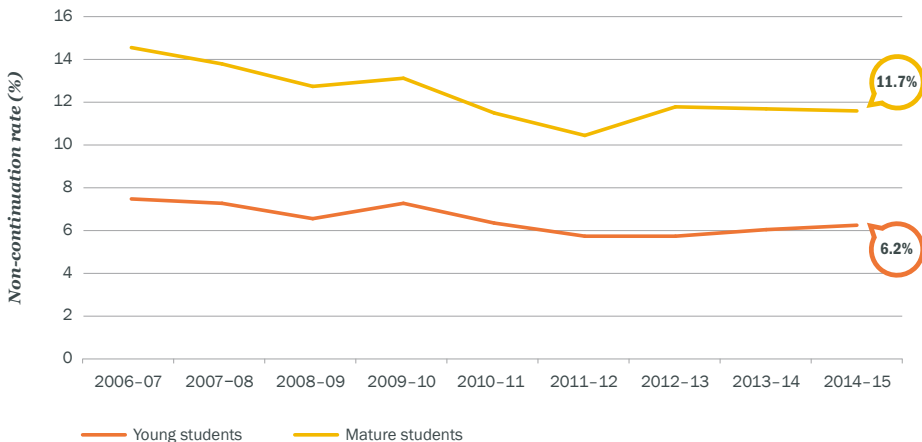
In 2015–16, the top six home countries of non-UK students were China – accounting for 21% of non-UK students – Malaysia, the United States, India, Hong Kong and Nigeria (accounting for 4% each).

Country	Count	Percentage
 China	91,215	21%
 Malaysia	17,405	4%
 United States	17,115	4%
 India	16,745	4%
 Hong Kong	16,745	4%
 Nigeria	16,100	4%
 Germany	13,425	3%
 France	12,525	3%
 Italy	12,135	3%
 Ireland	10,245	2%

Country	Count	Percentage
 Greece	9,790	2%
 Cyprus	9,140	2%
 Saudi Arabia	8,570	2%
 Spain	7,840	2%
 Singapore	7,540	2%
 Romania	7,200	2%
 Bulgaria	6,195	1%
 Thailand	6,095	1%
 Canada	5,980	1%
 Poland	5,655	1%

NON-CONTINUATION RATES, 2006-07 TO 2014-15

In 2014-15, the percentage of UK-domiciled, full-time, first degree entrants not continuing in higher education after their first year was below the level seen in 2006-07.



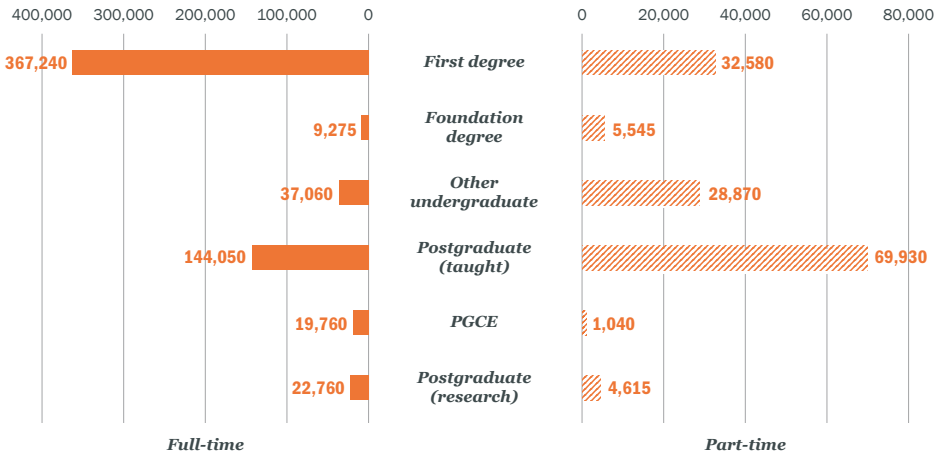
OUTCOMES

The 2017 National Student Survey showed that student satisfaction was 84% overall, and there is a growing public and policy interest in the student experience and graduate outcomes.

Salaries and employment rates continue to be higher for both undergraduates and postgraduates when compared to non-graduates, while more than 90% of UK-domiciled undergraduates and postgraduates were working and/or pursuing further study six months after graduation.

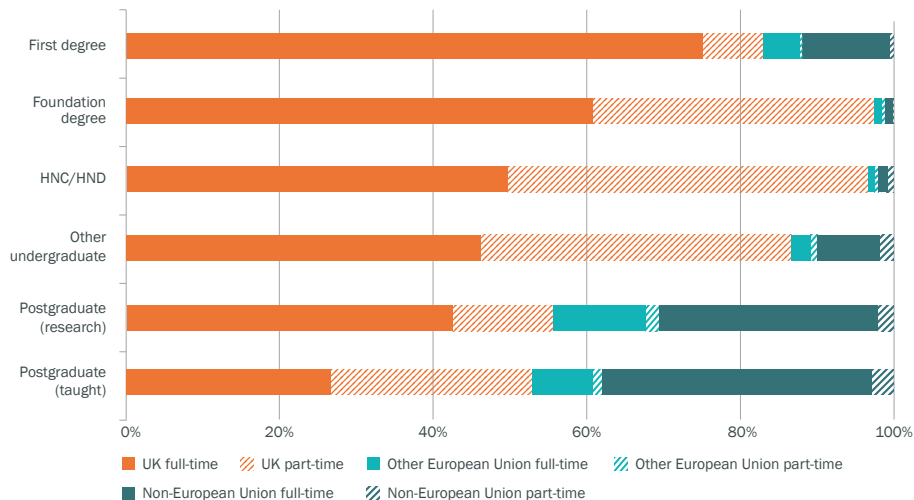
QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY MODE OF STUDY, 2015–16

In 2015–16, 54% of all qualifications awarded by UK higher education institutions were first degrees, 11% were for other types of undergraduate degrees (including foundation degrees) and 35% were for postgraduate degrees.



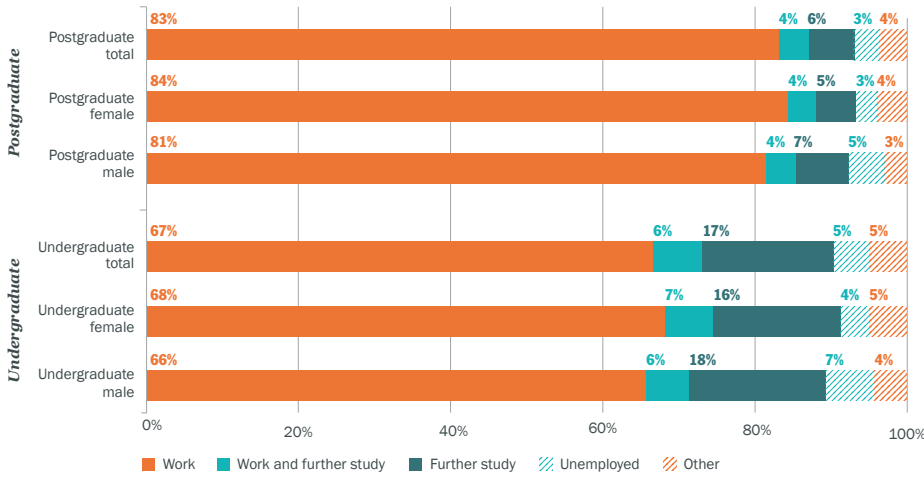
QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY DOMICILE, 2015–16

In 2015–16, 74% of qualifications awarded to UK students were undergraduate degrees, while 62% of qualifications awarded to non-UK students were postgraduate degrees.



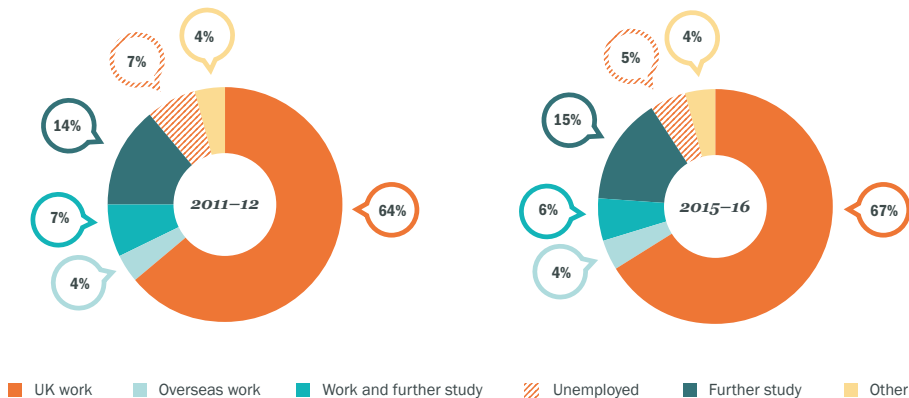
DESTINATIONS OF UK-DOMICILED LEAVERS BY LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION AND SEX, 2015-16

Six months after graduation, 93% of postgraduates and 90% of undergraduates were working and/or pursuing further study.



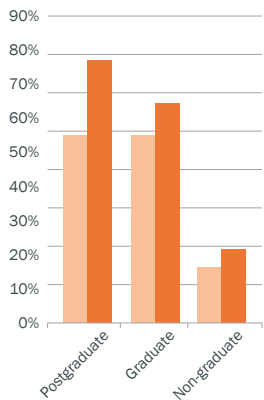
DESTINATIONS OF UK- AND OTHER EU-DOMICILED LEAVERS, 2011-12 AND 2015-16

The percentage of leavers in work or further study has increased from 89% in 2011-12 to 92% in 2015-16.



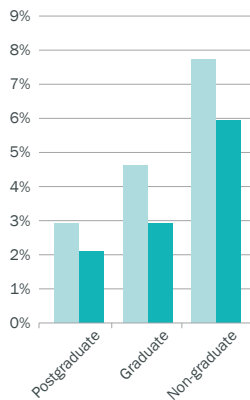
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AND MEDIAN SALARIES IN THE UK, 2016

Median salaries and employment rates continue to be higher for both undergraduates and postgraduates when compared to non-graduates.



Young high-skill employment rate (21-30 year olds)

High-skill employment rate (16-64 year olds)



Young unemployment rate (21-30 year olds)

Unemployment rate (16-64 year olds)

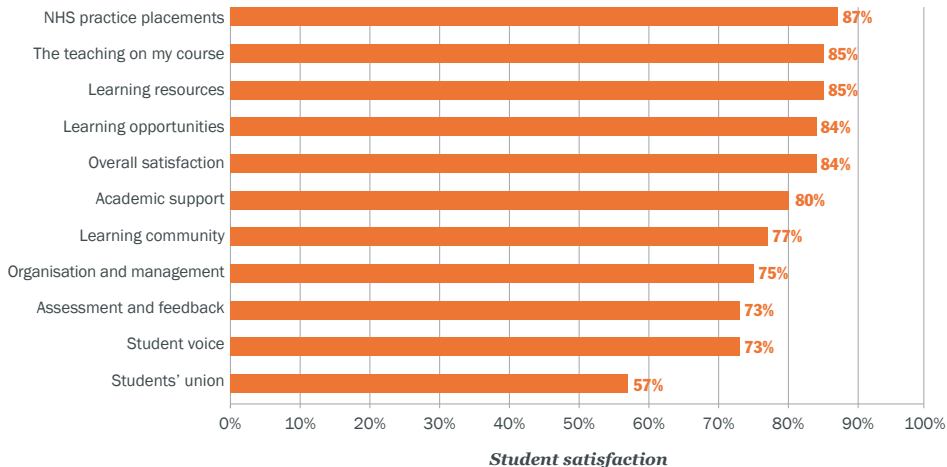


Young median salary (21-30 year olds)

Median salary (16-64 year olds)

NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY, 2017

In 2017, overall student satisfaction at UK higher education institutions was 84%. Satisfaction with teaching on the course was 85%, learning opportunities scored 84%, and academic support 80%.



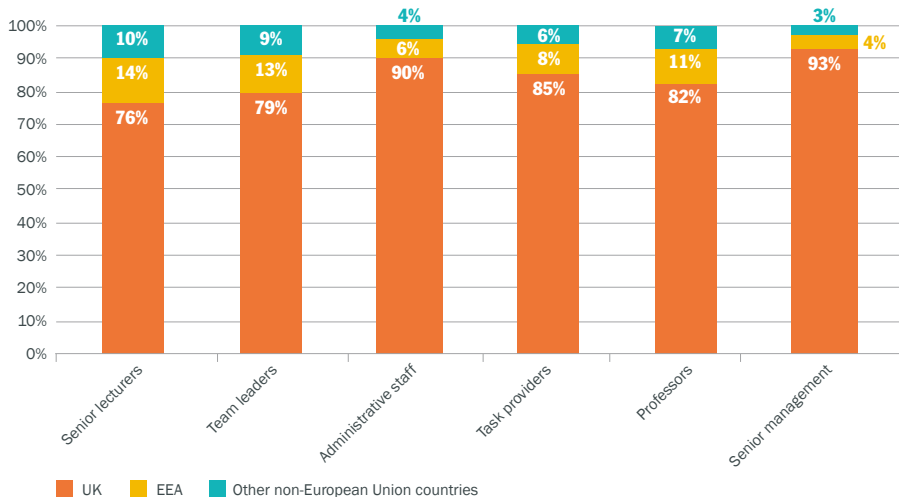
Note: due to changes in the questions asked, the 2017 National Student Survey results cannot be compared to previous years.

STAFF

29% of the UK's academic staff are from overseas, with 17% from other EU countries. Nearly a quarter of senior lecturers and 18% of professors working at UK higher education institutions are non-UK nationals. Females make up 45% of the academic workforce.

STAFF BY NATIONALITY AND CONTRACT LEVEL, 2015-16

24% of senior lecturers at UK higher education institutions are non-UK nationals. 18% of professors and 7% of senior management are also from overseas.

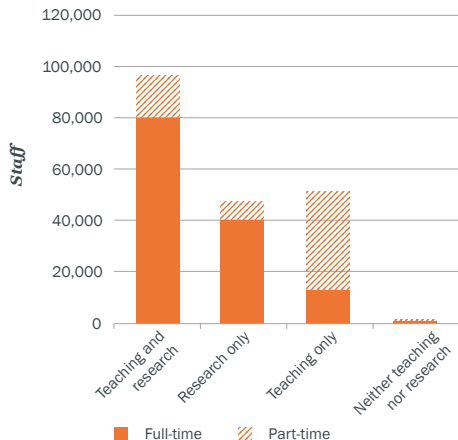


Note: each column contains a number of job titles, which can be found in the online version of this publication.

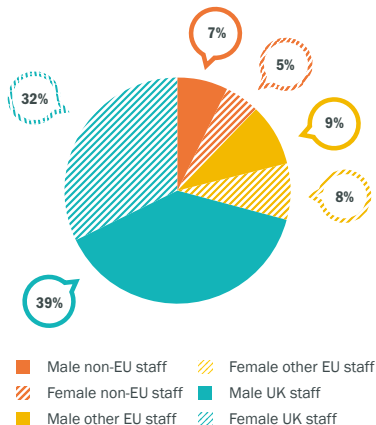
ACADEMIC STAFF, 2015-16

29% of academic staff at UK higher education institutions are from outside of the UK. A third of academic staff are employed on a part-time basis.

Academic staff by employment function and mode of employment



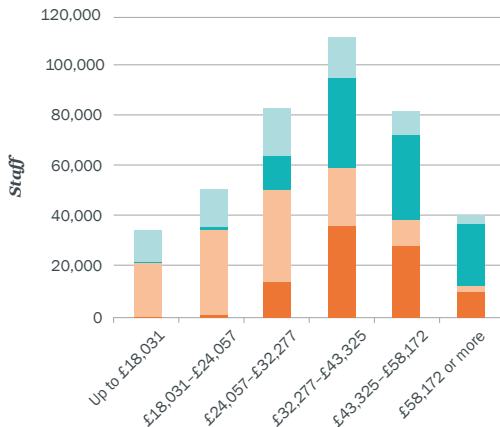
Academic staff by nationality and sex



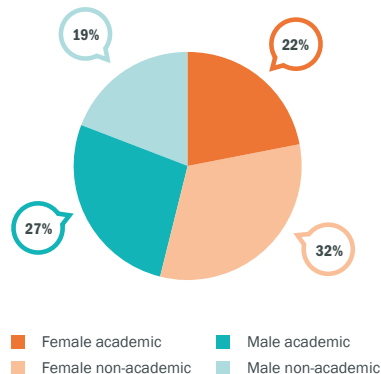
STAFF SALARIES BY SEX 2015–16

54% of the entire workforce at UK higher education institutions is female. Females make up 45% of the academic workforce and 66% of staff earning £24,057 or less. Males make up 58% of staff earning £43,325 or more.

Staff salaries at higher education institutions



Percentage of employees from total



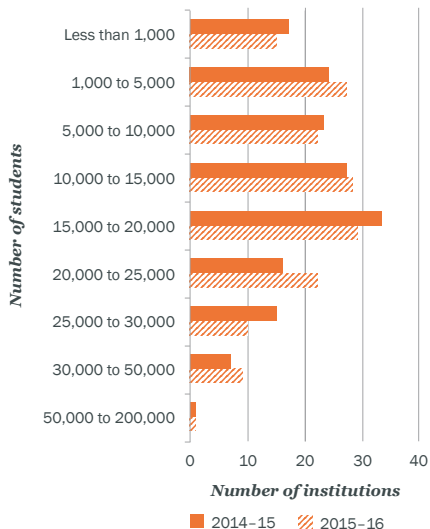
FINANCE

Higher education institutions raise income from a wide range of sources. In 2015–16, 54% of income was from sources other than tuition fees, while 24% of income was from direct UK government sources. 16% of research income came from non-UK sources.

55% of spending at UK higher education institutions was related to teaching and research activities, which includes spending on academic and support staff working in academic departments. Additional spending also contributes to the student experience, including spending on libraries, accommodation and IT.

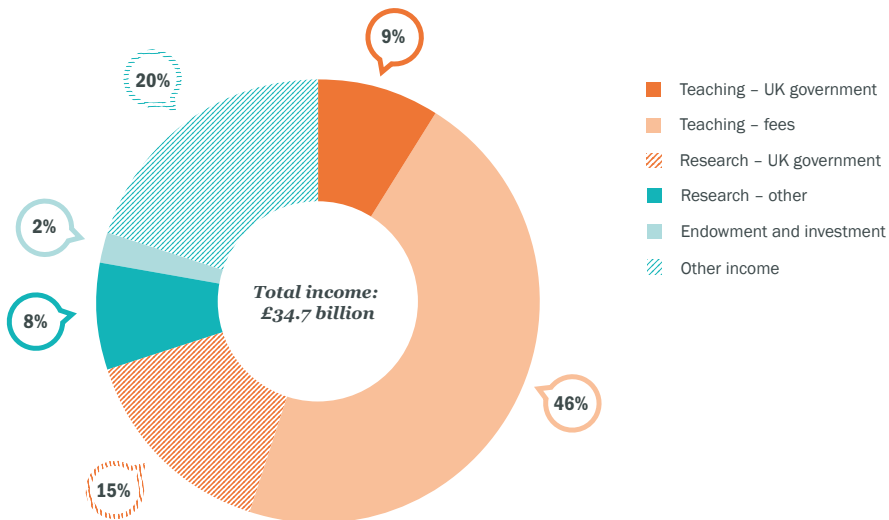
INCOME AND SIZE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 2014-15 TO 2015-16

In 2015-16, nearly two-thirds of UK higher education institutions had an income of more than £100 million. Just over a quarter of institutions had over 20,000 students.



INCOME OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BY SOURCE, 2015–16

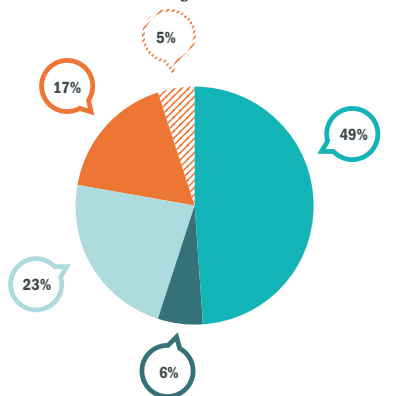
54% of income was from sources other than tuition fees. Just under a quarter of income was from direct UK government sources.



TEACHING AND RESEARCH INCOME OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 2015–16

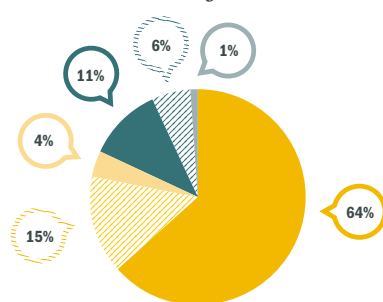
In 2015–16, UK higher education institutions received a total of £19.1 billion in teaching income. Institutions also received £7.8 billion in research income, of which 16% came from non-UK sources.

Teaching income by source



- UK and EU undergraduate fees
- UK government grants
- UK and EU postgraduate fees
- Other fees and grants
- Non-EU fees

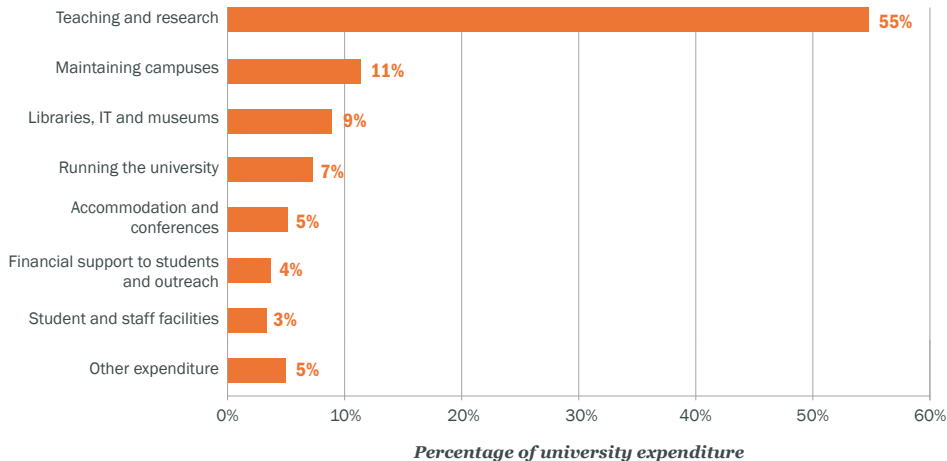
Research income by source



- UK government
- UK charities
- UK business
- EU sources
- Non-EU sources
- Other sources

OPERATING EXPENDITURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 2015-16

55% of spending by higher education institutions was related to teaching and research activities, which includes spending on academic and support staff working in academic departments.



SOURCES

- p.7** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.8** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.9** UCAS, 2017
- p.10** UCAS, 2017
- p.11** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.12** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.13** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.14** HESA UK Performance Indicators [2015–16]
- p.16** HESA Student Record [2015–16]*
- p.17** HESA (2017), Statistical First Release 242
- p.18** HESA Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) [2015–16]
- p.19** HESA (2017), Statistical First Release 245
- p.20** Department for Education (2017), Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2016
- p.21** National Student Survey (NSS) 2017
- p.23** HESA Staff Record [2015–16]*

- p.24** HESA Staff Record [2015–16]*
- p.25** HESA Staff Record [2015–16]*
- p.27** HESA Finance Record and Student Record [multiple years]*
- p.28** UUK analysis of HESA Finance Plus 2015–16
- p.29** UUK analysis of HESA Finance Plus 2015–16
- p.30** UUK analysis of HESA Finance Plus 2015–16

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GLOSSARY

Application rate

The number of applicants divided by the estimated base population.

DLHE

The Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey asks leavers from higher education what they are doing six months after graduation. About three-quarters of leavers complete the survey.

Domicile

A student's permanent country of residence.

EEA

The European Economic Area (EEA) is the 28 EU countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

First degree

A three- or four-year undergraduate higher education course taken after finishing further education, generally resulting in a bachelor's degree.

Higher education institutions

In 2015–16, there were 162 higher education institutions in the UK in receipt of public funding

via one of the UK funding councils. This report features aggregated data from all 162, plus the University of Buckingham, largely based on institutional returns to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). On page 7, students from The Open University have been split across each UK nation to better reflect the number of students in each part of the UK.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, the analysis in this report therefore excludes other higher education providers, including alternative providers or further education colleges that currently do not return consistent and full data to HESA.

HEFCE

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) funds and regulates universities and colleges in England.

HESA

Higher Education Statistics Agency.

High-skill employment (ONS definition)

Occupations at this level are generally termed 'professional' or 'managerial' positions, and are found in corporate enterprises or governments. Examples include senior government officials; financial managers; scientists; engineers; medical doctors; teachers; and accountants.

Mode of study

Whether a student studies full or part time.

Non-continuation rate

For this publication, the non-continuation rate is the percentage of full-time, first degree entrants not continuing in higher education after their first year.

NSS

National Student Survey.

Other undergraduate

Undergraduate degrees which are not first degrees, including foundation degrees and Higher National Diplomas.

POLAR3

Participation of Local Areas (POLAR) is a widening participation measure which classifies local areas or 'wards' into five groups, based on the proportion of 18-year-olds who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 years old. These groups range from quintile 1 areas, with the lowest young participation (most disadvantaged), up to quintile 5 areas with the highest rates (most advantaged).

SIMD

The Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD) ranks small geographical areas in Scotland by their relative level of deprivation across a range of measures. Data used in this publication refers to 18-year-olds from the most disadvantaged SIMD quintile.

NOTES ON DATA

All percentages have been calculated using raw figures and rounded, and therefore rounded figures may not sum precisely.

Full data and further information on sources can be found on our website:

www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-figures

UNIVERSITIES UK

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