
HIGHER EDUCATION IN

FACTS AND FIGURES

2016



Universities UK

HIGHLIGHTS

22% of 18-year-olds from the areas of lowest higher education participation in England have applied to university in 2016 as compared to 12% ten years ago.

13% of undergraduate students, 38% of postgraduate students and 28% of academic staff are from outside the UK.

In 2015, the unemployment rate of graduates was half that of non-graduates (3.1% versus 6.4%).

In 2014–15, £1.25 billion worth of income for institutions came from collaborative research.

16% of research and development funding received by UK universities in 2014–15 came from overseas sources – the majority (£0.8 billion) from within the EU.

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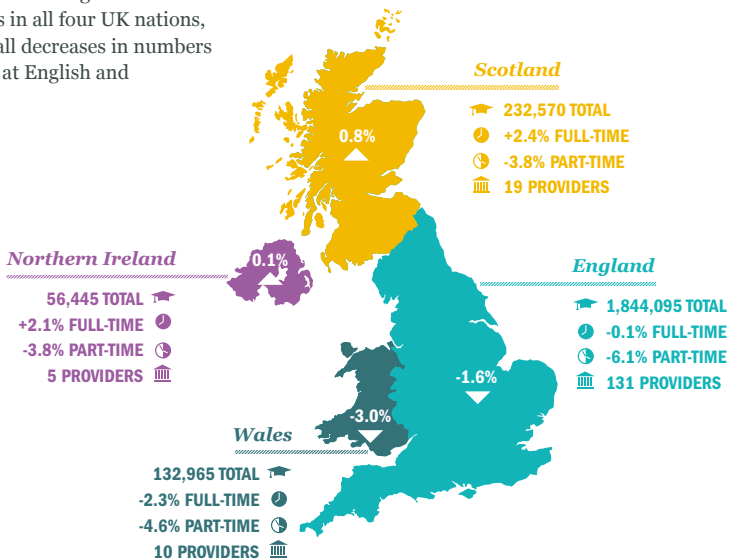
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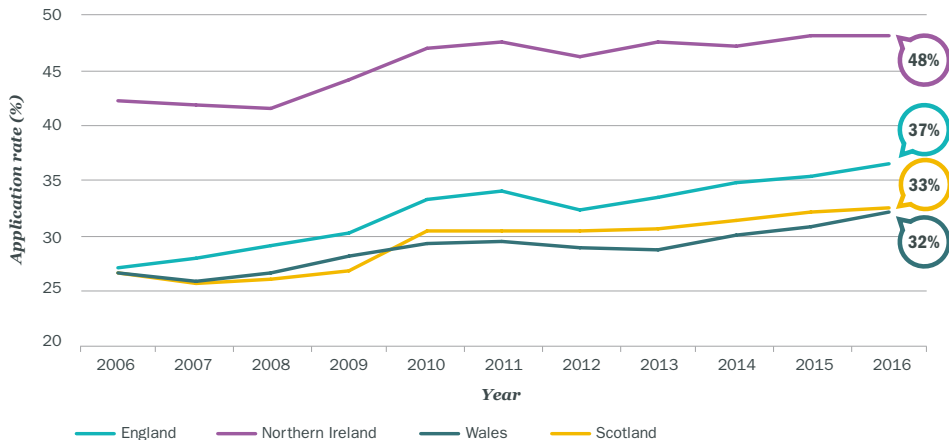
STUDENTS AT HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS IN THE UK BY COUNTRY OF PROVIDER, 2013-14 TO 2014-15

In 2014 there was a continuing decrease in part-time students in all four UK nations, while there were small decreases in numbers of full-time students at English and Welsh providers.



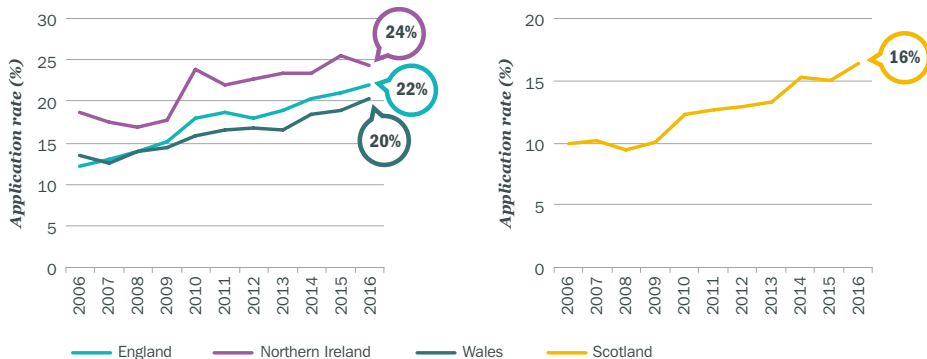
18-YEAR-OLD APPLICATION RATES TO FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE STUDY IN THE UK, 2006 TO 2016

18-year-olds in all UK nations are more likely than ever to apply to university.



APPLICATION RATES TO FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE STUDY FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED 18-YEAR-OLDS, 2006 TO 2016

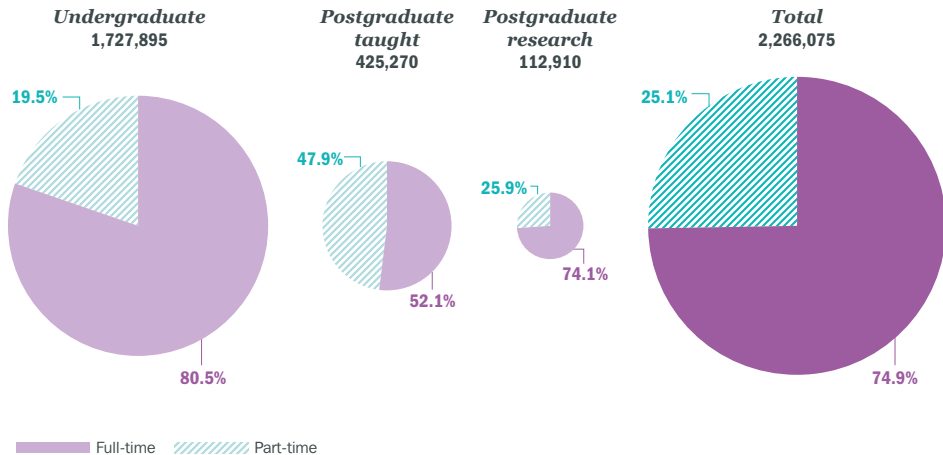
18-year-olds from the areas of lowest higher education participation from England, Wales and Scotland have never been more likely to apply to university.



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.

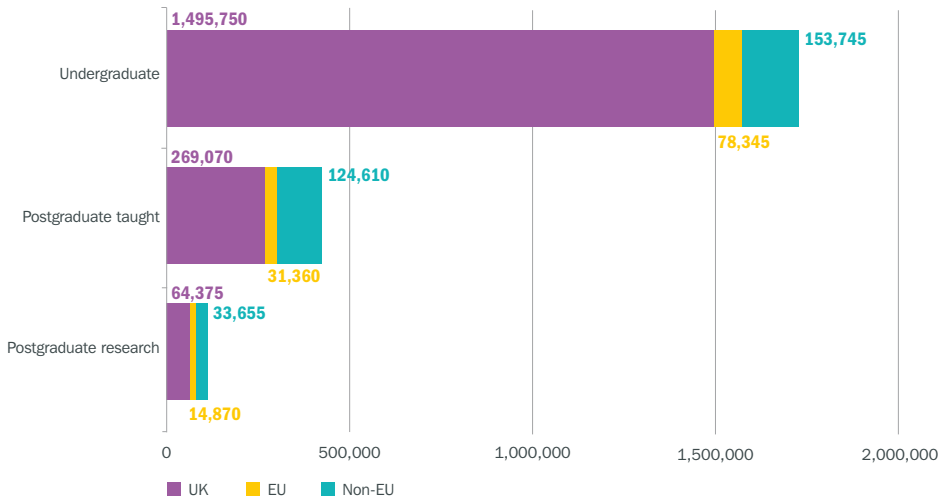
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014-15

Part-time students make up about a quarter of all postgraduate research students, a fifth of all undergraduate students, and half of all postgraduate taught students.



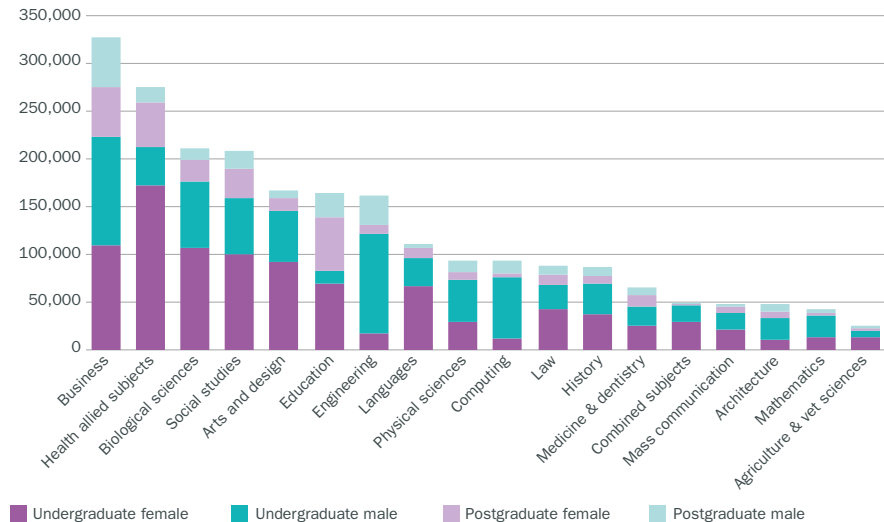
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS BY DOMICILE AND LEVEL OF STUDY, 2014-15

13% of undergraduate students and 38% of postgraduate students are from outside the UK.



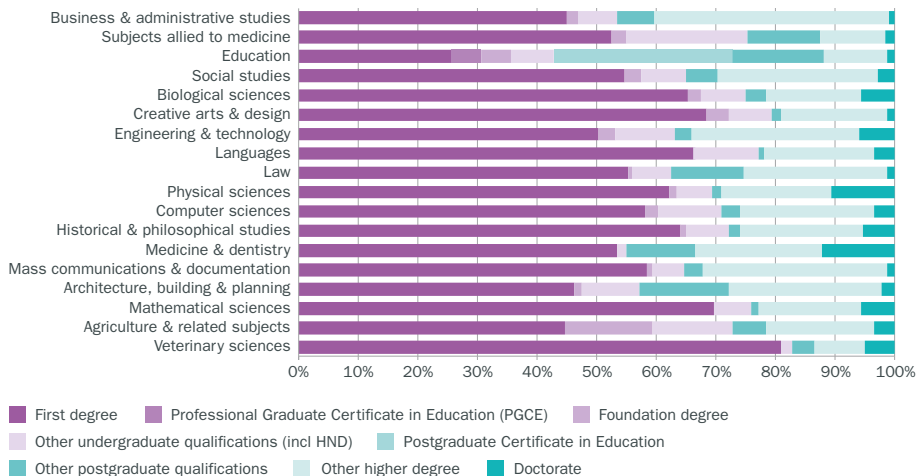
STUDENTS BY SUBJECT AREA AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014-15

The most popular subjects for male undergraduate students are business, engineering and biological sciences, and for female undergraduate students are health allied subjects, business and biological sciences.



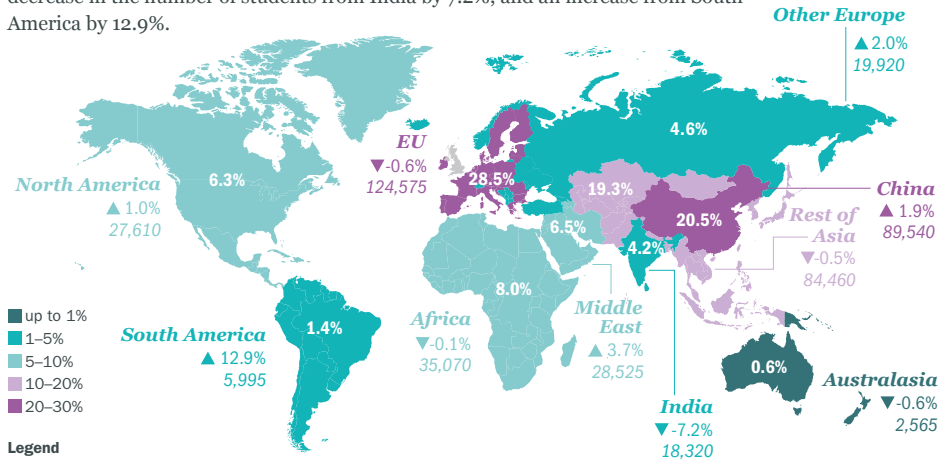
QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED BY SUBJECT AREA, 2014–15

In 2014–15, the subject areas where a high percentage of postgraduate qualifications were obtained include education (57%), business (47%), medicine and dentistry (45%), and architecture (43%).



HOME COUNTRY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014-15

Students from Europe accounted for 33% of all international students, while 20.5% were from China and 4.2% from India. Between 2013-14 and 2014-15 there was a decrease in the number of students from India by 7.2%, and an increase from South America by 12.9%.



Legend

















% of total non-UK domiciled students at UK HEPs
















% change from last year

Total students 2014-15

HOME COUNTRY OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA) STUDENTS AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014–15

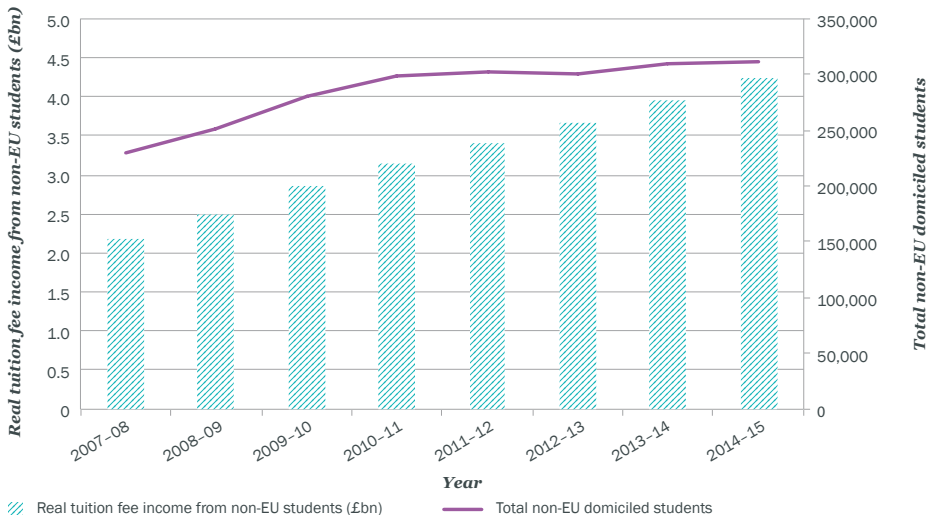
In 2014–15 there were 133,485 students from the EEA studying in UK universities, equating to 5.9% of the entire student body.

Country	2014–15	% change from 2013–14 to 2014–15
 Germany	13,675	-2.7%
 France	11,955	4.0%
 Ireland	10,905	-5.1%
 Italy	10,525	10.2%
 Greece	10,130	-5.1%
 Cyprus (EU)	9,745	-5.3%
 Spain	7,040	6.9%
 Romania	6,590	1.2%
 Bulgaria	6,255	-1.6%
 Norway	5,475	4.9%
 Poland	5,245	0.9%
 Lithuania	4,340	-10.8%
 Netherlands	3,390	1.5%
 Switzerland	3,190	2.9%
 Sweden	3,095	-4.2%
 Belgium	2,925	0.9%

Country	2014–15	% change from 2013–14 to 2014–15
 Portugal	2,730	7.9%
 Finland	1,895	0.5%
 Austria	1,880	5.3%
 Hungary	1,685	15.0%
 Latvia	1,530	-16.8%
 Slovakia	1,415	0.7%
 Czech Republic	1,405	6.8%
 Denmark	1,360	-4.6%
 Luxembourg	1,100	2.8%
 Estonia	1,075	-8.5%
 Malta	895	-8.7%
 Slovenia	370	2.8%
 Croatia	355	39.2%
 Iceland	225	7.1%
 Liechtenstein	20	33.3%

INCOME FROM NON-EU DOMICILED STUDENTS AND NON-EU DOMICILED STUDENT NUMBERS, 2003-04 TO 2014-15

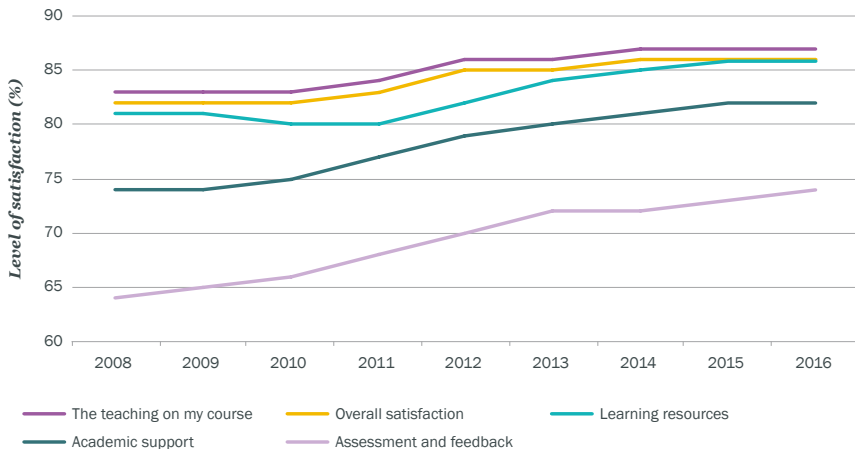
Higher education providers received £4.2 billion in tuition fees from 312,000 registered international students in 2014-15.



Note: Base year 2014-15 prices.

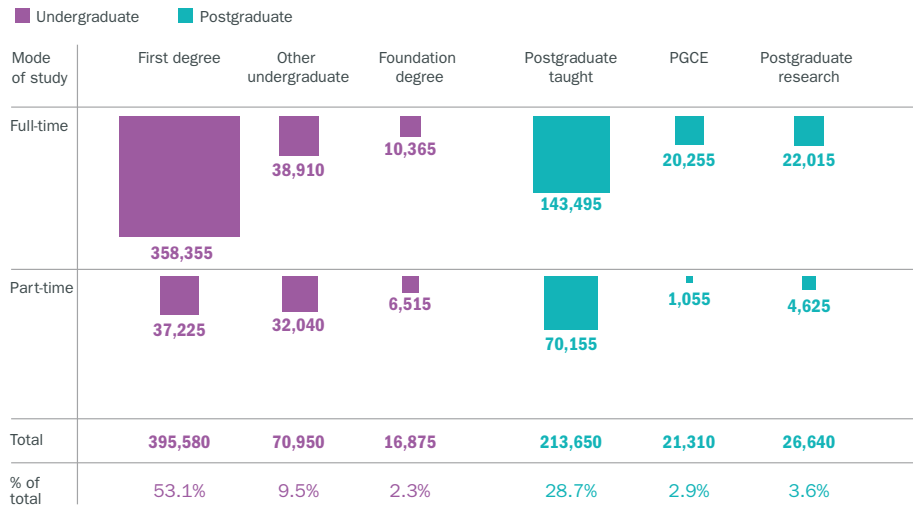
NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY, 2008 TO 2016

Overall student satisfaction at UK providers has remained at a record level of 86% since 2014, an increase of four percentage points compared to 2008. In 2016, satisfaction with teaching on the course was 87%, assessment and feedback 74%, and academic support 82%. Satisfaction with academic support has increased by eight percentage points since 2008.



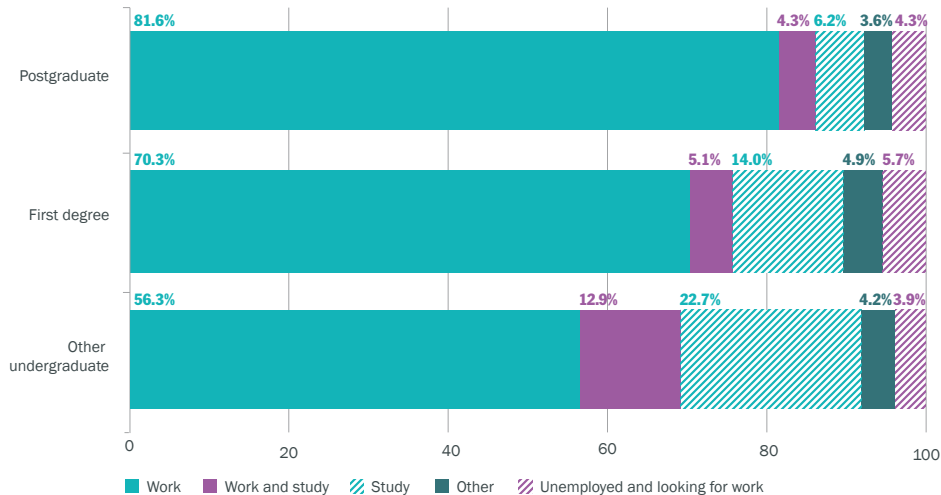
QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014–15

53% of all qualifications awarded in 2014–15 were for undergraduate first degrees, 12% were for other types of undergraduate degrees, and 35% were for postgraduate degrees.



DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS BY LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION, 2014–15

Six months after graduation, 92% of postgraduates and other undergraduates, and 89% of first degree students were working or pursuing further study.



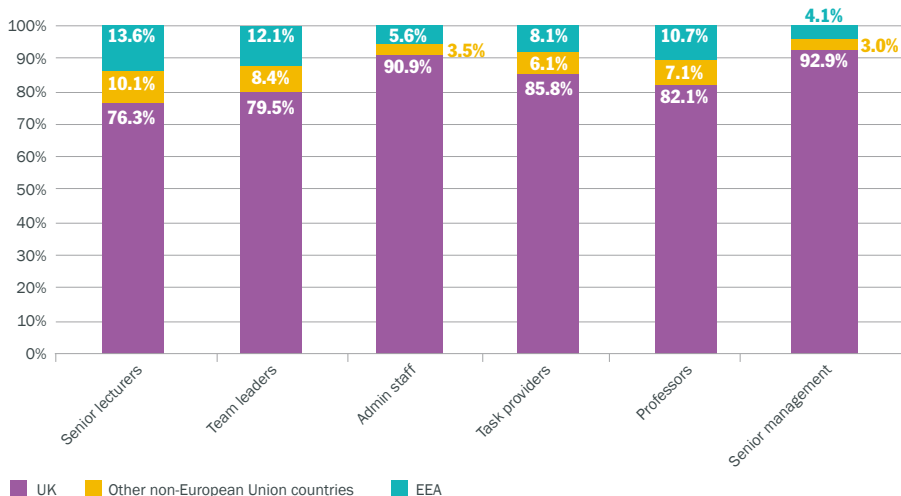
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AND MEDIAN SALARIES IN THE UK BY GROUP (2015)

In 2015, the unemployment rate of graduates was half that of non-graduates. The median salary for graduates was a third higher than for non-graduates among those aged 21–30, and 43% higher for those aged 16–64.



STAFF BY NATIONALITY AND CONTRACT LEVEL, 2014–15

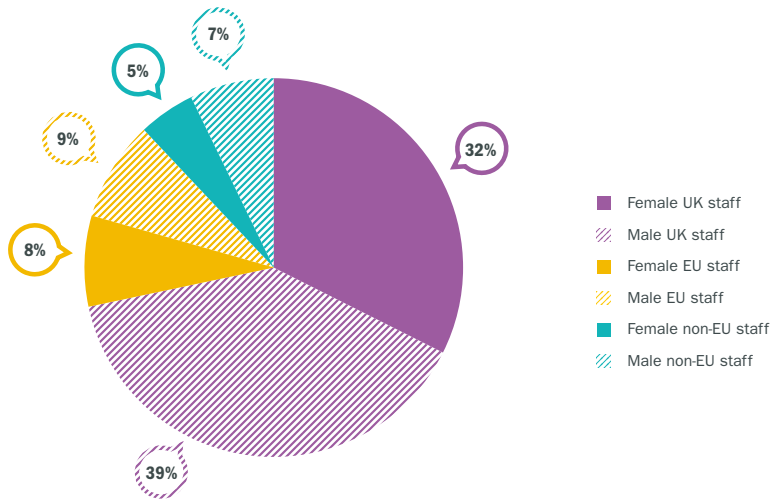
EU and international staff make up 7% of senior management, and 25% of senior lecturers, professionals and researchers.



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

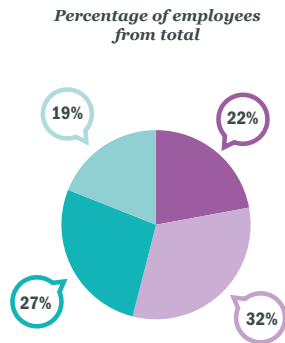
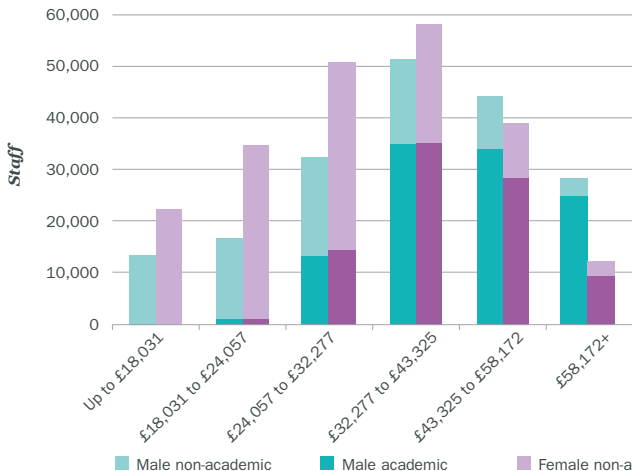
ACADEMIC STAFF IN UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS BY NATIONALITY AND SEX, 2014-15

16% of academic staff at UK higher education providers are from EU countries, while 12% are from non-EU countries, and 72% are from the UK.






















STAFF SALARIES AT UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014-15




















54% of the total higher education workforce is female, and accounts for two thirds of those earning under £24,057 per annum. In contrast, men make up 46% of the total higher education workforce and account for 70% of those earning over £58,172 per annum.



PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP (2012)

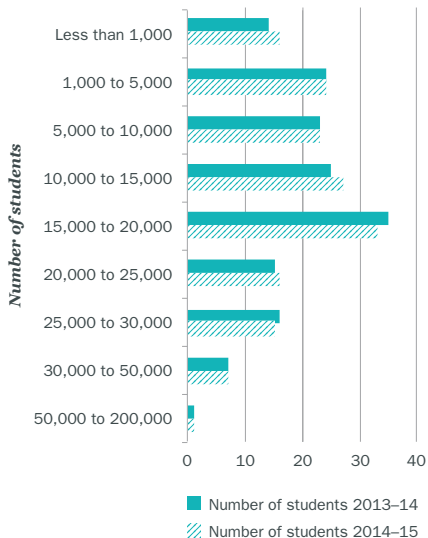
In 2012 the UK's public spending on higher education was 1.2% of total GDP – a lower proportion than many competitor countries including the United States, Canada, Finland, France and Germany.

Country	Total expenditure in %
 Finland	1.78
 Austria	1.74
 Norway	1.58
 Sweden	1.51
 Canada	1.47
 United States	1.41
 Estonia	1.41
 Belgium	1.40
 Netherlands	1.37
 France	1.26
 Switzerland	1.24
 Germany	1.22
 Slovenia	1.22
 Turkey	1.21
 New Zealand	1.21
 Czech Republic	1.20
 United Kingdom	1.20
 Poland	1.18
 Iceland	1.06

Country	Total expenditure in %
 Chile	1.04
 Latvia	1.03
 Ireland	1.03
 Spain	1.01
 Mexico	0.97
 Slovak Republic	0.96
 Portugal	0.93
 Brazil	0.93
 Colombia	0.93
 Israel	0.92
 Russian Federation	0.89
 Australia	0.88
 Korea	0.84
 Italy	0.80
 Hungary	0.80
 South Africa	0.67
 Indonesia	0.55
 Japan	0.53
 Luxembourg	0.45

INCOME AND SIZE OF UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2013-14 AND 2014-15

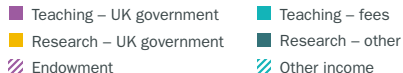
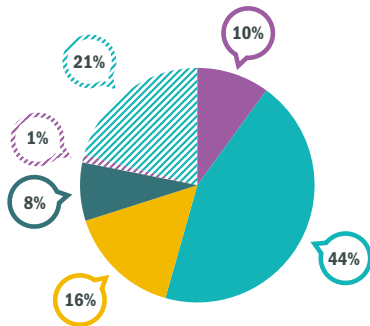
One third of all UK higher education providers have an annual income of up to £100m, and two thirds of providers have an annual income above £100m.



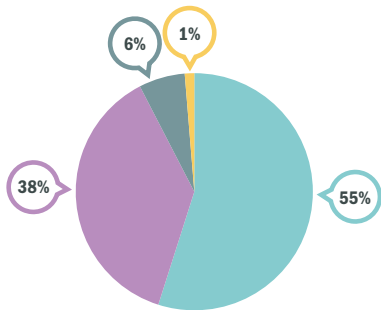
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014-15

In total, tuition fees made up 44% of provider income. Within that 44%, the highest proportion came from full-time UK and EU students.

Total income £33.2 billion

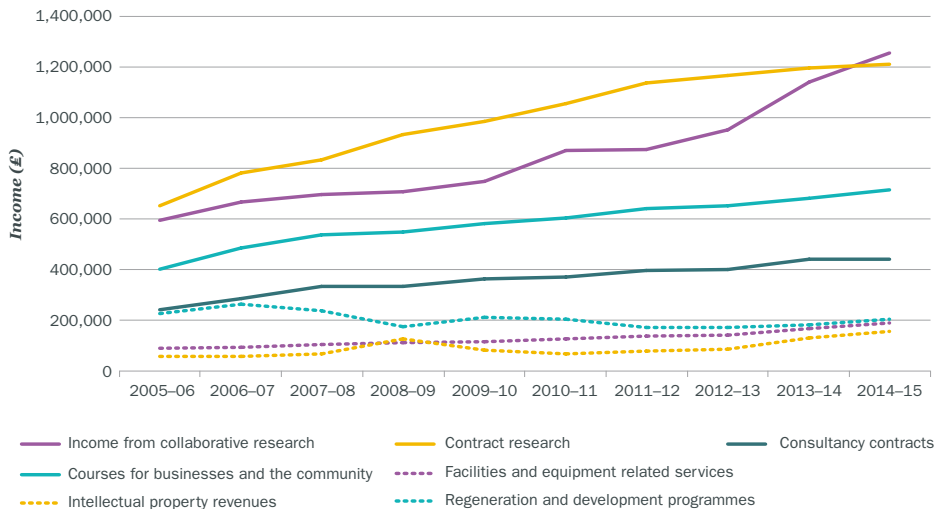


Total expenditure £31.2 billion



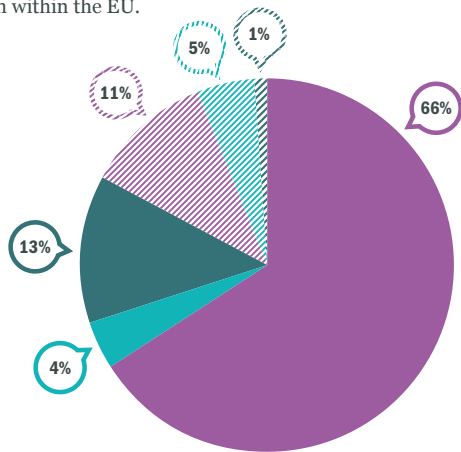
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE INCOME BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2005-06 TO 2014-15

In 2014-15, income from collaborative research accounted for 30% of the sources of income shown below.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RECEIVED BY UK HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS, 2014–15

16% of research and development funding received by UK providers came from overseas sources – the majority (68%) from within the EU.



Research funding from EU sources increased by

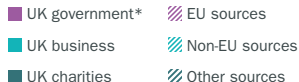
5.9%

from 2013–14.

Research funding from non-EU sources increased by

3.6%

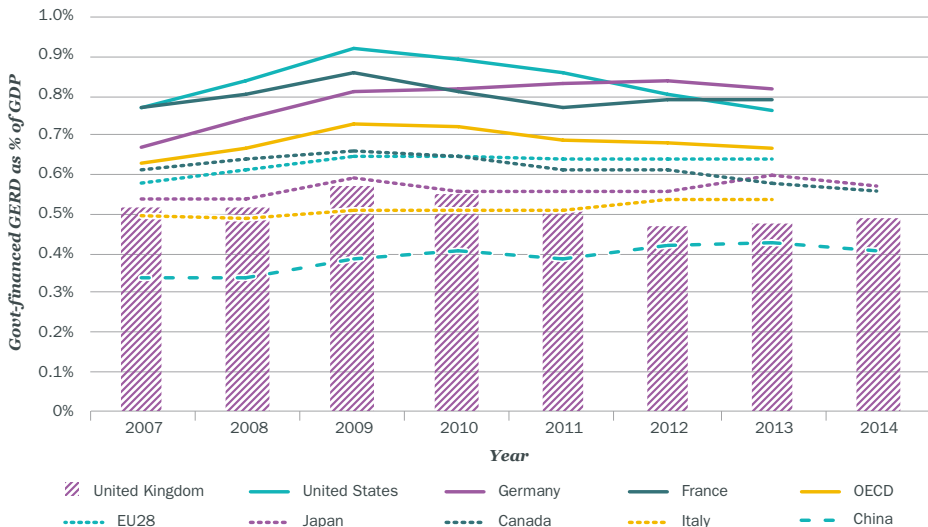
in the same period.



*Note: UK government includes RDEC funding, a one-off funding amount, which therefore increases research and total income for 2014–15 only. For more information please see the glossary and online version of this publication.

GOVERNMENT-FINANCED GROSS DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AS A PROPORTION OF GDP, 2007 TO 2014

UK government spending on research and development is consistently below the OECD average as a proportion of GDP.



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.

Entry rate

The number of acceptances for entry to start higher education divided by the estimated base population.

First degree

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

GDP

Gross domestic product: monetary measure of the value of all final goods and services produced in a period.

GERD

Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) is the total spending on research and development performed within a country during a given period.

HE-BCI

Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction Survey.

HEFCE

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

HEP

Higher education provider. This publication covers organisations that deliver higher education and receive government funding, plus The University of Buckingham. It excludes alternative providers and further education colleges.

HESA

Higher Education Statistics Agency

Mode of study

Whether a student studies full or part-time.

NSS

National Student Survey

OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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).

RDEC

Research and Development Expenditure Credit

SIMD

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.

SOURCES

- P.5** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
- P.6** UCAS, 2016
- P.7** UCAS, 2016
- P.8** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
- P.9** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
- P.10** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
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- P.12** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
- P.13** HESA Student Record [2014–15]*
- P.14** HESA Finance and Student Record (multiple years) and BIS GDP deflators series, 2016
- P.15** National Student Survey (NSS), 2016
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- P.18** BIS (2016) Graduate Labour Statistics
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- p.21** HESA Staff Record [2014–15]*
- p.22** OECD Education at a Glance (2015)
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- p.26** HESA Finance Record [2014–15]*
- p.27** OECD (2016) Main Science and Technology Indicators

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