
HIGHER EDUCATION IN

FACTS AND FIGURES

2018



Universities UK

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, 18-year-old entry rates were at their highest recorded levels in England and Scotland.



In 2016–17, 14% of undergraduate students, 35% of postgraduate students and 30% of academic staff were from outside the UK.



In 2017, the high-skill employment rate in England was 56% higher for postgraduates than non-graduates.

In 2016–17, non-UK staff accounted for 43% of academic staff in engineering and technology; and 39% in biological, mathematical and physical sciences.



In 2016–17, 17% of research income received by UK institutions came from overseas sources, with 11% from the EU.



In 2016–17, around half of total income for UK higher education institutions came from fees and health education contracts related to teaching.

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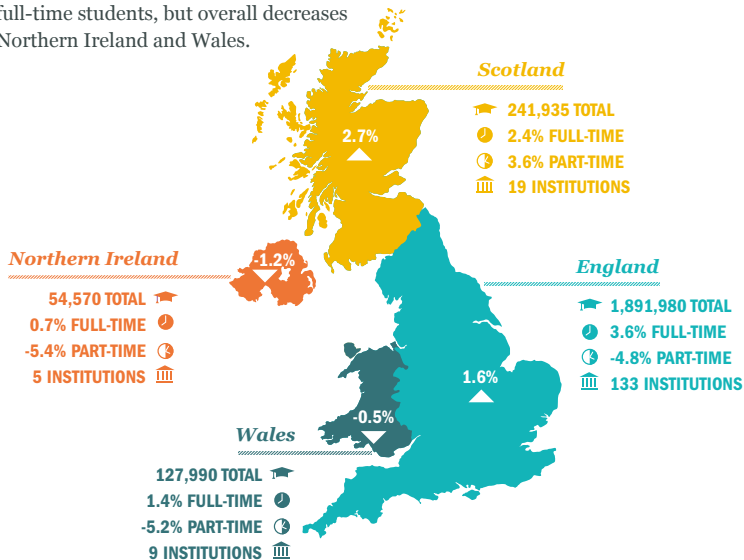
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STUDENTS

In 2016–17, there were 2,316,475 students at UK higher education institutions, of which 76.2% (1,764,895) were undergraduates and 23.8% (551,580) were postgraduates. By mode of study, 77.6% of students were full time, while 22.4% were part time. By domicile, 5.8% of students were from other EU countries, while 13.3% were from outside the EU.

STUDENTS BY COUNTRY OF INSTITUTION, 2015–16 TO 2016–17

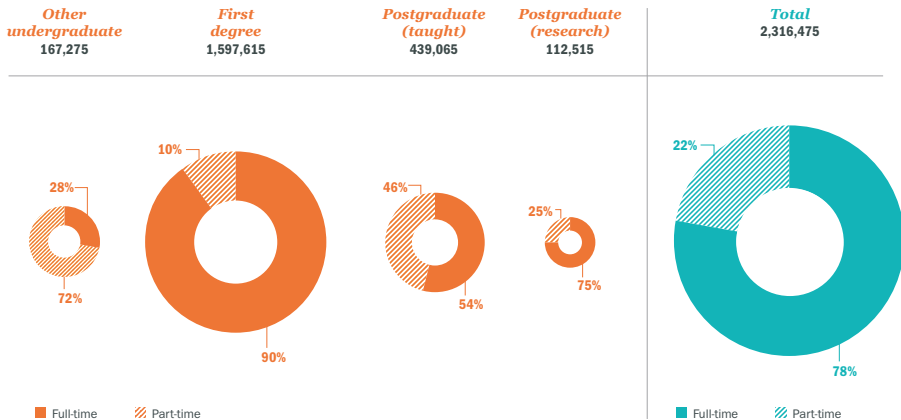
Between 2015–16 and 2016–17, part-time student numbers decreased in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. There were UK-wide increases for full-time students, but overall decreases in student numbers in Northern Ireland and Wales.



Source: HESA Student record [multiple years]

STUDENTS BY LEVEL AND MODE OF STUDY, 2016–17

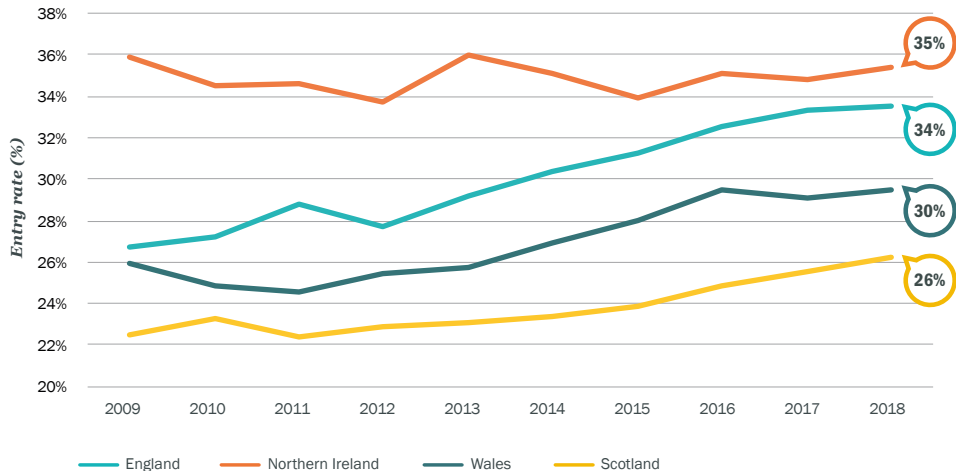
In 2016–17, part-time students accounted for 22% of all students, including 72% of 'other' undergraduate students and 46% of postgraduate taught students.



Source: HESA Student record [2016–17]

18-YEAR-OLD ENTRY RATES, 2009 TO 2018

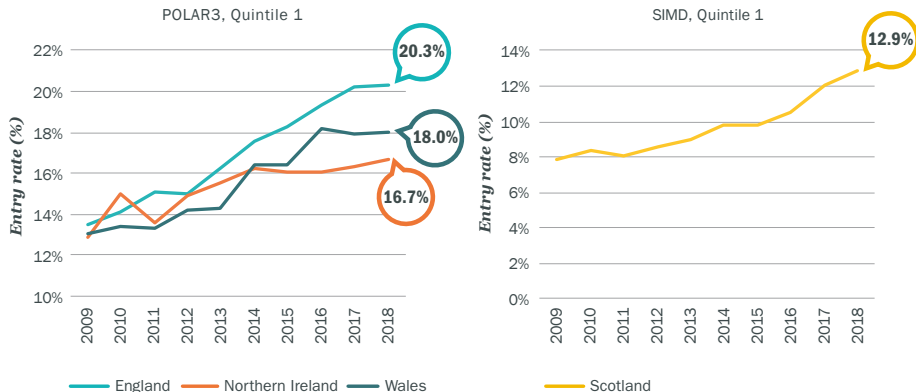
In 2018, 28 days after A-level results day, 18-year-old entry rates were at their highest recorded levels for students domiciled in England and Scotland.



Source: UCAS daily Clearing analysis 2018

ENTRY RATES FROM THE MOST DISADVANTAGED 18-YEAR-OLDS, 2009 TO 2018

In 2018, 28 days after A-level results day, entry rates for the most disadvantaged 18-year-olds were at their highest recorded levels in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

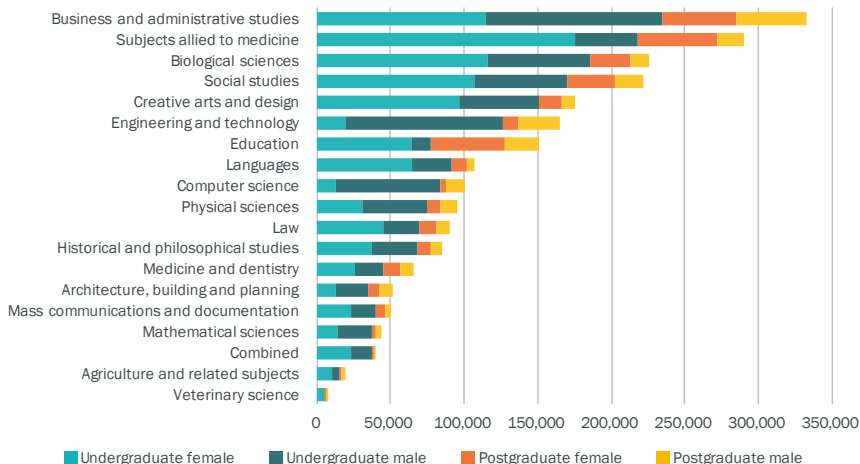


Note: POLAR3 method is used for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, while SIMD is used for Scotland. Therefore, they are not directly comparable. Application rates reported for Scotland are lower, as a substantial section of Scottish higher education providers do not use UCAS.

Source: UCAS daily Clearing analysis 2018

STUDENTS BY SEX, SUBJECT AREA AND LEVEL OF STUDY, 2016–17

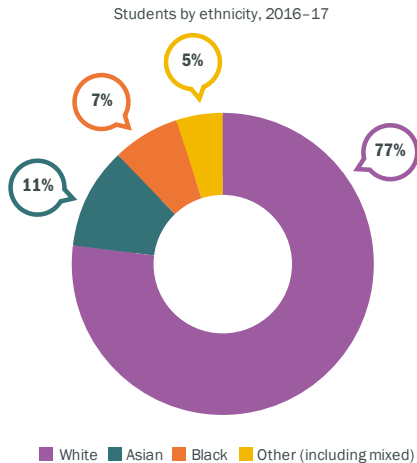
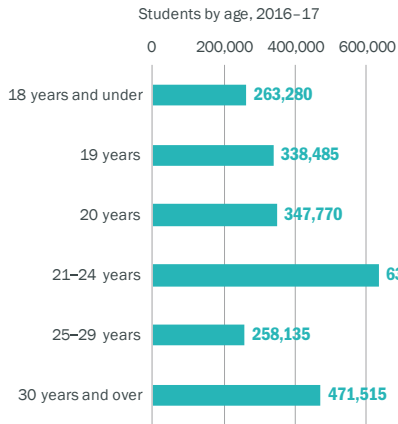
In 2016–17, undergraduate student numbers were highest in the subjects of business, medicine and biological sciences. Postgraduate student numbers were highest for business, education and subjects allied to medicine.



Source: HESA Student record [2016–17]

STUDENTS BY AGE AND ETHNICITY, 2016–17

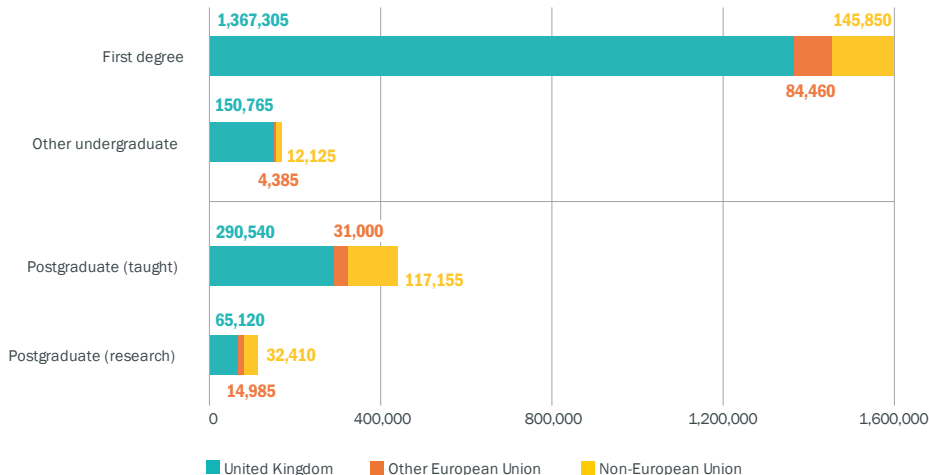
In 2016–17, nearly two thirds of undergraduate, first degree entrants (65%) were aged under 20.



Source: HESA Student record [2016–17]

STUDENTS BY DOMICILE AND LEVEL OF STUDY, 2016–17

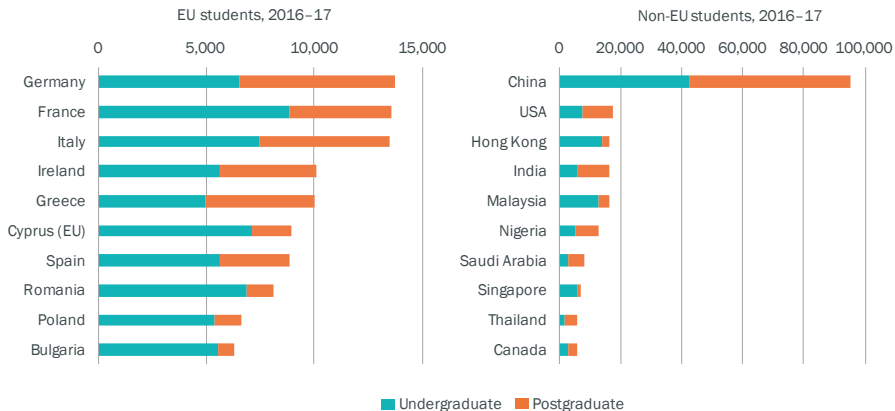
In 2016–17, 14% of undergraduate students and 35% of postgraduate students were from outside the UK.



Source: HESA Student record [2016–17]

TOP TEN DOMICILES OF NON-UK STUDENTS, 2016-17

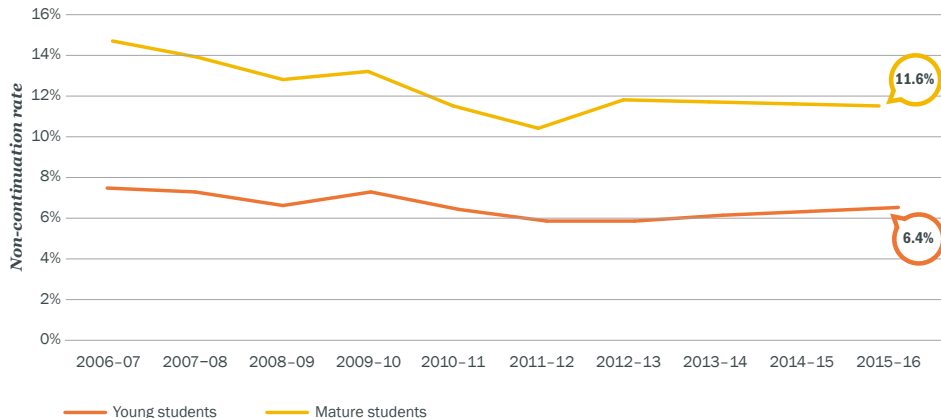
Students from Europe accounted for 35% of non-UK undergraduate students, with a further 44% from Asia; 7% from Africa; 7% from the Middle East; 6% from North America; 1% from Australasia; and 1% from South America.



Source: HESA Student record [2016-17]

NON-CONTINUATION RATES OF UK-DOMICILED FULL-TIME, FIRST DEGREE ENTRANTS AFTER THEIR FIRST YEAR, 2006-07 TO 2015-16

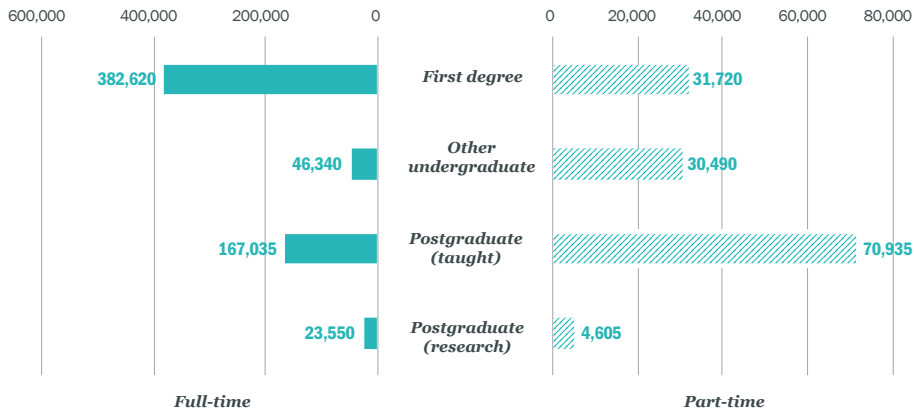
Non-continuation rates for both young and mature students have improved since 2006-07. In 2015-16 the non-continuation rate for young students was 6.4%, and 11.6% for mature students.



Source: HESA UK KPIs [2016-17]

QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY MODE OF STUDY, 2016–17

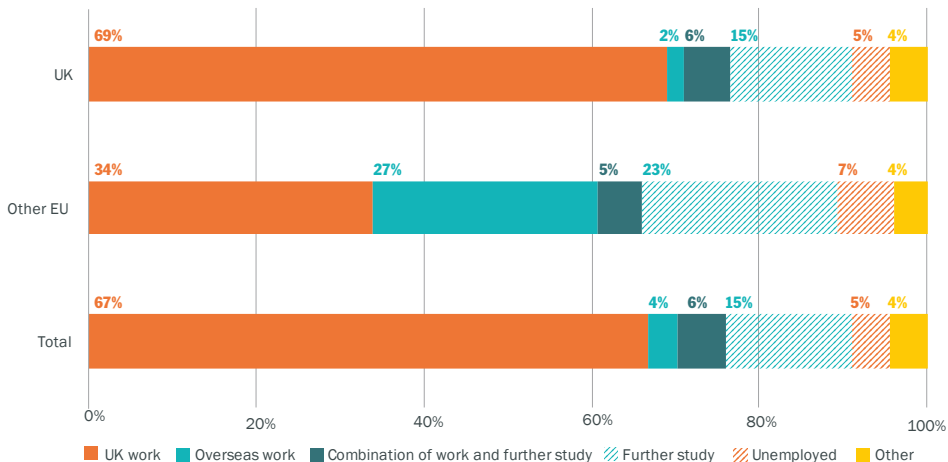
In 2016–17, 55% of all qualifications awarded were for undergraduate first degrees, followed by postgraduate taught degrees (31%), other undergraduate degrees (10%) and postgraduate research degrees (4%).



Source: HESA Student record [2016–17]

DESTINATIONS OF UK AND OTHER EU-DOMICILED LEAVERS BY ACTIVITY, 2016–17

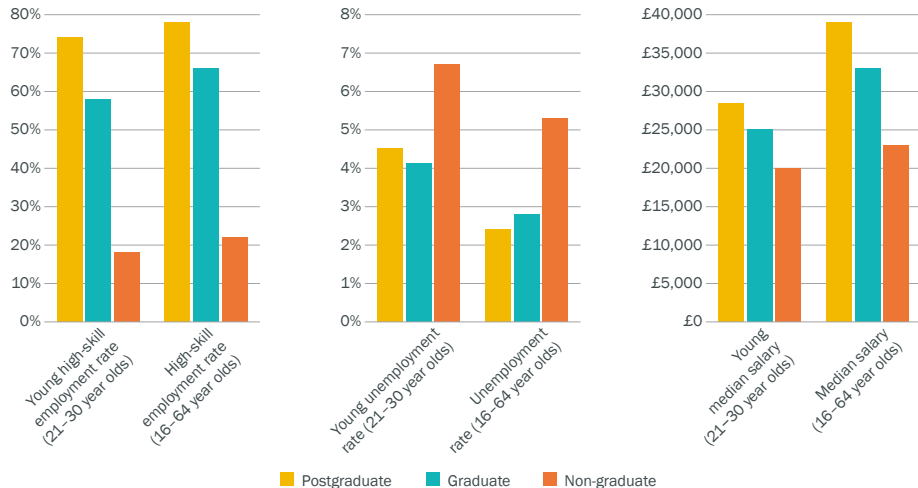
In 2016–17, six months after completing their studies, 91.1% of UK-domiciled graduates and 89.4% of other EU-domiciled graduates were working or pursuing further study.



Source: HESA DLHE record [2016–17]

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AND MEDIAN SALARIES IN ENGLAND, 2017

In 2017, median graduate salaries were £10,000 higher than non-graduate salaries. The high-skill employment rate was 56% higher for postgraduates than non-graduates.



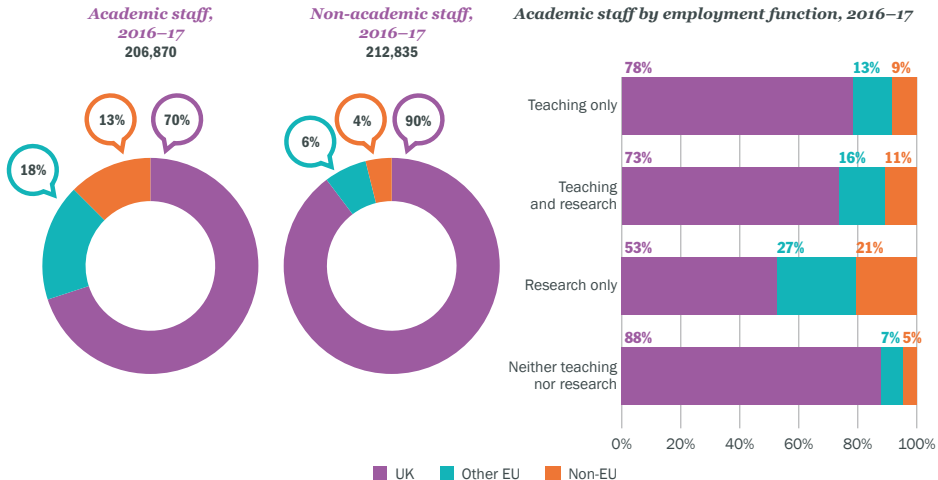
Source: Department for Education Graduate labour market statistics 2017

STAFF

In 2016–17, there were 419,710 staff at UK higher education institutions, of which 49.3% had an academic employment contract. By nationality, 11.9% were from other EU countries, while 8.1% were from outside the EU. Females made up 45.7% of the academic workforce.

STAFF BY NATIONALITY AND EMPLOYMENT FUNCTION, 2016–17

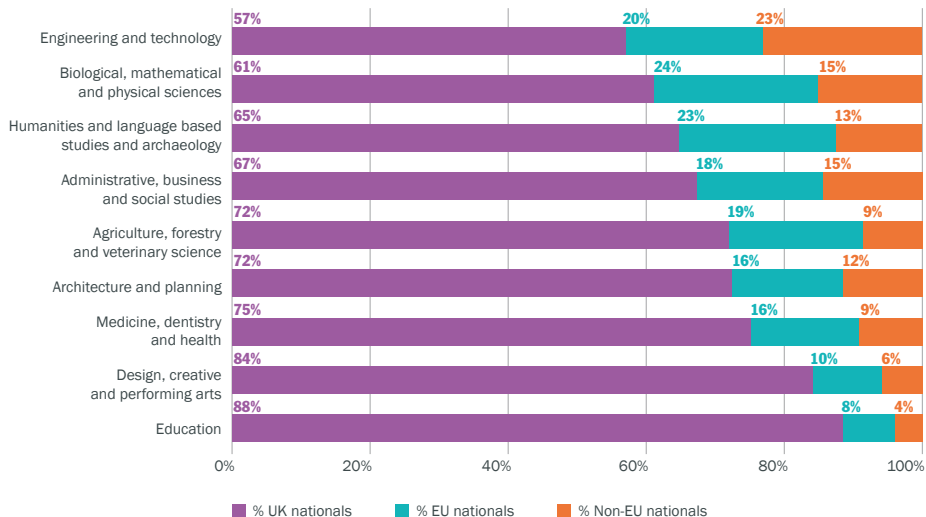
In 2016–17, non-UK staff accounted for 20% of all staff at UK higher education institutions (12% other EU and 8% non-EU staff).



Source: HESA Staff record [2016–17]

ACADEMIC STAFF BY NATIONALITY AND COST CENTRE, 2016–17

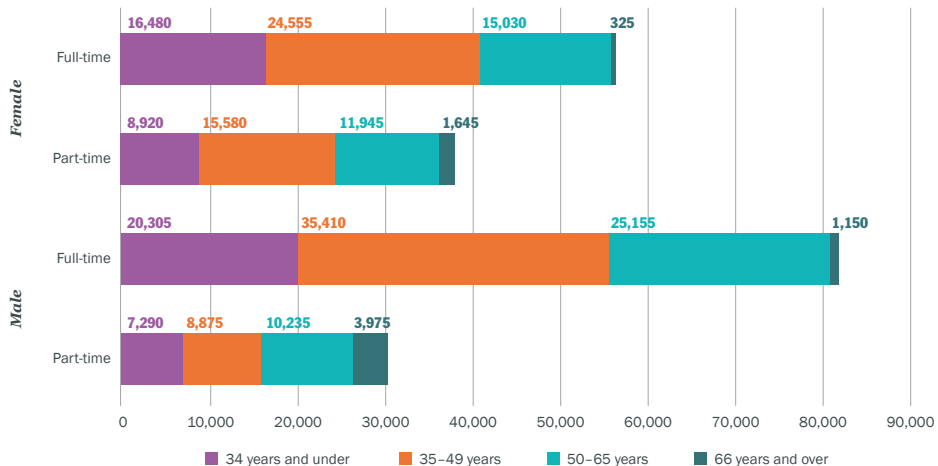
In 2016–17, non-UK staff accounted for 43% of academic staff in engineering and technology; and 39% in biological, mathematical and physical sciences.



Source: HESA Staff record [2016–17]

ACADEMIC STAFF BY SEX, MODE OF EMPLOYMENT AND AGE, 2016–17

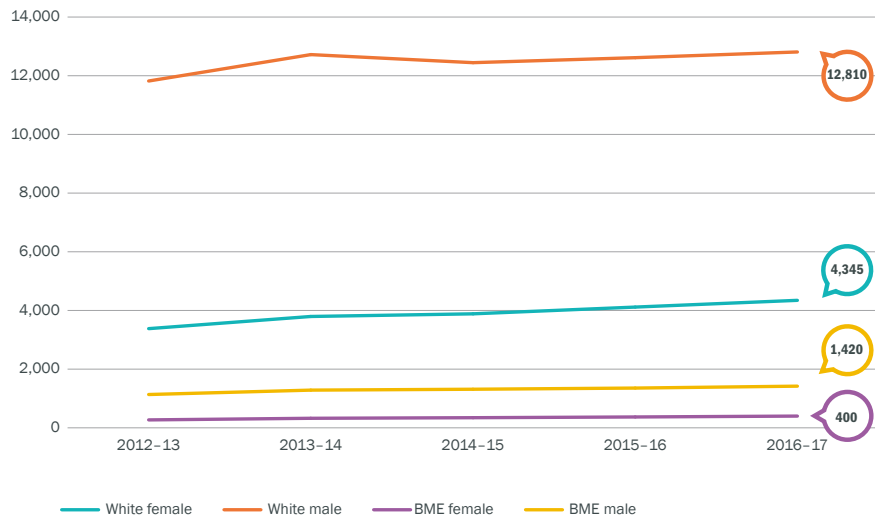
In 2016–17, 46% of academic staff were female, while around a quarter (26%) were aged 34 years and under.



Source: HESA Staff record [2016–17]

ACADEMIC PROFESSORIAL STAFF BY SEX AND ETHNICITY, 2012-13 TO 2016-17

In 2016-17, white males accounted for more than two thirds of academic professorial staff, where sex and ethnicity were known.



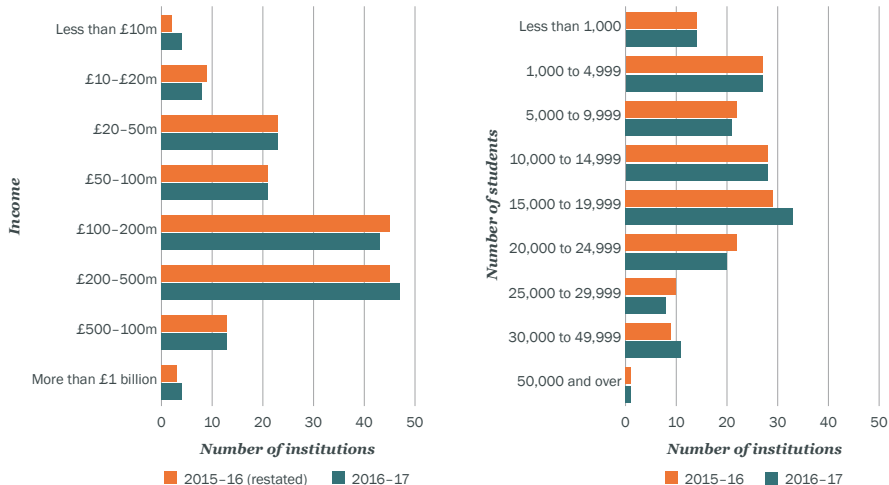
Source: HESA Staff record [multiple years]

FINANCE

In 2016–17, total income for higher education institutions was £35.7 billion, while total expenditure was £34.5 billion. Non-UK sources provided 17% of research income.

INCOME AND SIZE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 2015–16 TO 2016–17

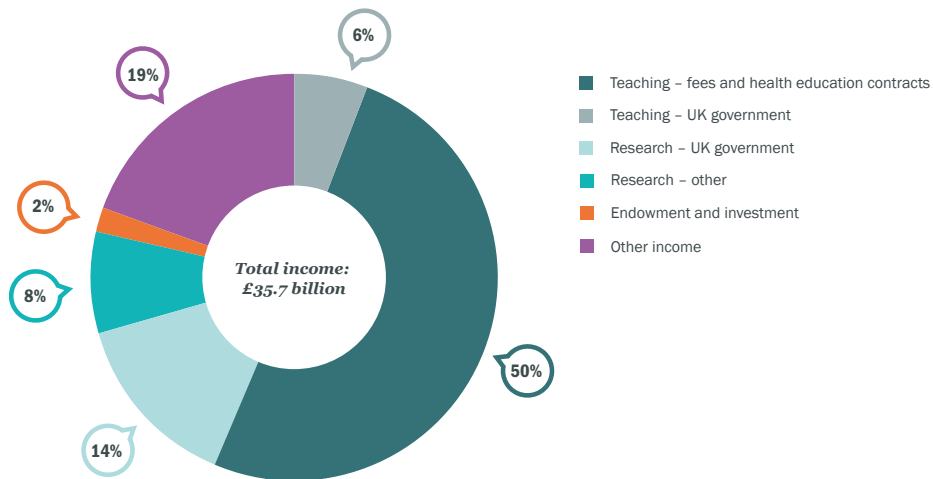
In 2016–17, around a third of all UK higher education institutions had an annual income of less than £100 million, and about a quarter of institutions had more than 20,000 students.



Source: HESA Finance record [2016–17]

INCOME BY SOURCE, 2016–17

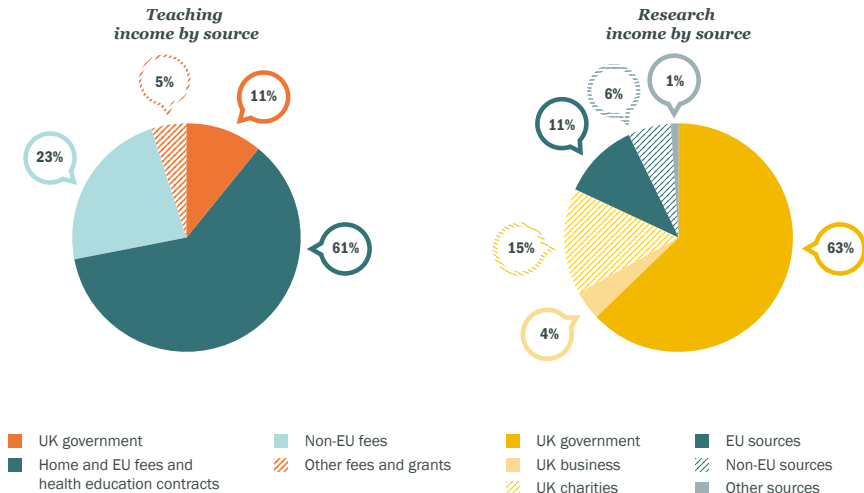
In 2016–17, the total reported income of UK higher education institutions was £35.7 billion. Just under half of total income came from fees and health education contracts related to teaching (£17.7 billion).



Source: UUK analysis of HESA Finance record [2016–17]

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INCOME, 2016-17

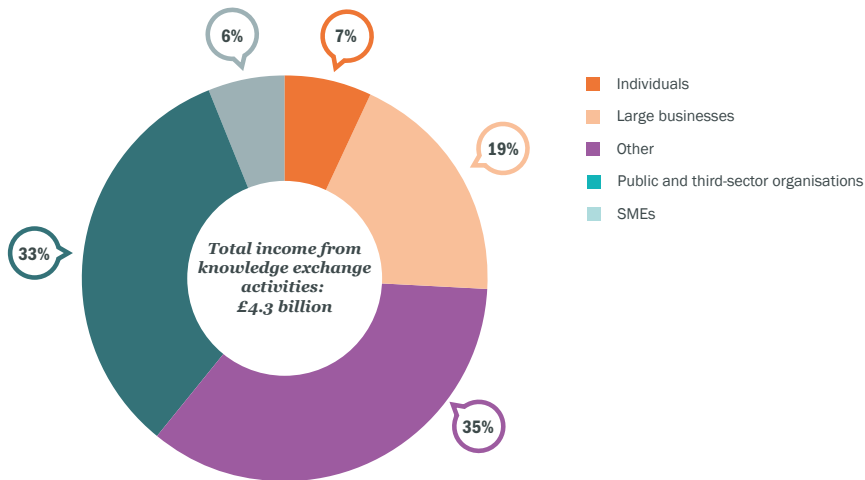
In 2016-17, 61% of UK institution teaching income came from home and EU fees, and health education contracts. Overseas sources provided 17% of research income received by UK institutions, with 11% from the EU.



Source: UUK analysis of HESA Finance record [2016-17]

INCOME FROM KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES BY PARTNER, 2016–17

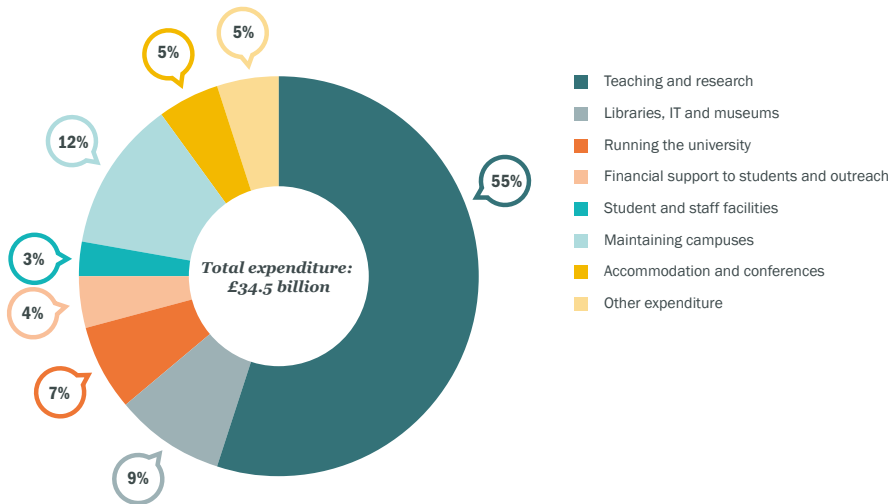
In 2016–17, a third of knowledge exchange income was related to interactions with public and third-sector organisations, while about a fifth was related to interactions with large businesses.



Source: UUK analysis of HESA HE-BCI data [2016–17]

OPERATING EXPENDITURE OF UK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, 2016–17

More than half of the spending by UK higher education institutions in 2016–17 was directly related to teaching and research activities, which includes spending on academic and support staff working in academic departments.



Source: UUK analysis of HESA Finance record [2016–17]

GLOSSARY

Cost centre

Cost centre is a financial concept which groups staff members to specific related cost centres which enables analysis between the Student, Staff and Finance streams. The cost centre groups are separate to the JACS/HESA codes due to the groupings and are therefore non-comparable. (Source: HESA)

DLHE

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

Domicile

A student's permanent country of residence.

Entry rate

The number of entrants 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.

High-skill employment (ONS definition)

Occupations at this level are generally termed 'professional' or 'managerial' positions, and are found in corporate enterprises or governments. Occupations 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.

Other undergraduate

Other 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

In 2016–17, there were 162 higher education institutions in the UK in receipt of public funding. 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). The report also excludes student data for the University of Wales (central functions), which has staff but no students. On page 6, 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.

All HESA figures quoted in the publication that relate to student and staff numbers have been rounded to the nearest five in accordance with HESA data protection protocols. Therefore, rounded figures may not sum precisely.

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