



# Statistical First Release

Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher  
Education Institutions – 2014/15



## **Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions Statistical First Release – 2014/15**

This Statistical First Release (SFR), produced by the Department for the Economy (DfE), is based on an SFR produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in collaboration with statisticians from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and DfE. It provides details of the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) who obtained qualifications in HEIs in the UK, during the academic year 2014/15. The survey was carried out approximately **6 months after graduation**. HESA's SFR will be published on the same date and time as the DfE SFR.

This SFR provides high-level figures and will be supported by a more detailed analysis due for publication on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

In 2014/15, there were 10,055 UK and EU leavers from NI HEIs who responded from the target population of 13,365, an overall response rate for NI of around 75.2% (UK 76.1%; EU 63.0%).

This statistical first release incorporates changes that HESA made to the allocation of Open University (OU) students in the 2013/14 student record. This means that enrolments and qualifications registered at one of the OU's national centres in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will now contribute to the totals of those countries, where statistics are shown by country of provider. Previously all OU enrolments and qualifications were counted as being within England, where the OU has its administrative centre.

DfE has adopted this new methodology going forward from the 2014/15 academic year, after completing a full public consultation. In addition, any historical statistics affected by this change in methodology now reflect the new allocation method for OU.

Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions  
Key Points - 2014/15

**Destinations of all students from NI HEIs:**

Of the 10,055 leavers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Northern Ireland (NI) whose destinations were known:

- 68.8% (6,910) were in UK employment, compared with 68.1% (272,120) for UK HEIs
- 6.0% (610) were in employment overseas (including Republic of Ireland), compared with 3.6% (14,205) for UK HEIs
- 5.8% (590) were in both work and further study, compared with 5.7% (22,865) for UK HEIs
- 10.8% (1,080) were in further study only, compared with 12.9% (51,600) for UK HEIs
- 3.2% (325) were engaged in other activities, compared with 4.5% (17,955) for UK HEIs; and
- 5.4% (540) were unemployed, compared with 5.2% (20,600) for UK HEIs

**Destinations of All Leavers from NI HEIs - 2014/15**



**Destinations of full-time first degree leavers from NI HEIs:**

Of the 6,060 full-time first degree leavers from HEIs in NI whose destinations were known:

- 67.4% (4,085) were in UK employment, compared with 67.3% (159,745) for UK HEIs
- 4.6% (275) were in employment overseas, compared with 2.6% (6,185) for UK HEIs
- 6.1% (370) were in both work and further study, compared with 5.0% (11,765) for UK HEIs
- 12.6% (765) were in further study only, compared with 14.7% (34,950) for UK HEIs
- 3.1% (185) were engaged in other activities, compared with 4.6% (10,875) for UK HEIs; and
- 6.3% (380) were unemployed, compared with 5.9% (13,900) for UK HEIs

**STEM subject areas<sup>1</sup>:**

For Narrow STEM subject areas, 66.8% (1,065) of full-time first degree leavers from NI HEIs were in employment only (either in the UK or overseas, excluding those in both work and further study) and 7.7% (120) were unemployed; for Broad STEM subject areas, 76.1% (2,435) were in employment only (in the UK or overseas), and 5.6% (180) were unemployed.

**Professional employment<sup>2</sup>:**

In 2014/15, of the full-time first degree leavers from NI HEIs who were working in the UK (including those who were also doing further study), over two-thirds (70.6%; 3,135) were in posts classified as 'Professional Employment'. The remaining 29.4% (1,305) were working in occupational groups classed as non-professional.

**Part-time leavers:**

In 2014/15, of the 610 part-time first degree leavers from NI HEIs whose destinations were known, 69.8% (425) were in UK employment and 5.7% (35) were unemployed.

**Level of study:**

Of the 7,530 undergraduate leavers from NI HEIs (both full-time and part-time) whose destinations were known, 66.7% (5,025) were in UK employment and 4.5% (340) were employed overseas. Of the 2,525 postgraduate leavers from NI HEIs (both full-time and part-time) whose destinations were known, 74.8% (1,890) were in UK employment and 10.6% (265) were employed overseas.

**Salary<sup>3</sup>:**

In 2014/15, of those UK domiciled first degree leavers (both full-time and part-time) from NI HEIs reported as being in full-time paid employment in the UK, 67.0% disclosed their salary. The median salary reported (to the nearest £500) was £20,000, the lower quartile was £15,500 and the upper quartile £23,000. The mean salary was £20,500.

**Location of employment:**

Of the UK domiciled leavers from NI HEIs in 2014/15, whose destinations were known and reported being in employment in the UK, 89.8% (3,570) of full-time first degree leavers remained in NI to take up employment and 10.2% (405) went to Great Britain. The majority (89.3%; 815) of full-time postgraduate leavers also remained in NI to take up employment, whilst 10.7% (100) went to Great Britain.

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<sup>1</sup> See Notes and Definitions section – Points 9 & 10.

<sup>2</sup> See Notes and Definitions section – Points 11 & 12.

<sup>3</sup> See Notes and Definitions section – Points 8 & 12.

## Notes and Definitions:

### Notes:

1. The statistics presented in this Statistical First Release (SFR) draw on the 2014/15 Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) record. The statistics are derived by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from data collected from all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK (including The Open University).
2. Following a review and consultation with government departments, the Higher Education (HE) sector and users of the data, the DLHE survey has been re-designed to collect richer information from leavers, particularly regarding their employment status on the survey date.
3. Leavers now report all the activities that they are undertaking on the census date and then indicate which one they consider to be the most important to them. From these responses, destination categories are derived taking into account the most important activity and, in some instances, other activities the leaver is involved in.
4. Consequently, the destination categories reported from 2011/12 onwards differ from those reported prior to that year. Direct comparisons should not therefore be made with the figures presented before 2011/12.
5. The 2014/15 DLHE data include all those students whose study was full-time or part-time and who obtained relevant qualifications reported to HESA for the reporting period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.
6. All figures have been rounded by HESA to the nearest 5 students, in line with HESA rounding strategy, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
7. The coverage of the HESA DLHE survey consists of all UK, EU and non-EU domiciled leavers for whom destinations data are expected and sought from UK HEIs in 2014/15. Non-EU leavers were added to the target population from 2011/12 and from 2013/14 a target response rate of 20% was set for inclusion in SFR. However, further analysis is required to assess how accurate a representation these data are for the population of non-EU leavers as a whole; therefore, the data for the non-EU leavers are excluded from the SFR.
8. One notable change in the DLHE survey since last year (2013/14) relates to the questions asked to ascertain salary information from leavers. Whereas previously, leavers were asked for their annual salary, this year they were able to report their salary in one of a variety of time frames (for example, annually, monthly, weekly, hourly). HESA use this information (alongside reported number of hours worked) to calculate an annual salary for each leaver. Although this is a positive change to the survey, allowing for greater accuracy for leavers who only know their hourly or weekly salary, data quality issues have been noticed. Investigations into the data reveal that some leavers have quite likely reported a salary against an incorrect time-frame. An example of this is a leaver reporting a true annual salary of £25,000, yet being paid in

monthly blocks and inaccurately reporting this as a monthly salary. HESA would then multiply the £25,000 by 12 to report an inaccurate salary of £300,000. Instances of these types of inaccuracies are very low, and data investigations reveal the overall impact on average salary is low. The decision was therefore taken to include all responses within average salary calculations.

Definitions:

9. Broad STEM includes the following subject areas: Medicine & dentistry, Subjects allied to medicine, Biological sciences, Veterinary sciences, Agriculture & related subjects, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science, Engineering & technology and Architecture, building and planning.
10. Narrow STEM is a subset of Broad STEM and includes the following subject areas: Biological sciences, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science and Engineering & technology.
11. Professional occupations are defined as those falling into the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2010) major groups 1, 2 and 3; with non-professional occupations defined as all other known SOC major groups. The SOC 2010 major groups are outlined below:
  - i) Managers, directors and senior officials
  - ii) Professional occupations
  - iii) Associate professional and technical occupations
  - iv) Administrative and secretarial occupations
  - v) Skilled trades occupations
  - vi) Caring, leisure and other service occupations
  - vii) Sales and customer service occupations
  - viii) Process, plant and machine operatives
  - ix) Elementary occupations
12. Leavers reported as working in the UK include all students in the destination category UK Work, plus students from the destination category Work and Further Study who indicated they were involved in was working full-time in the UK.

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