Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

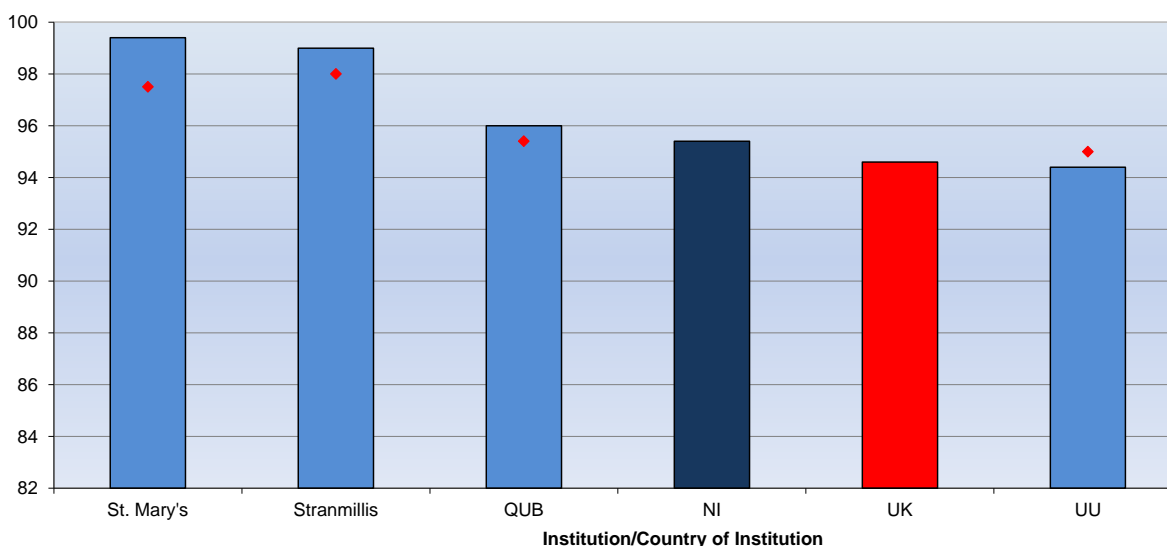## Performance Indicators in Higher Education: Employment

Employment Indicator - 2016/17 graduates – six months after graduation

This indicator expresses the number of graduates who are working or studying (or both) as a percentage of graduates who are working or studying (or both) or seeking work. Indicators are provided by level and mode of study.

Differences between institutions, such as subject mix or the qualifications on entry of their students, make comparisons between institutions unreliable. For this reason, benchmarks against which an institution's value can be compared have been produced. For this indicator, a value higher than the benchmark indicates that an institution is performing well. Benchmarks are shown by a red diamond in Figure 1.

(a) Full-time first degree graduates[1] (Table 1, Figure 1)

Figure 1: Number of full time first degree graduates in work or study (or both) as a percentage of full time first degree graduates in work or study (or both) or seeking work - 2016/17

- Of the full-time first degree graduates from Northern Ireland (NI) Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2016/17 who were in work and/or study or seeking work, 95.4% (94.4% in 2015/16) were in work and/or study six months after graduation. The comparable figure for United Kingdom (UK) HEIs was 94.6% (94.3% in 2015/16).

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[1] See 'Contextual Information'

- On this basis, St. Mary's (99.4%), Stranmillis (99.0%) and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) (96.0%) performed above their benchmarks (97.5%, 98.0%, 95.4%), although not significantly[1] so.

- Ulster University (UU) (94.4%) had a value lower than its benchmark (95.0%), again not significantly[1] so.

- The Open University (OU) did not have a percentage for this indicator, as all entrants during 2016/17 were part-time.

Table 1: Number of <u>full-time first degree graduates</u> in work or study or both as a percentage of full-time first degree graduates in work or study (or both) or seeking work – 2015/16 and 2016/17

	2015/16		2016/17	
	Percentage	Benchmark	Percentage	Benchmark
UK	94.3	-	94.6	-
NI	94.4	-	95.4	-
QUB	94.4	95.4	96.0	95.4
St Mary's	95.9	97.2	99.4	97.5
Stranmillis	100.0	98.2	99.0	98.0
UU	93.9	94.8	94.4	95.0

(b) Part-time first degree graduates[1]

- Of the part-time first degree graduates from NI HEIs in 2016/17 who were in work and/or study or seeking work, 96.3% were in work and/or study six months after graduation. The comparable UK figure was 95.5%.

- On this basis, Stranmillis (100%) and OU (97.0%) both performed better than their benchmarks (99.2%, 96.1%), but not significantly so.

- UU (95.8%) had a value lower than its benchmark (96.2%), though not significantly so, while QUB (94.4%) had a value similar to its benchmark (94.5%).

- Due to small numbers, this measure has not been produced for St Mary's.

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[1] See 'Contextual Information'

(c) Full-time other undergraduates[1]

- Of the full-time other undergraduates from NI HEIs in 2016/17 who were in work and/or study or seeking work, 98.6% were in work and/or study six months after graduation. The comparable UK figure was 95.6%.

- On this basis, QUB (100.0%) performed above its benchmark (93.8%), but not significantly so.

- Stranmillis (98.0%) had a value lower than its benchmark (98.6%), but again, this difference was not significant.

- Due to small numbers, this measure has not been produced for St Mary's. Due to a low response rate, this measure has not been produced for UU.

- OU did not have a percentage for this indicator, as all entrants during 2016/17 were part-time.

(d) Part-time other undergraduates[1]

- Of the part-time other undergraduates from NI HEIs in 2016/17 who were in work and/or study or seeking work, 97.7% were in work and/or study six months after graduation. The comparable UK figure was 97.7%.

- UU (98.9%) performed above its benchmark (98.0%), but this difference was not significant.

- OU (89.3%) performed below its benchmark (96.6%), but not significantly so.

- Due to small numbers, this measure has not been produced for QUB, Stranmillis and St Mary's.

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[1] See 'Contextual Information'