



SPICe

The Information Centre

SPICe Briefing

Participation in Higher Education: Statistics

19 February 2010

10/08

Fiona Mullen

This briefing provides an analysis of statistics on students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It examines patterns of participation in higher education by factors such as: mode of study; level of study; institution type; age; and country of domicile. It is based on the most recent statistics on students in individual HEIs in Scotland. Additional sources of statistics on participation in higher education are also included.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
STATISTICS ON PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION	5
THE AGE PARTICIPATION INDEX FOR SCOTLAND.....	5
<i>Chart 1: Age Participation Index for Scotland by level of study 1999/00 – 2007/08</i>	6
HE ENTRANTS FROM DEPRIVED AREAS 2001-02 TO 2007-08	7
<i>Higher Education Participation in Colleges</i>	7
<i>Higher Education Participation in Universities</i>	7
OECD INITIAL PARTICIPATION RATES AT DEGREE LEVEL	8
STUDENTS BY MODE OF STUDY, LEVEL OF STUDY AND COUNTRY OF DOMICILE	9
<i>Undergraduates in Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile</i>	10
<i>Undergraduates in English HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile</i>	11
<i>Postgraduates in Scottish HEIs</i>	12
<i>Postgraduates in English HEIs</i>	13
<i>Students at Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile: Undergraduates</i>	15
<i>Students at Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile: Postgraduates</i>	16
SOURCES	17
ANNEX 1: STATISTICS RELEVANT TO ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN HE	18
RELATED BRIEFINGS	24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There is a wide variety of lifelong learning statistics that could be used to monitor or examine participation of various groups in higher education (HE).
- The Age Participation Index, or API, is a measure of participation in HE by young people. According to the API, over the last 8 years there has been a steady decline in the proportion of 'young Scottish people' participating in HE (apart from a slight rise in 2005-06), from a peak of 54.1% in 2000-01, to 43.2% in 2007-08.
- API data suggests that there is a gender gap in participation in HE by young people. This gender gap was the most pronounced it has ever been in 2007-08, with participation in HE by females 12.9% higher than for males (participation by females has been typically around 10% higher). However, participation by both genders fell in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07.
- OECD initial participation rates suggest that, since 2001, Scotland has had higher levels of participation in HE by young people than the rest of the UK and other OECD countries. However, this advantage appears to be reducing, with OECD and UK initial participation rates increasing over the same time period.
- Analysing data by institution provides a greater insight into participation in higher education. Students from deprived areas are actually over-represented in colleges, with the proportion of entrants to colleges from the most deprived datazones rising steadily over the last ten years.
- The under-representation of entrants to HE from deprived areas becomes much more apparent when considering participation at universities, particularly at Scotland's Ancient Universities (University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and University of St. Andrews).
- Post-1992 universities, including the Open University, experienced higher levels of participation in HE by those from deprived areas. However, the proportion of entrants from deprived areas studying with the Open University has remained fairly static since 2002-03, whilst participation at post-1992 universities has steadily increased over this time period, with the highest level of participation by institution type, excluding colleges.
- The total number of undergraduate students studying at Scottish HEIs increased by 8.4% from 151,700 students in 2002/03 to 164,505 students in 2006/07. However, the number of undergraduates subsequently fell, fairly significantly, in 2007/08 to 158,910 - a year on year decrease of 3.4%. This is the only year since 2002/03 to witness a reduction in undergraduate numbers, both for full-time and part-time students. This is partly explained by changes to data collection methods.
- The total number of undergraduate students studying in English HEIs also increased year on year over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, from 1,390,915 students in 2002/03 to 1,505,015 students in 2007/08, an increase of 8.2% over the period.

- From 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of undergraduates from Scotland studying in Scottish HEIs has remained fairly stable at approximately 78%. The proportion of undergraduates from the rest of the UK has steadily decreased over the period, from 13.7% of total undergraduates in 2002/03 to 12.5% in 2007/08. Conversely, the proportion of undergraduates at Scottish HEIs from the rest of the EU has risen steadily. The proportion of undergraduates from outside of the EU has also risen slightly over this time period.
- Numbers of postgraduate students in Scotland have increased over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, from 45,665 students in 2002/03 to 51,275 students in 2007/08, an increase of 12.3% over the period. However, a slight year on year decrease in full-time postgraduate numbers at Scottish HEIs was experienced in 2007/08
- Over the same period, the proportion of undergraduates from Scotland studying in English HEIs also remained stable at approximately 1.5%. The proportion of undergraduates in English HEIs from the rest of the UK has slightly decreased over this period, from 90.3% of undergraduates in 2002/03 to 89% in 2007/08. The proportion of undergraduates at English HEIs from the rest of the EU has risen slightly, while the proportion of undergraduates in English HEIs from outside the EU has remained fairly stable since 2003-04 at approximately 6%.
- Over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of postgraduates from Scotland studying in Scottish HEIs has reduced by approximately 8.5%. The proportion of postgraduates in Scottish HEIs from the rest of the UK has increased over this period by approximately 2%. The number of postgraduates from the rest of the EU at Scottish HEIs has remained fairly stable at around 8% of the total. There has, however, been a continuous increase in the proportion of postgraduates from outside of the EU, from 19.9% of postgraduates in Scottish HEIs in 2002/03 to 26.8% in 2007/08.
- From 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of postgraduates from Scotland studying in English HEIs remained at just over 1%. The proportion of postgraduates from the rest of the UK studying in English HEIs has reduced by approximately 5% over the period, from 70.2% of total postgraduates in 2002/03 to 65.5% in 2007/08. The number of postgraduates from the rest of the EU studying at English HEIs has remained fairly stable at around 8 to 8.5% of the total over the period (a very similar proportion to Scottish HEIs).
- English HEIs have also experienced a continuous and significant increase in the proportion of postgraduates from outside of the EU over this period, from 20.4% of postgraduates in English HEIs in 2002/03 to 25% of the total in 2007/08.

STATISTICS ON PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

There is a wide variety of lifelong learning statistics that could be used to monitor or examine participation of various groups in higher education. This paper provides an analysis of some of the main HE statistics. Annex 1 provides a list of other relevant statistics available, their sources and the time period to which they relate.

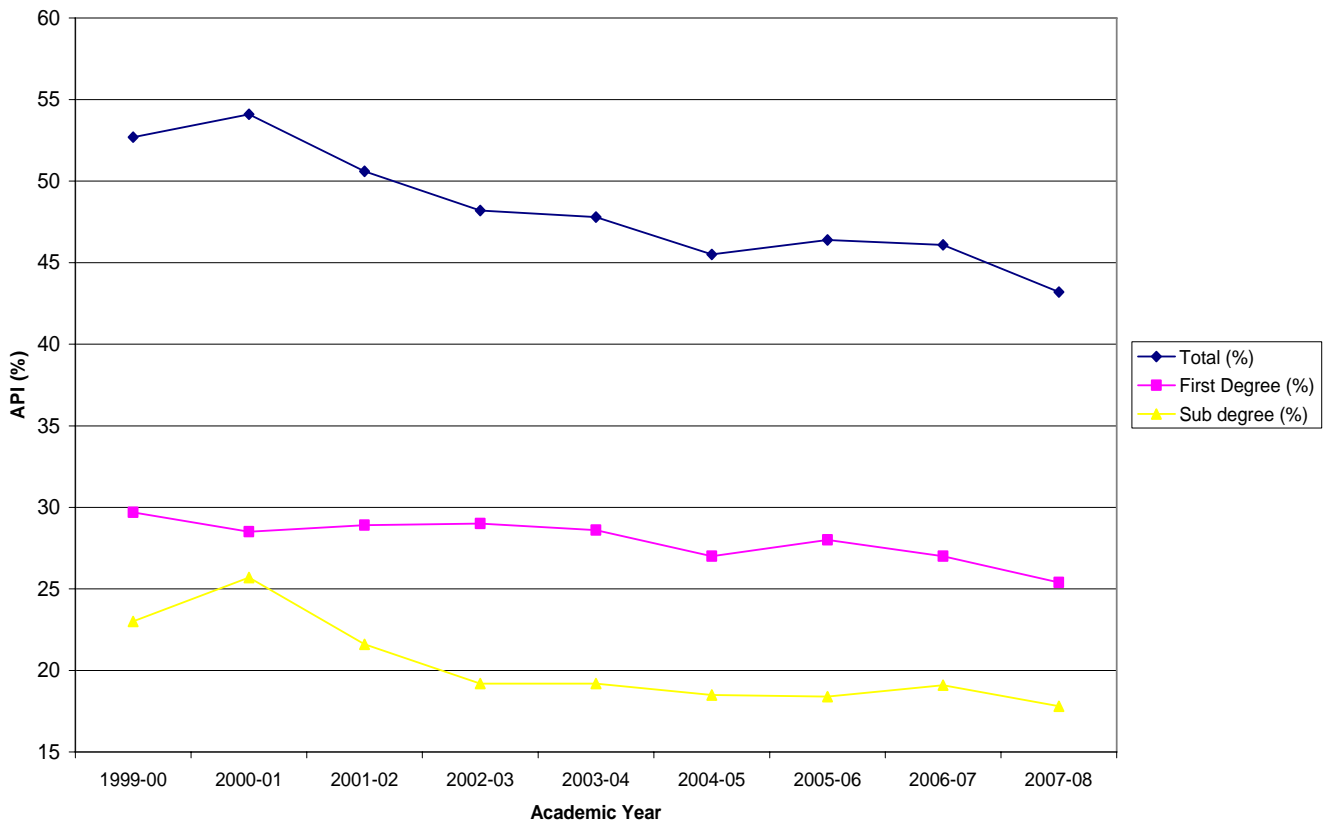
THE AGE PARTICIPATION INDEX FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Age Participation Index (API) for a given year is defined as the number of young Scots aged under 21 who enter a full-time HE course for the first time in that year, taken as a percentage of the population of 17 year olds at 31 December in the same year. In simple terms, it is an estimate of the proportion of 17 year olds in the population who are expected to enter HE for the first time before their 21st birthday if current trends continue (Scottish Government, 2009). This index, therefore, can be used as a proxy indicator of participation in HE by young Scottish people.

Chart 1 below shows the API for Scotland, broken down by the level of HE study i.e. sub-degree and first degree level. It can be seen from this chart that:

- According to the API, over the last 8 years there has been a steady decline in the proportion of 'young Scottish people' participating in HE (apart from a slight rise in 2005-06), from a peak of 54.1% in 2000-01, to 43.2% in 2007-08.
- The API fell by 2.9% on the previous year, from 46.1% in 2006-07 to 43.2% in 2007-08.
- API data suggests that there is a gender gap in participation in HE by young people. This gender gap was more pronounced than it has ever been in 2007-08, with participation by females being 12.9% higher than males (participation by females has been typically around 10% higher). However, participation by both genders fell in 2007-08 compared to the previous year.
- Patterns of participation by level of study are broadly similar over the time period, apart from an anomaly in sub-degree level study in 2000-01. The API in 2007-08 for first degree level and sub-degree level study was 25.4% and 17.8% respectively. There was a decrease in participation year on year to 2007-08 for both levels of study.
- Scottish Government sources explain that an annual increase in the population of 17 year olds to 2007-08 has contributed to a fall in the API, but that absolute numbers of young people expected to participate in HE also fell from 2006-07 to 2007-08 (by approximately 1,400)

Chart 1: Age Participation Index for Scotland by level of study 1999/00 – 2007/08



(Scottish Government, 2009a)

HE ENTRANTS FROM DEPRIVED AREAS 2001-02 TO 2007-08

Table 1, below, examines the proportion of all Scottish domiciled entrants to higher education whose pre-study location is classified as being within the 20 per cent most deprived datazones within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) (Scottish Government, 2009b). This data is also examined by the type of HE institution. The proportion of entrants from the most deprived datazones is compared with the proportion of the Scottish population living within these datazones. This indicates whether the proportion of entrants from these datazones at HEIs is representative of the make-up of the Scottish Population.

Over the period 2001-02 to 2007-08, representation of entrants from the most deprived areas in Scottish HEIs has increased slightly from 6.4% below the proportion of the Scottish Population living in these areas in 2001-02 to 4.3% below this proportion in 2007-08. However, looking only at the general trend masks the fact that participation of these groups at certain HEIs is higher.

Higher Education Participation in Colleges

When examining participation in colleges, entrants from the most deprived datazones are actually over-represented, with the proportion of entrants from these groups rising steadily over the period, from 0.7% under-representation in 2001-02 to 2.5% over-representation in 2007-08 (using 2009 SIMD). This does not, however, suggest that there are no college related participation issues among students from deprived areas, but that perhaps participation in HE in colleges is less of a socio-economic issue.

Higher Education Participation in Universities

The under-representation of entrants to HE from deprived areas becomes much more apparent when considering participation at universities, particularly at Scotland's Ancient Universities (University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and University of St. Andrews).

Table 1 shows that entrants from the most deprived areas are significantly under-represented in the Ancient Universities in comparison to colleges, or even post-1992 universities. There has, however, been a slight improvement over this time period from under-representation of 13.3% in 2001-02 to under-representation of 12% in 2007-08.

There is also significant under-representation of those from the most deprived areas in specialised HE institutions (Scottish Agricultural College, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Edinburgh College of Art, Glasgow School of Art); newer universities (University of Dundee, Heriot-Watt University, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde) and universities outside Scotland across the time period.

Post-1992 universities and the Open University have higher levels of participation in HE by those from deprived areas. However, the proportion of entrants to HE from deprived areas at the Open University has remained fairly static since 2002-03, whilst participation at post-1992 universities has steadily increased over the time period, with the highest level of participation by institution type, excluding colleges.

Table 1: Scottish domiciled entrants from Deprived Areas to Higher Education in the UK by institution type and academic year²: 2001-02 to 2007-08

Type of Institution ¹	Percentage of HE entrants from deprived areas							2007-08 (as published & using SIMD 2006)	2007-08 (using SIMD 2009)
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07			
Scottish Colleges	19.7%	20.1%	20.4%	21.3%	21.7%	21.8%	21.9%	21.8%	
Ancient Universities	7.1%	7.3%	7.5%	7.9%	7.6%	7.7%	8.0%	7.3%	
Specialised HEIs	6.8%	8.9%	7.8%	7.3%	7.7%	6.5%	8.2%	7.5%	
Newer Universities	10.3%	10.7%	11.1%	11.6%	11.7%	11.7%	11.9%	11.1%	
Post-92 Universities	12.5%	13.0%	13.2%	13.9%	14.4%	14.6%	15.1%	14.8%	
Open University	12.3%	11.8%	13.2%	13.7%	13.2%	13.7%	13.6%	13.2%	
Universities outside Scotland	5.7%	6.5%	6.3%	6.3%	6.8%	6.3%	7.6%	6.9%	
All entrants (A)	14.0%	14.2%	14.2%	14.9%	15.0%	15.0%	15.2%	14.8%	
% of Scottish population living in deprived areas (B)	20.4%	20.2%	20.0%	19.8%	19.7%	19.6%	19.5%	19.3%	
Under- representation of entrants from deprived areas (percentage points) (A-B)	-6.4	-6.0	-5.7	-5.0	-4.7	-4.6	-4.3	-4.5	

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Percentages have been calculated from unrounded values.

Deprived areas are taken to be the 20 per cent lowest ranked areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2006. In 2007 these accounted for 19 per cent of the Scottish population.

1. Universities are split into the following categories: Ancient Universities (University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrews); Specialised HEIs (Scottish Agricultural College, RSAMD, Edinburgh College of Art, Glasgow School of Art); Post-92 Universities (University of Abertay Dundee, Queen Margaret University College, Glasgow Caledonian University, Napier University, University of the West of Scotland, Robert Gordon University and also includes UHI Millennium Institute, which is an HEI; and Newer Universities (University of Dundee, Heriot-Watt University, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde).

2. SIMD 2004 used for 2001-02 to 2004-05, SIMD 2006 used for 2005-06 and 2006-07 and SIMD 2009 used for 2007-08.

OECD INITIAL PARTICIPATION RATES AT DEGREE LEVEL

OECD initial participation rates are indicators designed to measure the proportion of people who will enter 'Tertiary Type A education' programmes within their lifetime. 'Tertiary Type A' level is the equivalent of first degree level study in Scotland. Whilst this measurement is not the most robust (see statistical notes below), it does allow for comparison of participation in HE across OECD countries.

Table 2 below shows that, over the period 2001 to 2008, initial participation in degree level study in Scotland rose steadily from 50% in 2001 to a peak of 59% in 2004. However, since 2004, there has been a decline in the level of participation to 55% in 2008.

However, when comparing the data for Scotland to the rest of the UK and the OECD averages, Scotland has higher participation rates over this time-period, although this advantage appears to be reducing, with the OECD average reaching 56% in both 2006 and 2007. Using this measure, participation rates for the rest of the UK have gradually increased over the time period, from 46% in 2001 to 55% in 2007 (Scottish Government, 2009c)

Table 2. OECD initial participation rate in degree level study*
(first degree level, all ages, full time and part time, study at Scottish institutions)

Percentages

	Scottish Institutions	UK Institutions	OECD average
2001	50	46	48
2002	55	48	52
2003	56	48	53
2004	59	52	53
2005	56	51	55
2006	58	57	56
2007*	57	55	56
2008*	55		

* figures for 2007 are based on entry data for 2006/07; similar for earlier years

** 2008 figures for the UK and the OECD are expected to be published in September 2010

2. The OECD measure of initial entry to degree level courses

The OECD publishes a range of indicators in its publication Education at a Glance (Indicator C2). One of the indicators is the 'Entry rate into tertiary-type A education' (tertiary-type A education is the equivalent of our first degree level). Values of the indicator are published for the UK and other OECD countries.

The indicator is designed to measure the proportion of people who will enter tertiary-type A (first degree level) programmes in their lifetime if current entry rates continue.

A serious drawback of the indicator is that all new entrants to tertiary-type A programmes in a country are counted, irrespective of domicile. (This is due to mismatches between the coverage of population data and student data in the OECD countries.) Hence entry rates for countries that are net exporters of students may be underestimated and for those that are net importers they may be overestimated. Scotland is a net importer of students from the rest of the UK. While data are available on overseas students entering first degree programmes in Scotland, no data are available on numbers of Scots undertaking tertiary-type A education overseas. However, we can be confident that Scotland is also a net importer of students from overseas. (The UK as a whole will also be a net importer of overseas students.)

The UK and OECD figures are published and to follow the practice of the published data Open University students have been included for Scotland, the UK and the OECD where able

STUDENTS BY MODE OF STUDY, LEVEL OF STUDY AND COUNTRY OF DOMICILE

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) produces [online statistics](#) on students at HEIs in the UK, broken down by subject of study, disability, ethnicity, institution; and qualifications obtained. The following is an analysis of the latest HESA statistics available (academic year 2007-08).

This analysis considers first, the domicile of students on both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Scotland and England, over the period 2002-03 to 2007-08. Student numbers by individual HEI in Scotland for 2007-08 are then examined by mode of study (full-time or part-time), level of study (undergraduate or postgraduate) and country of domicile.

Undergraduates in Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile

Table 3 shows that the total number of undergraduate students studying in Scottish HEIs increased over the period 2002/03 to 2006-07 from 151,700 to 164,505, an increase of 8.4%. However, the number of undergraduates then fell fairly significantly in 2007/08 to 158,910, a year on year decrease of 3.4%. This is the only year since 2002/03 in which a reduction in undergraduate numbers occurred, both for full-time and part-time students

Table 3: Undergraduate Students at Scottish HEIs, 2002/03 to 2007/08, by mode of study and country of domicile

	Undergraduate										
	Total UG students	Mode of study		Domicile				Scotland as a % of total	Rest of UK as a % of total	Other EU as a % of total	Non-EU as a % of total
		Full-time	Part-time	UK	(of which) Scotland	Other EU	Non-EU				
2002-03	151,700	122,875	28,825	139,625	118,835	5,315	6,765	78.3	13.7	3.5	4.5
2003-04	156,410	124,515	31,895	143,500	123,105	5,640	7,265	78.7	13.0	3.6	4.6
2004-05	160,700	125,215	35,485	146,770	126,520	6,245	7,680	78.7	12.6	3.9	4.8
2005-06	161,845	125,535	36,310	147,035	126,570	7,065	7,750	78.2	12.6	4.4	4.8
2006-07	164,505	126,115	38,390	148,030	128,005	7,800	8,680	77.8	12.2	4.7	5.3
2007-08 (*)	158,910	123,290	35,620	142,625	122,730	8,505	7,780	77.2	12.5	5.4	4.9

* = HESA changed their standard registration population for 2007-08 to exclude writing up and sabbatical students. Such students were previously counted under the number of part-time students

Undergraduates by Mode of Study

Full-time undergraduate numbers decreased from 126,115 FT students in 2006/07 to 123,290 FT students in 2007/08 (-2.2%), although full-time participation remains higher than it was in 2002/03. The fall in part-time undergraduates was even more dramatic from 38,390 PT undergraduates in 2006/07 to 35,620 in 2007/08 (-7.2%). However, this decrease may be, at least in part, a function of changes to the statistics collection methodology in 2007-08 (please see notes to tables about data changes). These figures are shown in table 3 above.

Undergraduates by Country of Domicile

Table 3 also examines student numbers by the country of domicile of the student. Over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of undergraduates from Scotland studying in Scottish HEIs has remained fairly stable at approximately 78%. The proportion of undergraduates from the rest of the UK has steadily decreased over this period, from 13.7% in 2002/03 to 12.5% in 2007/08. Conversely, the proportion of undergraduates from the rest of the EU studying at Scottish HEIs has steadily risen from 3.5% in 2002/03 to 5.4% in 2007/08. The proportion of undergraduates from outside of the EU has also risen slightly over the time period, although there was a slight decrease from 5.3% in 2006/07 to 4.9% in 2007/08.

Undergraduates in English HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile

Table 4 below shows that the total number of undergraduate students studying in English HEIs also increased continuously over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, from 1,390,915 to 1,505,015, an increase of 8.2%.

Table 4: Undergraduate Students at English HEIs, 2002/03 to 2007/08, by mode of study and country of domicile

	Undergraduate										
	Mode of study			Domicile				Scotland as a % of total	Rest of UK as a % of total	Other EU as a % of total	Non-EU as a % of total
	Total UG students	Full-time	Part-time	UK	(of which) Scotland	Other EU	Non-EU				
2002-03	1,390,915	898,595	492,320	1,276,700	21,085	38,650	75,565	1.5	90.3	2.8	5.4
2003-04	1,428,430	924,990	503,440	1,307,160	21,790	36,895	84,370	1.5	90.0	2.6	5.9
2004-05	1,448,380	945,120	503,260	1,320,440	21,830	41,650	86,290	1.5	89.7	2.9	6.0
2005-06	1,481,985	976,815	505,165	1,349,865	21,075	45,290	86,830	1.4	89.7	3.1	5.9
2006-07	1,494,760	985,810	508,955	1,356,055	21,060	49,605	89,100	1.4	89.3	3.3	6.0
2007-08 (*)	1,505,015	1,011,955	493,060	1,360,015	21,210	53,915	91,090	1.4	89.0	3.6	6.1

* = HESA changed their standard registration population for 2007-08 to exclude writing up and sabbatical students. Such students were previously counted under the number of part-time students

Undergraduates by Mode of Study

Full-time undergraduate numbers have also increased steadily over the time period, from 898,595 FT undergraduates in 2002/03 to 1,011,955 in 2007/08 (+12.6%). FT undergraduate numbers in English HEIs increased by 2.6% year on year from 985,810 FT undergraduates in 2006/07. Part-time undergraduate numbers in English HEIs also rose steadily over this time period, until 2007-08, where a year on year decrease of 3.1% was experienced.

Undergraduates by Country of Domicile

Over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, the (small) proportion of undergraduates from Scotland studying in English HEIs has also remained stable at approximately 1.5%. The proportion of undergraduates from the rest of the UK studying in English HEIs has slightly decreased over the same period, from 90.3% of undergraduates in 2002/03 to 89% in 2007/08. The proportion of undergraduates at English HEIs from the rest of the EU has risen slightly from 2.8% in 2002/03 to 3.6% in 2007/08. The proportion of undergraduates from outside of the EU has also risen slightly over this period, but has remained fairly stable at approximately 6% of undergraduates in English HEIs since 2003-04.

Postgraduates in Scottish HEIs

Table 5, below, shows the total number of postgraduate students studying in Scottish HEIs from 2002-03 to 2007-08 by mode of study and domicile. Postgraduate student numbers in Scotland increased over this period, by 12.3% from 45,665 students in 2002/03 to 51,275 students in 2007/08. However, there was a large decrease in the number of postgraduate students at the end of this period, with numbers reducing from 59,025 in 2006/07 to 51,275 in 2007/08. This decrease could be as a result of changes made by HESA to the statistics collection methodology in 2007-08 (please see notes to tables about data changes).

Table 5: Postgraduate Students at Scottish HEIs, 2002/03 to 2007/08, by mode of study and

	Postgraduate							Scotland as a % of total	Rest of UK as a % of total	Other EU as a % of total	Non-EU as a % of total
	Total PG students	Mode of study		Domicile							
		Full-time	Part-time	United Kingdom	(of which) Scotland	Other EU	Non-EU				
2002-03	45,665	19,070	26,595	33,095	27,405	3,495	9,075	60.0	12.5	7.7	19.9
2003-04	48,745	20,095	28,655	34,175	28,660	3,990	10,580	58.8	11.3	8.2	21.7
2004-05	49,900	21,430	28,465	33,915	28,240	4,230	11,750	56.6	11.4	8.5	23.5
2005-06	53,985	23,290	30,695	36,430	30,210	4,400	13,155	56.0	11.5	8.2	24.4
2006-07	59,025	26,680	32,350	38,380	31,235	4,780	15,870	52.9	12.1	8.1	26.9
2007-08 (*)	51,275	26,320	24,955	33,660	26,335	3,890	13,720	51.4	14.3	7.6	26.8

country of domicile

* = HESA changed their standard registration population for 2007-08 to exclude writing up and sabbatical students. Such students were previously counted under the number of part-time students

Postgraduates by Mode of Study

The number of full-time postgraduate students in Scottish HEIs has increased over this time period from 19,070 in 2002/03 to 26,320 in 2007/08, an increase of 12.6%. In the final year for which data is available (2007-08), however, FT postgraduate numbers fell by 1.3% compared to the previous year (2006/07). PT postgraduate numbers in Scottish HEIs also rose steadily over the period, until 2007-08, when PT postgraduate numbers decreased by 22.9% from 32,350 in 2006/07 to 24,955 in 2007/08. Again, this may be at least partly explained by changes to statistical collection methods

Postgraduates by Country of Domicile

Over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of postgraduates from Scotland studying in Scottish HEIs reduced by approximately 8.5%. The proportion of postgraduates in Scottish HEIs from the rest of the UK increased over the same period, from 12.5% of total postgraduates in 2002/03 to 14.3% in 2007/08. Postgraduate numbers from the rest of the EU studying at Scottish HEIs have remained fairly stable at around 8% over the period. There has, however, been a steady year on year increase in the proportion of postgraduates from outside of the EU over this period, from 19.9% of postgraduates in Scottish HEIs in 2002/03 to 26.8% in 2007-08.

This represents a rise in the actual number of postgraduate students from outside of the EU from 9,075 in 2002/03 to 13,720 in 2007-08. It can be seen from table 5, however, that there was a decrease of approximately 2000 non-EU students from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

Postgraduates in English HEIs

Table 6 shows the total number of postgraduate students studying in English HEIs. Numbers of postgraduate students in England have also increased over the period 2002/03 to 2007-08, from 416,745 students in 2002/03 to 462,430 students in 2006/07, an increase of 11% over the period. However, a large decrease in the total number of postgraduate students was experienced in 2007-08, from 462,430 postgraduates in 2006/07 to 417,165 in 2007/08. Again, this could be partly due to changes to the methodology used for gathering statistics in 2007-08 (please see notes to tables about data changes).

Table 6: Postgraduate Students at English HEIs, 2002/03 to 2007/08, by mode of study and country of domicile

	Postgraduate							Scotland as a % of total	Rest of UK as a % of total	Other EU as a % of total	Non-EU as a % of total
	Total PG students	Mode of study		Domicile							
		Full-time	Part-time	United Kingdom	(of which Scotland)	Other EU	Non-EU				
2002-03	416,745	173,575	243,170	297,760	5,175	33,880	85,105	1.2	70.2	8.1	20.4
2003-04	439,985	186,550	253,440	306,785	5,195	33,840	99,360	1.2	68.5	7.7	22.6
2004-05	447,440	190,660	256,780	307,085	5,240	37,875	102,480	1.2	67.5	8.5	22.9
2005-06	454,435	196,735	257,705	310,765	5,060	38,890	104,780	1.1	67.3	8.6	23.1
2006-07	462,430	201,830	260,605	310,255	5,040	39,540	112,640	1.1	66.0	8.6	24.4
2007-08 (*)	417,165	206,865	210,300	277,915	4,620	35,095	104,160	1.1	65.5	8.4	25.0

* = HESA changed their standard registration population for 2007-08 to exclude writing up and sabbatical students. Such students were previously counted under the number of part-time students

Postgraduates by Mode of Study

Full-time postgraduate numbers in English HEIs have increased year on year over this time period from 173,575 postgraduate students in 2002/03 to 206,865 students in 2007/08, an overall increase of 19.2%. The number of part-time postgraduate numbers in English HEIs also rose steadily over this period, again until 2007-08, when a 19.3% year on year decrease in the number of PT postgraduates was experienced. As explained previously, this may be at least partly explained by changes to the methodology used for gathering statistics in 2007-08.

Postgraduates by Country of Domicile

Over the period 2002/03 to 2007/08, the proportion of postgraduates from Scotland studying in English HEIs has remained at just over 1%. The proportion of postgraduates in English HEIs from the rest of the UK reduced by approximately 5% over the same period, from 70.2% of postgraduates in 2002/03 to 65.5% in 2007/08. The number of postgraduates from the rest of

the EU studying at English HEIs has remained fairly stable at around 8 to 8.5% of the total over the period (a very similar proportion to Scottish HEIs). English HEIs have also experienced a continuous and significant increase in the proportion of postgraduates from outside of the EU over this period, from 20.4% of postgraduates in English HEIs in 2002/03 to 25% of the total in 2007/08.

Tables 7 and 8 below provide a further breakdown of figures for individual Scottish HEIs. The latest available data from HESA is for 2007/08. The tables show student numbers at the 20 individual HEIs, by mode of study, level of study and country of domicile. The tables show clearly that the make-up of student populations at different HEIs differs greatly.

Students at Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile: Undergraduates

Table 7: Undergraduates by mode of study and country of domicile (student headcount) 2007-08:

	Total UG students	Mode of study				Domicile					
		Full-time	% of total number of students	Part-time	% of total number of students	United Kingdom	% of total number of students	Other European Union	% of total number of students	Non-European-Union	% of total number of students
Total Scotland	158910	123290	77.6	35620	22.4	142625	89.8	8505	5.4	7780	4.9
The University of Aberdeen	10395	9020	86.8	1375	13.2	8890	85.5	910	8.8	590	5.7
University of Abertay Dundee	3555	3250	91.4	305	8.6	2905	81.7	570	16.0	75	2.1
The University of Dundee	11070	8555	77.3	2510	22.7	10045	90.7	425	3.8	600	5.4
Edinburgh College of Art	1385	1335	96.4	50	3.6	1120	80.9	145	10.5	120	8.7
The University of Edinburgh	16785	16060	95.7	725	4.3	14620	87.1	885	5.3	1280	7.6
Glasgow Caledonian University	14085	10290	73.1	3790	26.9	13490	95.8	200	1.4	395	2.8
Glasgow School of Art	1455	1385	95.2	70	4.8	1140	78.4	130	8.9	185	12.7
The University of Glasgow	18640	14720	79.0	3915	21.0	17340	93.0	670	3.6	630	3.4
Heriot-Watt University	5395	5065	93.9	330	6.1	4230	78.4	710	13.2	450	8.3
Napier University	10690	8470	79.2	2220	20.8	8560	80.1	1395	13.0	735	6.9
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	4120	2935	71.2	1185	28.8	3730	90.5	210	5.1	185	4.5
The Robert Gordon University	8765	6610	75.4	2155	24.6	7815	89.2	665	7.6	280	3.2
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	590	590	100.0	0	0.0	515	87.3	25	4.2	50	8.5
The University of St Andrews	6655	5825	87.5	830	12.5	4915	73.9	565	8.5	1170	17.6
Scottish Agricultural College	800	670	83.8	130	16.3	780	97.5	10	1.3	5	0.6
The University of Stirling	7205	6370	88.4	840	11.7	6750	93.7	280	3.9	175	2.4
The University of Strathclyde	13725	11050	80.5	2675	19.5	12950	94.4	265	1.9	515	3.8
UHI Millennium Institute	7190	2845	39.6	4340	60.4	7065	98.3	55	0.8	65	0.9
The University of the West of Scotland	16415	8240	50.2	8175	49.8	15760	96.0	390	2.4	265	1.6

Students at Scottish HEIs by Mode of Study and Country of Domicile: Postgraduates

Table 8: Postgraduates by mode of study and country of domicile (student headcount) 2007-08*:

	Total PG students	Mode of study				Domicile					
		Full-time	% of total number of students	Part-time	% of total number of students	United Kingdom	% of total number of students	Other European Union	% of total number of students	Non-European-Union	% of total number of students
Total Scotland	51275	26320	51.3	24955	48.7	33660	65.6	3890	7.6	13720	26.8
The University of Aberdeen	3745	2395	64.0	1345	35.9	2290	61.1	295	7.9	1155	30.8
University of Abertay Dundee	585	375	64.1	210	35.9	200	34.2	55	9.4	330	56.4
The University of Dundee	5650	1325	23.5	4325	76.5	4075	72.1	310	5.5	1265	22.4
Edinburgh College of Art	210	175	83.3	35	16.7	80	38.1	50	23.8	80	38.1
The University of Edinburgh	6770	4985	73.6	1790	26.4	4160	61.4	875	12.9	1735	25.6
Glasgow Caledonian University	2685	1335	49.7	1350	50.3	1720	64.1	135	5.0	830	30.9
Glasgow School of Art	295	255	86.4	40	13.6	185	62.7	25	8.5	85	28.8
The University of Glasgow	5095	2990	58.7	2105	41.3	3680	72.2	355	7.0	1060	20.8
Heriot-Watt University	4670	1530	32.8	3140	67.2	2785	59.6	435	9.3	1455	31.2
Napier University	2305	1070	46.4	1230	53.4	1370	59.4	230	10.0	700	30.4
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	1210	385	31.8	825	68.2	830	68.6	110	9.1	265	21.9
The Robert Gordon University	3500	1610	46.0	1890	54.0	2020	57.7	145	4.1	1335	38.1
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	180	170	94.4	15	8.3	90	50.0	20	11.1	75	41.7
The University of St Andrews	1520	1220	80.3	300	19.7	660	43.4	235	15.5	625	41.1
Scottish Agricultural College	125	50	40.0	75	60.0	70	56.0	35	28.0	20	16.0
The University of Stirling	2600	1345	51.7	1250	48.1	1475	56.7	170	6.5	950	36.5
The University of Strathclyde	8015	4220	52.7	3795	47.3	6290	78.5	300	3.7	1425	17.8
UHI Millennium Institute	395	100	25.3	295	74.7	355	89.9	20	5.1	20	5.1
The University of the West of Scotland	1720	780	45.3	940	54.7	1320	76.7	100	5.8	300	17.4

* = HESA changed their standard registration population for 2007-08 to exclude writing up and sabbatical students. These students used to be counted previously within part-time student numbers

SOURCES

Higher Education Statistics Agency (2009). Students and Qualifiers Data by Institution.

Available at:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_datatables&Itemid=121&task=show_category&catidex=3 [Accessed 28 January 2010]

Scottish Government (2009a) *Participation in Higher Education at Scottish Institutions 2007-08*.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/01091001/45> [Accessed 28 January 2010]

Scottish Government (2009b) *Scottish domiciled entrants from Deprived Areas to Higher Education in the UK by institution type and academic year²: 2001-02 to 2007-08*. Available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning/DataSIMD> [Accessed 28 January 2010]

Scottish Government (2009c) Participation in Higher Education Background Data. Available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning/DataParticipationHE> [Accessed 28 January 2010]

ANNEX 1: STATISTICS RELEVANT TO ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN HE

Age Participation Index in Scotland and the UK

Available from 1999-00 to 2007-08. Source: Scottish Government, 2009. Tables and charts available:

[Age Participation Index](#)

[Table 19 - Age Participation Index for Scotland: 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Figure 19.1: Age Participation Index: 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Figure 19.2: Age Participation Index by gender: 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Table 20 - Age Participation Index for Scotland by level of study components 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Figure 20: Age Participation Index by level of study: 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Table 21 - Age Participation Index for Scotland by type of institution components 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Figure 21: Age Participation Index by institution type: 1999-00 to 2007-08](#)

[Participation in HE background data - OECD initial Participation rates](#)

Equalities and Access: participation in HE by ethnicity, disability and deprived areas

Participation in Higher Education in Scotland 2007-08 – Scottish Government Publication – available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/01091001/0>

[Equalities and Access](#)

[Table 16 - Students in higher education in Scotland by receipt of Disabled Student's Allowance \(DSA\) and disability type: 2007-08](#)

[Table 17.1 - Scottish domiciled entrants from deprived areas to higher education in the UK: 2007-08](#)

[Figure 17.1: Scottish domiciled Entrants to higher education by deprivation classification of domicile and institution type: 2007-08](#)

[Table 17.2 Scottish domiciled entrants from Deprived Areas to Higher Education in the UK by institution type and academic year: 2001-02 to 2007-08](#)

[Figure 17.2: Proportion of higher education entrants to Scottish institutions from deprived area by institution type: 2001-02 to 2007-08](#)

[Table 18.1 Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by detailed level of study and ethnicity: 2007-08](#)

[Table 18.2 Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by ethnicity and academic year: 2007-08](#)

Admissions Data

[UCAS Statistics Online](#) includes annual reports on Admissions and accepted admissions and accepted applicants. These national datasets, broken down by country, cover a five year period, and are available across certain key themes: Institution, Subject, Age, Region/Domicile, Qualifications, Ethnicity/Social Class and International.

Student Support and Finance

Income, Expenditure and Debt:

2 publications available based on surveys of further and higher education students in Scotland. Commissioned by the Scottish Government, this independent research was undertaken jointly by the University of Strathclyde, University of Glasgow and Aston University. The study covers: HE students' access to information, guidance and advice, and educational choices; HE student's income, expenditure, savings, borrowing and debt; and HE student's behaviour and attitudes. The reports also cover the same topics for FE. In addition, these reports include some comparative analysis with England and Wales. Available for the academic years 2004-05 and 2007-08 only.

[Higher and Further Education Students' Income, Expenditure and Debt in Scotland 2004-05](#)

[Higher and Further Education Students' Income, Expenditure and Debt: A Comparative Study of Students in Scotland and England 2004-05](#)

[Higher and Further Education Students' Income, Expenditure and Debt in Scotland 2007-08](#)

Student Support:

Statistics on student support provided or assessed by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland to students studying in Scotland and elsewhere in academic years 2003-04 to 2008-09.

[Higher Education Student Support in Scotland 2008-09](#) (National Statistics Publication).

[Higher Education Student Support in Scotland 2007-08](#) (covers 2002-03 to 2007-08)

List of Tables

[Table 1](#): Students receiving support and/or assessed for loans by SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 2](#): All students receiving support from SAAS by location of study and institution type, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 3](#): All students receiving support from SAAS by gender and age, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 4](#): All students receiving support from SAAS by level of study and domicile, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 5](#): Students receiving fee support from SAAS and total amount paid, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 6](#): Students assessed by SAAS as entitled to loans and total entitlement, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 7](#): Full Time Students assessed by SAAS as entitled to loans and actual loan take-up from the Student Loans Company 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 8](#): Students receiving awards from SAAS and total amount paid, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Table 9](#): Students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance from SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09. Disability type & total amount paid

[Table 10](#): Parental/spousal residual income details of students receiving support from

SAAS, 2008-09

[Table 11](#): Students receiving support from SAAS, 2008-09. Institution location, type of institution & level of support

[Table 12](#): Nursing and midwifery students receiving support through the Scottish Government Health Directorate's Nursing and Midwifery Students' Bursary Scheme (NMSB) 2006-07 - 2008-09. NOT NATIONAL STATISTICS

[Table 13](#): Instances of assistance and amount of support provided through the Higher Education Discretionary Fund and the Higher Education Childcare Fund academic years 2002-03 - 2007-08. NOT NATIONAL STATISTICS

[Table 14](#): Student receiving fee support through the ILA500 scheme and amount of support paid - academic year 2008-09

[Table 15](#): Students receiving fee support through ILA500 by age and gender - academic year 2008-09

List of Figures

[Figure 1](#) Students receiving support and/or assessed for loans by SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 2](#): Total amounts paid or assessed by SAAS through awards, fees and loan (£m), 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 3](#): Students assessed by SAAS¹ as entitled to loans, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 4](#): Students receiving awards from SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 5](#): Total amounts paid in award payments (£m), 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 6](#): Students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance from SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09

[Figure 7](#): Total Disabled Students' Allowance paid (£m) by SAAS, 2003-04 to 2008-09

Retention, Completion and Attainment:

Scottish Government Statistics: [Attainment in Higher Education and Destinations of Leavers 2007-08](#) – includes stats on qualifiers from all HE courses at Scottish HEIs (including HNCs and HNDs) and survey information on the first destinations of EU domiciled qualifiers

[HESA Performance Indicators](#) for retention and completion rates “Non-continuation following yr of entry – FT first time degree entrants”. Includes a variety of performance indicators for HE in the UK. Allows comparison by Institution and by Country. Available from 2002-03 to 2007-08. Performance Indicators for UK universities and higher education cover widening participation, non-continuation rates, module completion rates, research output and the employment of graduates.

HESA [Destinations of Leavers and First Destinations Data](#) – available for 2002-03 to 2007-08

This page is intentionally blank

This page is intentionally blank

This page is intentionally blank

RELATED BRIEFINGS

[SB 10-07 Barriers to Widening Access to Higher Education \(419 KB pdf\)](#)

[SB10-09 Widening Access to Higher Education: Policy in Scotland \(367 KB pdf\)](#)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) Briefings are compiled for the benefit of the Members of the Parliament and their personal staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with MSPs and their staff who should contact Fiona Mullen on extension 85087 or email fiona.mullen@scottish.parliament.uk. Members of the public or external organisations may comment on this briefing by emailing us at spice@scottish.parliament.uk. However, researchers are unable to enter into personal discussion in relation to SPICe Briefing Papers. If you have any general questions about the work of the Parliament you can email the Parliament's Public Information Service at sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in SPICe briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

www.scottish.parliament.uk