

Statistical Fact Sheet 5

Enrolments at Higher Education Institutions in the UK by country of institution and subject area – 2014/15

Of the 56,445 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2014/15:

- 14,025 (24.8%) were enrolled on Narrow STEM¹ related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 26.1%, 28.9% and 29.4% respectively.
- 26,090 (46.2%) were enrolled on Broad STEM² related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 44.5%, 48.2% and 44.2% respectively.
- the three most popular subject areas studied in NI HEIs were 'Business and administrative studies' (8,270), 'Subjects allied to medicine' (7,745) and 'Education' (6,750).

Subject Area	Country of Institution			
	England	Scotland	Wales	NI
Biological Sciences	169,705	21,625	15,990	3,845
Physical Sciences	75,255	11,085	5,680	1,740
Mathematical Sciences	36,185	4,040	1,610	560
Computer Science	73,380	10,360	5,360	4,150
Engineering and technology	127,175	20,135	10,400	3,730
Total Narrow STEM¹ related subjects	481,700	67,250	39,035	14,025
Medicine and dentistry	52,370	7,710	3,850	2,075
Subjects allied to medicine	226,820	28,280	12,600	7,745
Veterinary Science	4,345	1,555	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	15,355	1,835	1,355	655
Architecture, building & planning	39,225	5,530	1,910	1,590
Total Broad STEM² related subjects	819,820	112,160	58,750	26,090
Social studies	173,290	20,095	9,690	4,830
Law	73,415	8,090	4,015	2,075
Business and administrative studies	266,175	32,640	19,860	8,270
Mass communications & documentation	42,045	3,360	2,360	840
Languages	90,470	11,385	7,590	1,895
Historical and philosophical studies	69,750	10,565	4,495	1,520
Creative arts and design	144,610	11,405	8,590	2,325
Education	131,905	13,680	12,060	6,750
Combined	32,605	9,190	5,550	1,850
All subject Areas	1,844,095	232,570	132,965	56,445
% Narrow STEM¹ related subject	26.1%	28.9%	29.4%	24.8%
% Broad STEM² related subject	44.5%	48.2%	44.2%	46.2%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Narrow STEM related courses include Biological sciences, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science and Engineering & Technology.
2. Broad STEM related courses include Medicine & Dentistry, Subjects allied to Medicine, Biological sciences, Veterinary Science, Agriculture & related subjects, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science, Engineering & Technology and Architecture, Building & Planning.
3. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, in line with HESA rounding strategy, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
4. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the total shown.
5. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.
6. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards DfE no longer counts the Open University as a wholly English institution, but splits it between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, depending on where the national centre is located.

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/higher-education-statistics>