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# SFC Statistical publication

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## Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2015-16

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Summary: This release contains information on HE provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland covering the period 2006-07 to 2015-16.

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's colleges and universities

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*The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.*

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## Executive Summary

- There were 285,450 students in higher education in Scotland in 2015-16. This is an increase of 4,165 (1.5%) from 2014-15 and mainly reflects an increase of students at first degree level.
- Females make up 56.5% of the total number of HE students and this proportion has been increasing since 2010-11. Females account for 58.0% of the students at HEIs whereas males have a slight majority at HE level in colleges (50.1%).
- Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, students aged under 25 increased by 3,085 (1.7%) and students aged 25 to 29 increased by 690 (3.8%).
- The number of new entrants at HEIs was 97,135 and the number of new entrants at colleges was 37,955. These represent increases of 260 (0.3%) and 1,175 (3.2%) respectively.
- The number of Scottish domiciled first degree entrants has increased by 11.7% between 2006-07 and 2015-16. In the same time period the number of Scottish domiciled sub-degree students decreased by 25.5% meaning a higher proportion of entrants are now at first degree level.
- The proportion of Scottish-domiciled entrants to HE from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland was 16.1% in 2015-16. This represents an increase of 0.1 percentage points from 2014-15.
- There were 97,565 higher education qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2015-16, the highest level since 2006-07. There was an increase of 525 qualifiers (0.5%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16 and an increase of 14,645 (17.7%) since 2006-07.
- Of all qualifiers, 65.2% achieved graduate level qualifications (first degree level or above) in 2015-16.
- In 2015-16, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 70.6% of qualifiers.

## Introduction

1. This release contains information on Higher Education (HE) provision and attainment in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland. Student data from both Scottish HEIs and Scottish colleges has been combined to allow reporting on all HE provision delivered in Scottish institutions.
2. The publication shows data on a number of different HE student populations. These are: the total number of students across all stages of HE study; the number of entrants to HE study; and the number of students qualifying from HE study. These populations are shown across multiple breakdowns including level of study, mode of study, domicile, age and protected characteristics.
3. This is the fifth issue of this publication and covers the period 2006-07 to 2015-16. The publication is accompanied by an Excel workbook which includes additional tables and further detail that is not included within the body of this report.

## Section 1: Student numbers and characteristics<sup>1</sup>

1. This section looks at the number of students studying Higher Education (HE) at all levels of study across universities and colleges. This section also looks at the characteristics of these students, mainly; age, gender and mode of study. This data is shown in each of the last ten years allowing trends and changes in student numbers to be identified.
2. There were 285,450 students in higher education in Scotland in 2015-16, as shown in Table A below. This is an increase of 4,165 (equivalent to a 1.5% increase) from to 2014-15 and this mainly reflects an increase of students at first degree level. The number of first degree students increased by 4,075 (2.6%), the number of research postgraduates increased by 385 (3.1%) and the number of taught postgraduates increased by 125 (0.3%). At sub-degree level, the number of HNC/HND students increased by 295 (0.7%) whereas the number of other sub-degree students fell by 720 (2.4%). The decline at other sub-degree level continues a downward trend since 2008-09.
3. Looking specifically at HEIs, the total number of students increased by 2,995 (1.3%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16.
4. HEIs accounted for 82.5% of all students enrolled in HE in Scotland in 2015-16, with the remaining 17.5% studying at colleges. While a majority of those at HEIs (66.8%) were studying at first degree level, most HE students studying at colleges (72.4%) were studying at HNC/D level.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that where reference is made to student numbers, this relates to student enrolments (or instances of study).

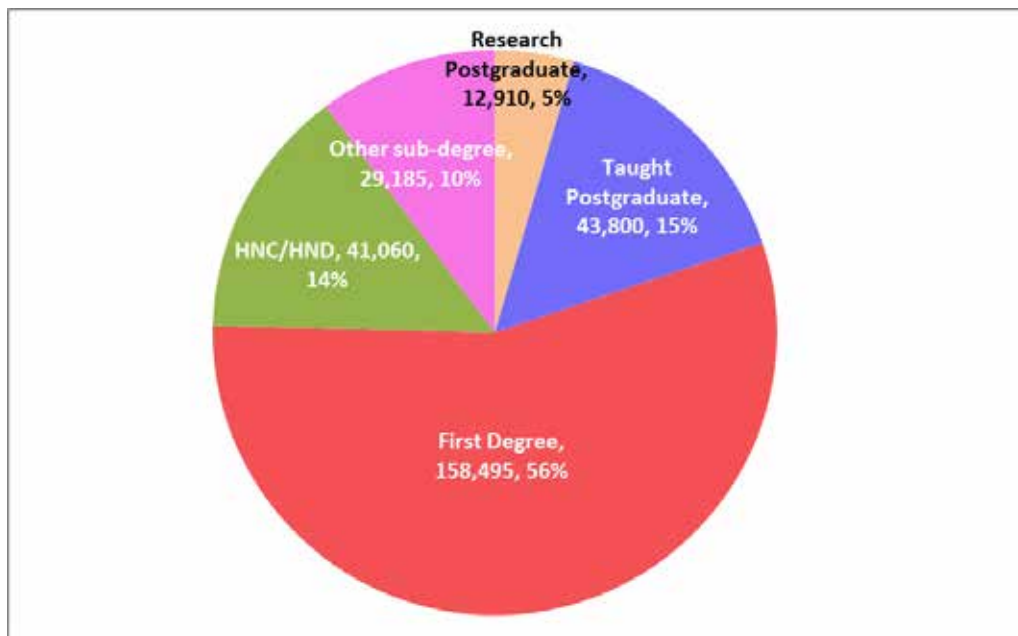
Table A: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by institution type and level of study, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
<b>Total</b>						
2006-07	279,560	9,360	43,035	133,740	39,265	54,160
2007-08	272,625	9,615	42,265	132,260	38,755	49,730
2008-09	279,615	9,935	42,760	137,720	39,105	50,095
2009-10	287,565	10,665	44,285	146,175	41,230	45,205
2010-11	290,000	11,325	45,255	149,715	42,315	41,390
2011-12	281,630	11,660	43,280	149,350	41,345	35,990
2012-13 (2)	278,745	11,965	41,530	150,935	39,745	34,565
2013-14 (2)	279,495	12,180	41,925	152,460	41,285	31,640
2014-15 (2)	281,285	12,525	43,675	154,420	40,765	29,905
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>285,450</b>	<b>12,910</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>158,495</b>	<b>41,060</b>	<b>29,185</b>
<b>All students at HEIs</b>						
2006-07	230,100	9,360	42,880	133,180	4,345	40,330
2007-08	224,855	9,615	42,115	131,645	5,085	36,395
2008-09	231,260	9,935	42,660	137,040	4,745	36,875
2009-10	237,765	10,665	44,165	145,535	4,540	32,855
2010-11	238,645	11,325	45,155	148,770	4,120	29,275
2011-12	233,010	11,660	43,245	148,425	3,875	25,800
2012-13 (2)	230,950	11,965	41,515	149,860	3,605	24,005
2013-14 (2)	230,805	12,180	41,925	151,325	4,905	20,470
2014-15 (2)	232,570	12,525	43,675	153,325	4,955	18,090
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>235,565</b>	<b>12,910</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>157,440</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>16,480</b>
<b>All students at colleges</b>						
2006-07	49,460	-	155	555	34,920	13,830
2007-08	47,770	-	150	615	33,670	13,335
2008-09	48,355	-	100	680	34,360	13,215
2009-10	49,800	-	120	640	36,690	12,355
2010-11	51,355	-	100	945	38,195	12,115
2011-12	48,620	-	35	925	37,465	10,190
2012-13 (2)	47,795	-	15	1,075	36,140	10,560
2013-14 (2)	48,690	-	-	1,135	36,380	11,175
2014-15 (2)	48,715	-	-	1,095	35,810	11,810
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>49,890</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>36,130</b>	<b>12,705</b>

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

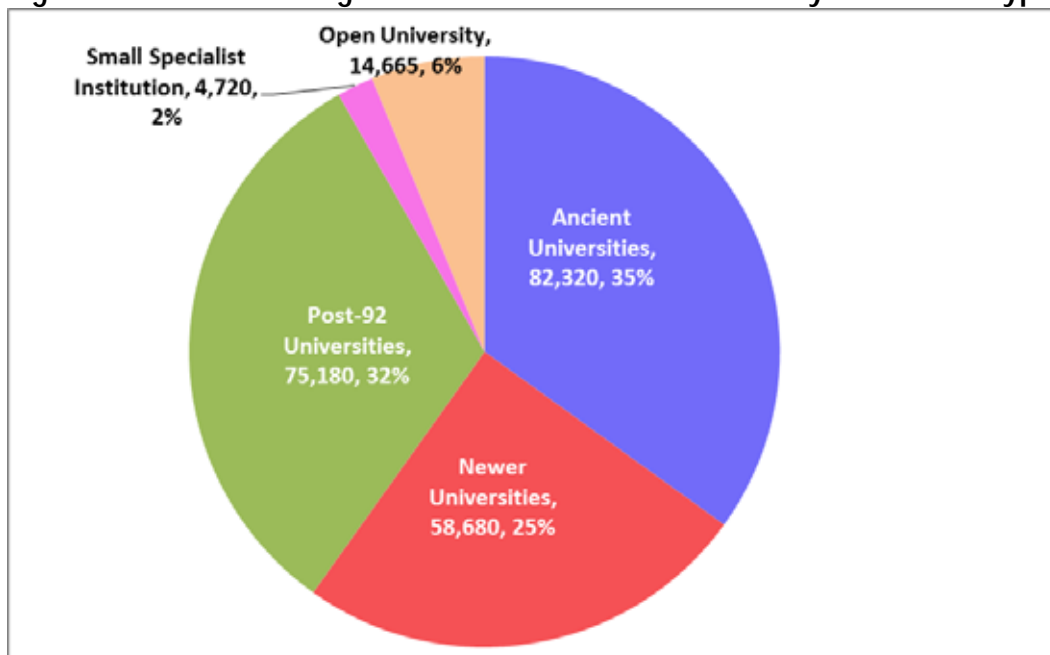
5. Figures 1 shows the proportion of all HE students by level of study. As mentioned above, first degree students account for 66.8% of students at HEI's and Figure 1 shows that this proportion drops to 56% of all HE students.

**Figure 1: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by level of study, 2015-16**



6. HEIs can be grouped based on their type and length of existence as a university. Details of which institutions are in each group are included in the 'Notes To Tables' Annex (Note 15). Ancient Universities and Post-92s have the largest share of HE students, with around a third of students each.

**Figure 2: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs by institution type, 2015-16**





7. Table B, below, shows that at HEIs there was an increase in full-time student numbers of 4,620 (2.6%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16 and a decrease in part-time students of 1,625 (-2.8%). For colleges, full-time and part-time student numbers increased; full-time by 290 (0.9%) and part-time by 885 (5.4%). Almost three quarters (74.3%) of all HE students study full-time.
8. In 2015-16, 56.5% of HE students are female and this proportion has been increasing since 2010-11. The gender balance varies greatly between level of study, with the overrepresentation of females coming from HEIs. Females account for 58.0% of the students at HEIs whereas males have a slight majority at HE level in colleges (50.1%). The imbalance is reversed for students studying part-time HE at college as 57.3% of these students are male.
9. At colleges in 2015-16, 70.6% of females were studying full-time compared to 60.7% of males. The trend differs at HEIs as males (77.8%) are more likely to be studying full-time than females (75.0%).

**Table B: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by mode of study and gender, 2006-07 to 2015-16**

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>									
2006-07	279,560	119,795	159,760	178,680	79,000	99,680	100,875	40,795	60,080
2007-08	272,625	118,250	154,375	174,805	77,795	97,010	97,820	40,455	57,365
2008-09	279,615	122,415	157,195	182,780	81,450	101,330	96,830	40,965	55,865
2009-10	287,565	126,995	160,565	191,615	86,465	105,150	95,950	40,535	55,415
2010-11	290,000	128,900	161,100	197,490	89,165	108,325	92,505	39,735	52,770
2011-12	281,630	124,100	157,525	199,430	89,150	110,280	82,200	34,950	47,245
2012-13 (2,21)	278,745	122,465	156,050	198,405	88,245	110,160	80,340	34,220	45,890
2013-14 (2,21)	279,495	121,970	157,485	202,700	89,490	113,180	76,795	32,480	44,305
2014-15 (2,21)	281,285	122,910	158,270	207,305	90,745	116,500	73,980	32,165	41,770
2015-16 (2,21)	285,450	123,905	161,410	212,215	92,095	120,000	73,235	31,805	41,410
<b>All students at HEIs</b>									
2006-07	230,100	96,455	133,640	152,800	66,765	86,040	77,295	29,695	47,605
2007-08	224,855	95,375	129,480	149,625	65,940	83,680	75,235	29,435	45,795
2008-09	231,260	98,495	132,765	156,830	69,075	87,755	74,430	29,420	45,010
2009-10	237,765	102,270	135,495	162,970	72,700	90,270	74,790	29,570	45,225
2010-11	238,645	103,250	135,395	166,350	73,870	92,480	72,295	29,380	42,910
2011-12	233,010	99,995	133,010	167,365	73,545	93,820	65,640	26,450	39,190
2012-13 (2,21)	230,950	98,640	132,080	167,065	73,190	93,880	63,885	25,450	38,205
2013-14 (2,21)	230,805	97,830	132,935	170,800	74,380	96,390	60,000	23,450	36,545
2014-15 (2,21)	232,570	98,775	133,690	174,840	75,790	98,990	57,730	22,985	34,700
2015-16 (2,21)	235,565	98,905	136,545	179,460	76,925	102,445	56,105	21,980	34,105
<b>All students at colleges</b>									
2006-07	49,460	23,340	26,120	25,880	12,240	13,640	23,580	11,100	12,475
2007-08	47,770	22,875	24,895	25,185	11,855	13,330	22,585	11,020	11,565
2008-09	48,355	23,925	24,430	25,955	12,375	13,580	22,400	11,550	10,855
2009-10	49,800	24,730	25,075	28,640	13,765	14,880	21,160	10,965	10,195
2010-11	51,355	25,650	25,705	31,140	15,295	15,845	20,215	10,355	9,860
2011-12	48,620	24,105	24,515	32,065	15,605	16,460	16,555	8,500	8,055
2012-13 (2)	47,795	23,825	23,970	31,340	15,055	16,280	16,455	8,770	7,690
2013-14 (2)	48,690	24,140	24,550	31,900	15,110	16,790	16,795	9,035	7,760
2014-15 (2)	48,715	24,135	24,580	32,465	14,955	17,510	16,250	9,180	7,070
2015-16 (2)	49,890	25,000	24,865	32,755	15,175	17,555	17,135	9,825	7,310

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

10. Table C, below, shows that the number of HE students at HEIs and colleges by age. Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, students aged under 25 increased by 3,085 (1.7%) and students aged 25 to 29 increased by 690 (2.0%).
11. Students from the 30 to 59 age group increased by 470 (0.8%) and this is the first increase for this group in the time period shown. The longer-term downward trend from students above the age of 30 is consistent with Scottish Government policy to prioritise the 16 to 24 age group in order to improve the employability of young people.

**Table C: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age, 2006-07 to 2015-16**

Institution type / Academic session	Total (6)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
<b>Total</b>									
2006-07	279,560	39,770	56,385	61,410	32,410	42,110	31,105	11,805	4,190
2007-08	272,625	38,585	56,085	59,755	32,800	40,095	29,460	11,325	4,200
2008-09	279,615	40,450	57,095	63,280	34,355	39,730	28,630	11,020	4,890
2009-10	287,565	43,330	59,245	66,655	35,400	38,915	27,865	10,855	5,170
2010-11	290,000	41,925	62,415	69,885	36,630	38,560	25,740	10,100	4,655
2011-12	281,630	41,735	62,835	69,725	34,735	35,705	23,010	9,225	4,565
2012-13	278,745	42,370	62,440	70,985	33,715	34,250	21,355	8,995	4,545
2013-14	279,495	42,985	64,605	71,620	33,295	33,625	20,440	8,710	4,105
2014-15	281,285	44,070	66,610	72,765	33,755	33,265	19,125	8,175	3,305
2015-16	285,450	44,680	66,295	75,555	34,445	33,805	18,985	8,245	3,205
<b>All students at HEIs</b>									
2006-07	230,100	28,735	47,530	54,140	26,960	33,655	24,835	9,940	3,960
2007-08	224,855	27,940	47,215	52,750	27,395	32,370	23,590	9,390	3,930
2008-09	231,260	29,290	48,105	55,895	28,895	32,175	22,970	9,190	4,615
2009-10	237,765	31,330	49,825	58,705	29,540	31,780	22,395	9,205	4,900
2010-11	238,645	29,955	52,180	60,935	30,475	31,430	20,730	8,425	4,440
2011-12	233,010	29,515	52,605	61,630	29,030	29,280	18,705	7,780	4,395
2012-13	230,950	30,370	51,905	62,970	28,060	28,115	17,500	7,625	4,350
2013-14	230,805	30,755	53,690	63,375	27,675	27,550	16,695	7,120	3,860
2014-15	232,570	31,590	55,435	64,470	28,225	27,365	15,675	6,660	3,055
2015-16	235,565	32,140	55,650	67,050	28,855	27,315	15,130	6,445	2,835
<b>All students at colleges</b>									
2006-07	49,460	11,035	8,855	7,270	5,445	8,450	6,270	1,865	230
2007-08	47,770	10,645	8,865	7,000	5,405	7,725	5,870	1,935	270
2008-09	48,355	11,160	8,990	7,385	5,460	7,555	5,660	1,835	275
2009-10	49,800	12,000	9,420	7,945	5,860	7,140	5,475	1,650	270
2010-11	51,355	11,970	10,240	8,945	6,155	7,130	5,010	1,675	215
2011-12	48,620	12,220	10,230	8,095	5,705	6,430	4,305	1,445	170
2012-13	47,795	12,000	10,535	8,015	5,655	6,135	3,855	1,370	200
2013-14	48,690	12,225	10,915	8,245	5,620	6,075	3,745	1,590	245
2014-15	48,715	12,480	11,175	8,295	5,530	5,900	3,450	1,515	250
2015-16	49,890	12,540	10,645	8,505	5,590	6,490	3,850	1,800	370

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

Refer to Notes to Tables.

## Section 2: Student entrant numbers and characteristics

12. This section looks only at those students that have begun studying on an HE level course in each academic year, rather than the total student population shown in Section 1.
13. Table D shows that the total number of new entrants to HE courses increased by 1,430 (1.1%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16. As with the increase to the total student population, the biggest increase at HEIs was for first degree entrants, increasing by 1,070 (2.3%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16. Entrants at 'Other sub-degree' level at HEIs fell by 1,380 but this decrease was met with an increase of 1,095 entrants at 'Other sub-degree' level at colleges.
14. The number of new entrants at HEIs was 97,135 (an increase of 260 or 0.3%) and the number of new entrants at colleges was 37,955 (an increase of 1,175 or 3.2%). In 2015-16, colleges accounted for 37.1% of entrants at first degree level and below, and 28.1% of the total entrants. The proportion of college entrants from all entrants to HE is at its highest level.

Table D: Entrants to higher education at HEIs and colleges by institution type and level of study, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
<b>Total</b>						
2006-07	142,460	3,275	25,730	42,780	28,965	41,710
2007-08	137,495	3,245	24,675	42,965	28,275	38,235
2008-09	144,130	3,655	25,720	46,775	28,470	39,465
2009-10	147,465	3,790	27,700	50,295	29,600	36,080
2010-11	140,590	3,865	26,840	46,860	30,250	32,775
2011-12	132,365	3,800	25,915	44,945	29,275	28,430
2012-13	133,415	3,940	25,870	46,870	27,945	28,790
2013-14	135,365	4,090	27,290	47,855	29,485	26,650
2014-15	133,660	4,175	27,935	48,075	28,215	25,255
2015-16	135,090	4,175	28,630	49,095	28,215	24,975
<b>All students at HEIs</b>						
2006-07	103,575	3,275	25,575	42,400	3,470	28,855
2007-08	100,115	3,245	24,535	42,520	3,765	26,050
2008-09	105,975	3,655	25,645	46,255	3,290	27,125
2009-10	108,840	3,790	27,610	49,765	3,110	24,570
2010-11	101,080	3,865	26,765	46,070	2,885	21,500
2011-12	95,350	3,800	25,905	44,140	2,465	19,040
2012-13 (2)	96,970	3,940	25,870	45,970	2,410	18,780
2013-14 (2)	97,900	4,090	27,290	46,920	3,465	16,135
2014-15	96,875	4,175	27,935	47,230	3,410	14,125
2015-16	97,135	4,175	28,630	48,300	3,285	12,745
<b>All students at colleges</b>						
2006-07	38,885	-	155	380	25,495	12,855
2007-08	37,380	-	140	445	24,510	12,185
2008-09	38,150	-	80	515	25,175	12,340
2009-10	38,625	-	90	535	26,490	11,505
2010-11	39,510	-	75	790	27,370	11,275
2011-12	37,015	-	10	805	26,810	9,385
2012-13 (2)	36,445	-	-	900	25,535	10,010
2013-14 (2)	37,465	-	-	935	26,020	10,510
2014-15 (2)	36,780	-	-	845	24,805	11,135
2015-16	37,955	-	-	795	24,930	12,230

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

- Table E, on the following page, shows entrants to higher education in HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender. Some HE subject areas have tightly controlled student intakes which influence the profile of subjects delivered. Our controlled subjects' sector communications outline these numbers and can be found on the [SFC website](#).
- The HE courses with the largest overall numbers of entrants in 2015-16 were Business & Administrative Studies with 23,175 entrants followed by subjects

allied to Medicine with 13,900 entrants, Engineering and Technology with 13,870 entrants, and Social Studies with 13,495 entrants.

17. The subject groups with the highest proportions of female entrants were subjects allied to Medicine (83.0%), Veterinary Science (79.7%) and Psychology (76.2%). The subject groups with the highest proportion of male entrants were Engineering and Technology (85.3%) and Computer Science (80.9%). Subjects with a high gender imbalance at first degree and sub-degree level are being targeted in SFC's [Gender Action Plan](#).



Table E: Entrants to higher education in HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender, 2015-16

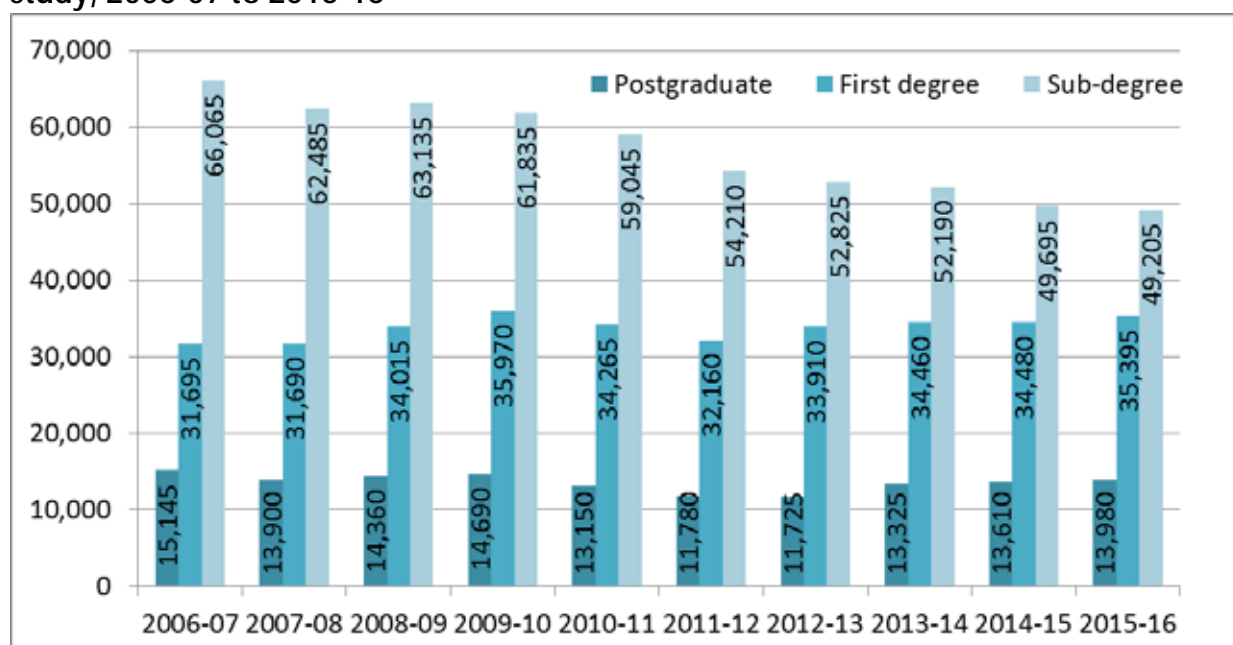
Subject Area	All levels			Postgraduate			First degree			Sub-degree		
	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
<b>Total (21)</b>	<b>135,090</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>32,805</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>49,095</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>58.7%</b>	<b>53,190</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>
<b>Medical Studies</b>												
Subjects allied to Medicine	13,900	17.0%	83.0%	3,650	23.5%	76.5%	6,455	14.7%	85.3%	3,795	14.5%	85.5%
Medicine and Dentistry	2,235	39.8%	60.2%	885	37.8%	62.2%	1,270	39.2%	60.8%	80	72.2%	27.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,135</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>73.7%</b>	<b>7,725</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>
<b>Science and Engineering</b>												
Agriculture & related subjects	1,170	39.2%	60.8%	375	42.6%	57.4%	245	29.0%	71.0%	550	41.5%	58.5%
Architecture, building and planning	3,445	66.6%	33.4%	1,050	50.2%	49.8%	1,090	59.3%	40.7%	1,305	85.8%	14.2%
Biological Sciences	8,670	36.4%	63.6%	1,760	38.7%	61.3%	5,190	35.1%	64.9%	1,715	38.0%	62.0%
Engineering and Technology	13,870	85.3%	14.7%	2,670	75.3%	24.7%	4,375	82.8%	17.2%	6,825	90.8%	9.2%
Computer Science	7,145	80.9%	19.1%	1,345	71.0%	29.0%	2,720	82.5%	17.5%	3,080	83.8%	16.2%
Mathematical Sciences	1,720	60.5%	39.5%	460	56.9%	43.1%	1,070	58.2%	41.8%	190	82.5%	17.5%
Physical Sciences	4,115	56.9%	43.1%	1,275	58.3%	41.7%	2,450	55.9%	44.1%	390	58.8%	41.2%
Veterinary Science	410	20.3%	79.7%	60	38.8%	61.2%	290	17.7%	82.3%	60	14.5%	85.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,540</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>8,995</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>17,430</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	<b>14,120</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
<b>Business and Social Studies</b>												
Business & Administrative studies	23,175	41.8%	58.2%	6,125	46.5%	53.5%	6,780	41.4%	58.6%	10,270	39.3%	60.7%
Law	5,755	41.7%	58.3%	1,880	40.3%	59.7%	1,735	36.1%	63.9%	2,145	47.4%	52.6%
Mass Communication & documentation	2,040	40.7%	59.3%	545	30.9%	69.1%	770	38.0%	62.0%	725	50.9%	49.1%
Social Studies	13,495	25.7%	74.3%	2,400	53.7%	46.3%	4,385	33.9%	66.1%	6,710	17.5%	82.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,465</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>10,950</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>13,665</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>61.9%</b>	<b>19,850</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>66.8%</b>
<b>Education and the Arts</b>												
Creative Arts & Design	10,460	34.4%	65.6%	1,130	35.2%	64.8%	3,325	34.8%	65.2%	6,005	34.1%	65.9%
Education	8,010	27.3%	72.7%	5,165	25.9%	74.1%	1,705	16.1%	83.9%	1,135	50.4%	49.6%
Historical & Philosophical Studies	3,800	41.9%	58.1%	1,010	47.1%	52.9%	2,190	40.2%	59.8%	600	39.8%	60.2%
Languages	4,835	30.0%	70.0%	835	32.4%	67.6%	2,260	24.7%	75.3%	1,740	35.8%	64.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,105</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>8,140</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>	<b>9,485</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>	<b>9,480</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>
<b>Combined (7)</b>	<b>6,750</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>57.8%</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>5,820</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>57.4%</b>
<b>Supplementary subjects contained in the above categories</b>												
Economics and Politics	2,937	49.0%	51.0%	1,015	45.9%	54.1%	1,765	52.4%	47.6%	160	31.4%	68.6%
English	1,829	29.6%	70.4%	335	32.0%	68.0%	1,005	22.8%	77.2%	490	41.9%	58.1%
Geography (8)	851	42.5%	57.5%	230	52.4%	47.6%	545	37.6%	62.4%	75	48.0%	52.0%
Psychology	3,433	23.8%	76.2%	685	26.4%	73.6%	2,110	21.2%	78.8%	640	29.6%	70.4%

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

## Domicile of Entrants

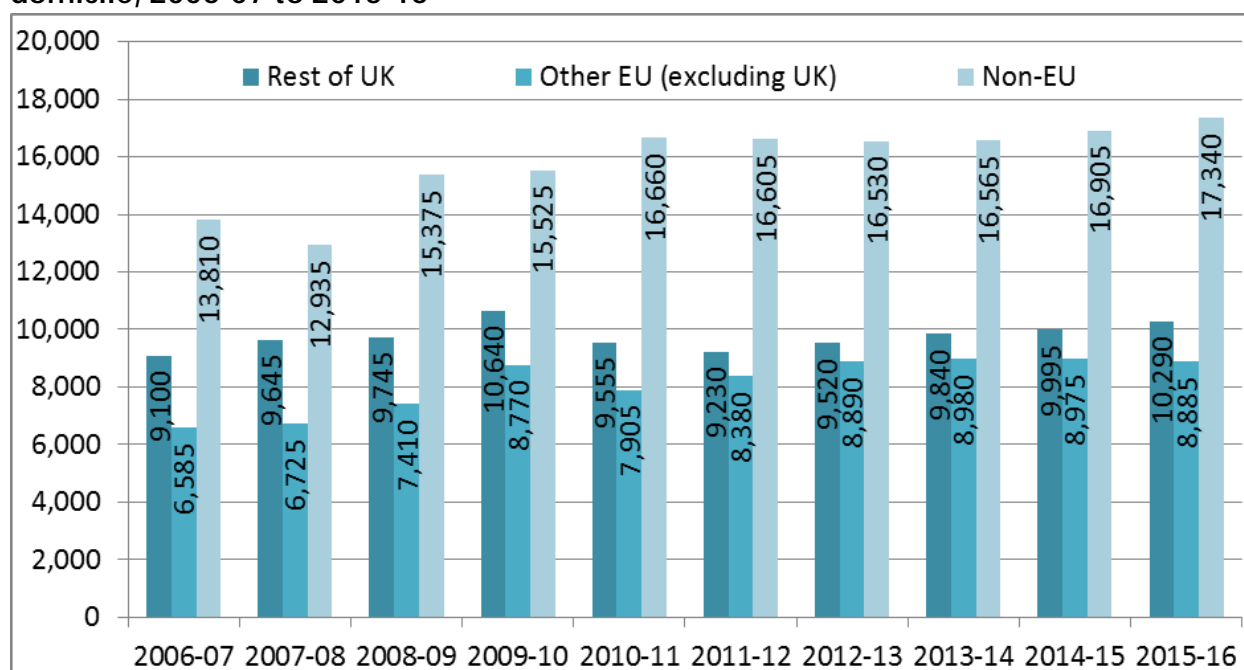
18. Figure 3 shows that the number of Scottish domiciled first degree entrants has increased by 11.7% between 2006-07 and 2015-16. In the same time period the number of Scottish domiciled sub-degree students decreased by 25.5% which means a higher proportion of entrants are now at first degree level.
19. In 2013-14 SFC began investing in additional taught postgraduate places and subsequently there has been an increase in Scottish-domiciled postgraduate entrants of 2,255 (19.2%) since 2012-13.

**Figure 3: Scottish domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs & colleges by level of study, 2006-07 to 2015-16**



20. In the earlier years shown in Figure 4 below, the number of students from the rest of the UK (RUK students) at Scottish HEIs was controlled by the number of funded places available at Scottish HEIs. This changed in 2012-13 when provision for RUK students became funded by de-regulated tuition fees. Figure 4 shows an increase in entrants from RUK, despite the de-regulation of tuition fees. Students from the EU (excluding RUK) are still eligible to have their provision supported through SFC funding.

Figure 4: Non-Scottish domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs & colleges by domicile, 2006-07 to 2015-16



21. Table F shows that of the 135,090 entrants to HE in Scotland in 2015-16, 98,575 (73.0%) were Scottish domiciled while 10,290 (7.6%) were from the rest of the UK. The total number of Scottish domiciled entrants increased by 785 (0.8%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16.
22. There was also an increase of 295 (3.0%) from RUK entrants, the majority of which was an increase in students from England, and an increase of 470 (3.0%) for non-European entrants. The number of European entrants decreased, by 90 (1.0%) for EU students and by 35 (3.4%) for non-EU European students.
23. In 2015-16, all non-UK domicile groups had higher numbers of students at post-graduate level than at first degree or sub-degree level. This varies for domiciles within the UK, with the largest Scottish domicile group at sub-degree level and the largest English domicile group at first degree level.



Table F: Entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs & colleges by domicile & level of study, 2006-07 to 2015-16

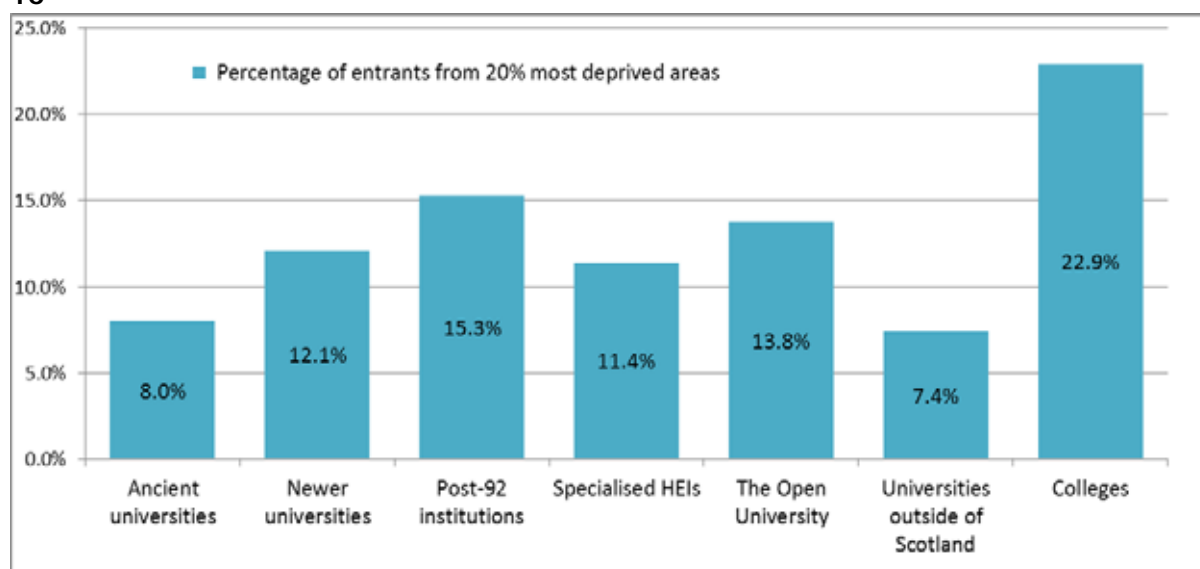
Level of Study / Academic Session	Total all domiciles (13)	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Other UK	Total UK	EU	Non-EU Europe	Non-European
<b>All levels</b>										
2006-07	142,460	112,910	7,065	240	1,580	75	122,010	6,585	595	13,215
2007-08	137,495	108,175	7,320	260	1,505	70	117,820	6,725	565	12,370
2008-09	144,130	111,555	7,745	235	1,430	110	121,300	7,410	685	14,690
2009-10	147,465	112,495	8,440	275	1,420	335	123,135	8,770	810	14,715
2010-11	140,590	106,460	7,800	235	1,390	75	116,015	7,905	870	15,790
2011-12	132,365	98,150	7,495	260	1,375	75	107,380	8,380	880	15,725
2012-13	133,415	98,455	7,910	285	1,165	155	107,975	8,890	965	15,565
2013-14	135,365	99,980	8,175	315	1,295	60	109,820	8,980	975	15,590
2014-15	133,660	97,790	8,405	285	1,240	65	107,780	8,975	1,030	15,875
2015-16	135,090	98,575	8,600	280	1,335	75	108,870	8,885	995	16,345
<b>Postgraduate</b>										
2006-07	29,005	15,145	2,610	95	250	20	18,175	2,290	300	8,205
2007-08	27,920	13,900	2,690	120	270	20	17,035	2,235	295	8,350
2008-09	29,380	14,360	2,550	100	235	20	17,320	2,535	335	9,155
2009-10	31,490	14,690	3,035	115	295	20	18,235	3,150	380	9,695
2010-11	30,705	13,150	3,095	100	270	15	16,660	3,160	395	10,480
2011-12	29,715	11,780	3,280	115	255	15	15,465	3,470	400	10,380
2012-13	29,810	11,725	3,280	120	215	65	15,405	3,730	485	10,175
2013-14	31,375	13,325	3,230	170	240	25	16,995	3,895	470	10,020
2014-15	32,110	13,610	3,030	125	230	25	17,020	4,025	520	10,545
2015-16	32,805	13,980	3,205	130	250	30	17,595	4,015	555	10,635
<b>First Degree</b>										
2006-07	42,780	31,695	3,600	105	1,195	40	36,660	3,180	220	2,700
2007-08	42,965	31,690	3,850	120	1,070	35	36,795	3,615	215	2,340
2008-09	46,775	34,015	4,320	100	1,100	70	39,625	4,075	285	2,790
2009-10	50,295	35,970	4,715	130	1,065	60	41,950	4,830	350	3,155
2010-11	46,860	34,265	3,720	100	1,035	45	39,170	4,175	330	3,185
2011-12	44,945	32,160	3,495	95	1,070	50	36,865	4,210	410	3,455
2012-13	46,870	33,910	3,910	125	885	45	38,875	4,500	370	3,125
2013-14	47,855	34,460	4,255	110	975	25	39,825	4,280	390	3,360
2014-15	48,075	34,480	4,670	125	955	30	40,265	4,115	385	3,310
2015-16	49,095	35,395	4,695	125	1,025	40	41,280	3,945	350	3,520
<b>Sub-degree</b>										
2006-07	70,675	66,065	850	35	135	15	67,170	1,120	75	2,310
2007-08	66,510	62,485	780	20	170	15	63,890	880	60	1,680
2008-09	67,935	63,135	875	30	95	20	64,310	800	70	2,750
2009-10	65,680	61,835	690	25	60	255	62,950	790	80	1,860
2010-11	63,025	59,045	985	35	85	10	60,185	570	140	2,125
2011-12	57,705	54,210	720	50	50	10	55,045	700	65	1,890
2012-13	56,735	52,825	725	40	65	45	53,695	655	110	2,265
2013-14	56,135	52,190	695	35	80	5	53,000	805	115	2,210
2014-15	53,475	49,695	705	35	60	5	50,500	830	125	2,020
2015-16	53,190	49,205	700	25	60	5	49,995	925	85	2,190

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

### Section 3: Access and Equalities

24. This section looks at students and entrants by selected protected characteristics. The tables and charts in this section show data on ethnicity and socio-economic deprivation. Gender and age are covered in Section 2 and there are tables provided online that cover disability. SFC's [Learning for All: Measures of Success 2016](#) publication provides further analysis of statistics on access and equalities in Scotland's HEIs and colleges. The Commission on Widening Access recommended that SFC and the Scottish Government should enhance the analyses and publication of data on fair access and that this should include the publication of a coherent and consistent set of statistics. In response to this recommendation *Learning for All* will be superseded by a new access publication in summer 2017.
25. Figure 5 shows entrants from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland by institution type. Students from the 20% most deprived areas remain over-represented in Scotland's colleges and under-represented amongst Scotland's HEIs, particularly ancient universities and small specialist institutions.
26. Figure 5 also shows the Scottish domiciled students who begin university outwith Scotland, based on SIMD, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. It shows that students from the 20% most deprived areas are least likely to travel outside of Scotland to attend university, with only 7.4% of students who do so coming from these areas.

**Figure 5: Scottish domiciled entrants to HE by deprivation & institution type, 2015-16**



27. Table G below shows the overall percentage of Scottish-domiciled entrants to HE from the 20% most deprived areas 2015-16 was 16.1%. This represents an increase of 0.1 percentage points from 2014-15. Table G shows that people from the 20% most deprived areas were underrepresented among HE entrants

by 3.2 percentage points, relative to the percentage of the working age population that live in these areas. The table shows this was 19.3% as, due to the way SIMD is calculated, there is not an even split of the population in each deprivation quintile. SFC allocates additional places to institutions for students from the most deprived areas and more information on this can be found on the [SFC website](#).

Table G: Scottish domiciled entrants from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland to higher education in the UK by institution type, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Type of Institution (15)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Colleges	21.8%	21.8%	21.7%	22.6%	22.3%	22.4%	22.8%	22.5%	23.0%	22.9%
Ancient Universities (3)	7.7%	7.3%	7.8%	7.6%	7.9%	7.4%	8.2%	8.8%	8.4%	8.0%
Newer Universities	11.7%	11.1%	11.0%	11.1%	11.2%	10.7%	11.1%	11.9%	12.1%	12.1%
Post-92 HEIs	14.6%	14.8%	14.7%	14.6%	14.8%	13.9%	15.3%	15.0%	14.7%	15.3%
Specialised HEIs (2,3)	6.5%	7.5%	6.6%	7.9%	7.2%	8.6%	7.4%	10.8%	11.7%	11.4%
Open University	13.7%	13.2%	14.0%	14.0%	14.7%	14.7%	15.4%	14.7%	13.9%	13.8%
Universities outside Scotland	6.3%	6.9%	7.4%	7.0%	9.0%	7.5%	5.8%	7.1%	7.0%	7.4%
<b>All entrants from 20% most deprived areas (16,22)</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
% of Scottish population living in 20% most deprived areas (16)	19.6%	19.3%	19.2%	19.1%	19.0%	19.0%	19.3%	19.2%	19.2%	19.2%
% of Scottish working age population living in 20% most deprived areas (17)	19.4%	19.0%	19.0%	18.9%	18.8%	18.8%	19.3%	19.3%	19.3%	19.3%
<b>Under-representation of total population from 20% most deprived areas</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
<b>Under-representation of working age population from 20% most deprived areas</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>

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

Refer to Notes to Tables.

28. Table H shows that 87.7% of all students whose ethnicity was recorded were white. Students from an Asian–Chinese background were the second largest ethnic group with 2.7% of the total and students from a Black African background were the third largest ethnic group with 1.9%.

**Table H: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by level of study and ethnicity, 2015-16**

Ethnic Background	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
All Students	285,450	12,910	43,800	158,495	41,060	29,185
Asian - Bangladeshi	610	25	200	220	40	120
Asian - Chinese	7,045	525	2,795	2,985	160	585
Asian - Indian	3,685	275	920	1,445	300	745
Asian - Pakistani	4,000	140	485	2,465	615	290
Asian - other	3,250	345	930	1,485	220	265
Black - African	4,790	400	1,670	1,825	570	325
Black - Caribbean	310	20	105	130	30	20
Black - other	400	35	130	140	55	40
White	226,425	7,630	26,325	129,720	38,270	24,480
Mixed background	4,540	290	715	2,970	320	245
Other ethnic background	3,025	445	865	1,220	235	265
Unknown	27,375	2,780	8,660	13,885	240	1,810

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

## Section 4: Qualifiers

### Qualifier numbers and characteristics

29. This section shows students who qualify from Scottish institutions with an HE qualification in each academic year. As in previous sections this is shown across the different levels and modes of study, and by selected protected characteristics, mainly gender, age and domicile. Data on qualifiers by institution type, subject, disability, ethnicity and other breakdowns is available in the accompanying online tables.
30. Table I below shows that there were 97,565 HE qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2015-16, the highest level since 2006-07. There was an increase of 525 qualifiers (0.5%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16 and an increase of 14,645 (17.7%) since 2006-07.
31. The number of qualifiers at research postgraduate level decreased by 140 (4.8%) and the number at taught postgraduate level decreased by 1,085 (4.5%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16. These decreases go against the general trend of increasing numbers at postgraduate level since 2006-07. The number of qualifiers at first degree level increased by 915 (2.5%) and qualifiers at HNC/D level increased by 630 (3.1%). Qualifiers at both first degree and HNC/HND level are at the highest level since 2006-07.
32. Qualifiers from Scottish HEIs decreased by 345 (0.5%), while qualifiers from colleges increased by 870 (3.4%). Of all qualifiers, 65.2% achieved graduate level qualifications (first degree level or above) in 2015-16, and these were mainly achieved at HEIs. The largest group of qualifiers were at first degree level, as shown in Figure 6.
33. Further information on destination of qualifiers is available with the HESA publication on destination of leavers and the HESA longitudinal survey publication. Details of which can be found on the [HESA website](#). SFC publishes further information on the destinations of HE students in colleges in the [College Leaver Destinations publication](#)

Figure 6: Qualifiers from higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of study, 2015-16

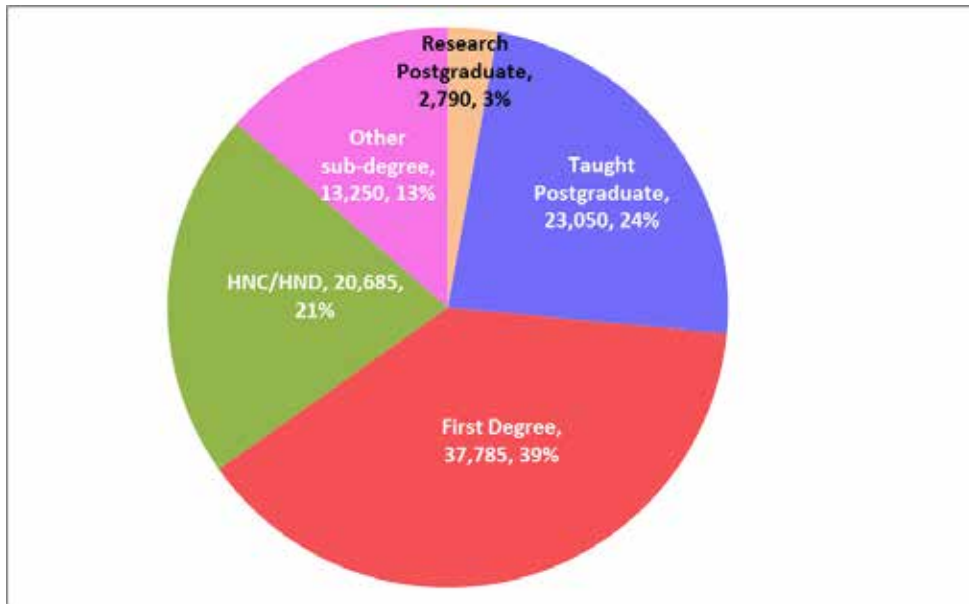


Table I: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by level of qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Qualification Obtained					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
<b>Total</b>						
2006-07	82,920	2,300	18,135	32,025	16,275	14,185
2007-08	83,335	2,155	19,550	31,235	15,695	14,650
2008-09	84,030	2,275	19,355	31,750	16,685	13,965
2009-10	83,885	2,330	19,045	32,095	18,260	12,155
2010-11	90,480	2,590	20,920	33,130	20,000	13,840
2011-12	92,870	2,710	22,360	34,585	20,530	12,675
2012-13 (2)	95,575	2,870	22,685	36,025	20,570	13,430
2013-14 (2)	97,340	2,605	24,110	37,010	20,525	13,090
2014-15 (2)	97,040	2,930	24,135	36,870	20,055	13,055
2015-16	97,565	2,790	23,050	37,785	20,685	13,250
<b>All students at HEIs</b>						
2006-07	60,910	2,300	18,020	31,825	1,430	7,335
2007-08	62,130	2,155	19,510	30,965	1,950	7,550
2008-09	61,565	2,275	19,315	31,465	1,715	6,790
2009-10	60,530	2,330	19,000	31,790	1,675	5,730
2010-11	64,295	2,590	20,875	32,555	1,765	6,500
2011-12	67,930	2,710	22,350	34,085	1,865	6,925
2012-13 (2)	70,005	2,870	22,670	35,440	1,920	7,110
2013-14 (2)	71,615	2,605	24,110	36,340	2,320	6,240
2014-15 (2)	71,175	2,930	24,135	36,210	2,330	5,575
2015-16	70,830	2,790	23,050	37,140	2,565	5,285
<b>All students at colleges</b>						
2006-07	22,010	-	115	205	14,845	6,850
2007-08	21,205	-	40	265	13,745	7,100
2008-09	22,465	-	40	285	14,970	7,175
2009-10	23,355	-	45	300	16,585	6,420
2010-11	26,185	-	40	570	18,230	7,340
2011-12	24,935	-	15	505	18,670	5,750
2012-13 (2)	25,565	-	15	585	18,650	6,320
2013-14 (2)	25,725	-	-	670	18,205	6,850
2014-15 (2)	25,865	-	-	660	17,730	7,475
2015-16	26,735	-	-	645	18,125	7,965

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

Refer to Notes to Tables.



## Gender, age and domicile of qualifiers

34. Table J shows only small differences across the age profiles of qualifiers between 2014-15 and 2015-16. The number of qualifiers from the age groups 19 to 20, 21 to 24 and 25 to 29 all decreased in this year, by 165 (1.6%), 60 (0.1%) and 180 (1.0%) respectively. The notable increases were to the 30 to 39 and 40 to 49 age groups, which increased by 335 (2.6%) and 385 (6.2%) respectively.
35. The age profile across the levels of study is perhaps as expected, with postgraduate qualifiers mostly falling in the 21-39 age range, first degree qualifiers mostly falling in the 21-24 age range and sub-degree level qualifiers mostly falling in the 19-24 age range. Qualifiers in the age groups above 25 years old were least likely to be qualifying at first degree level.

**Table J: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by age and level of qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2015-16**

Level of Qualification / Academic Session	Total (7)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
<b>All levels</b>									
2006-07	82,920	2,310	7,590	32,930	14,540	13,090	9,025	2,915	500
2007-08	83,335	2,280	7,615	32,675	15,040	13,045	8,920	2,970	555
2008-09	84,030	2,580	7,870	33,455	15,025	12,965	8,510	3,005	610
2009-10	83,885	2,830	8,110	33,620	15,495	12,650	7,900	2,735	535
2010-11	90,480	2,930	9,165	36,170	17,270	13,250	7,955	3,000	740
2011-12	92,870	3,140	9,360	37,945	18,360	13,320	7,450	2,705	580
2012-13	95,575	3,585	14,815	38,895	16,055	12,295	6,660	2,545	715
2013-14	97,340	3,755	15,685	39,770	15,930	12,285	6,545	2,615	755
2014-15	97,040	3,020	10,485	42,485	18,470	12,985	6,160	2,725	705
2015-16	97,565	3,065	10,320	42,425	18,290	13,320	6,545	2,860	735
<b>Postgraduate</b>									
2015-16	25,845	0.0%	0.0%	25.5%	37.8%	23.0%	9.2%	3.8%	0.7%
<b>First Degree</b>									
2015-16	37,785	0.0%	3.4%	73.5%	10.8%	6.9%	3.7%	1.3%	0.3%
<b>Sub-degree</b>									
2015-16	33,935	9.0%	26.6%	23.8%	13.1%	14.1%	8.1%	4.1%	1.3%

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to Notes to Tables.

36. Table K shows that, between 2014-15 and 2015-16, Scottish domiciled qualifiers increased by 1,665 (2.5%), RUK qualifiers increased by 500 (7.0%), EU qualifiers stayed broadly the same and qualifiers from the rest of the world decreased by 1,645 (10.7%).
37. In 2015-16, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 70.6% of qualifiers, students from the rest of the UK accounted for 7.8%, students from the rest of the EU accounted for 7.5% and students from the rest of the world accounted

for the remaining 14.1%. These proportions varied across level of study, as shown below, with Scottish domiciled students making up the large majority (93.0%) of qualifiers at sub-degree level while making up less than half (41.1%) of qualifiers at postgraduate level.

**Table K: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by domicile and qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2015-16**

Level of Qualification / Academic Session	Total	Scotland	Rest of UK	EU excluding UK	Rest of the world
<b>Total</b>					
2006-07	82,920	62,710	6,605	4,610	8,990
2007-08	83,335	61,420	6,895	4,820	10,205
2008-09	84,030	61,435	7,485	5,005	10,100
2009-10	83,885	60,740	6,605	5,755	10,725
2010-11	90,480	64,715	7,110	5,955	12,655
2011-12	92,870	65,045	7,500	6,095	14,230
2012-13	95,575	66,640	7,945	6,475	14,515
2013-14	97,340	68,530	7,260	6,855	14,695
2014-15	97,040	67,185	7,130	7,320	15,405
2015-16	97,565	68,850	7,630	7,325	13,760
<b>Postgraduate</b>					
2015-16	25,845	41.1%	9.9%	13.3%	35.6%
<b>First Degree</b>					
2015-16	37,785	70.6%	12.0%	9.1%	8.3%
<b>Sub-degree</b>					
2015-16	33,935	93.0%	1.6%	1.2%	4.2%

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

38. Table L, below, shows that in 2015-16 males accounted for 44.0% of qualifiers and females accounted for 56.0%. The number of male qualifiers increased by 830 (2.0%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16 whereas the number of female qualifiers decreased by 320 (0.6%).
39. The gender imbalance was greater for full-time qualifiers; 58.0% of full-time qualifiers were female compared with 50.9% of part-time qualifiers. The numbers of both male and female full-time qualifiers increased between 2014-15 and 2015-16 meaning the overall decrease for female qualifiers in this year was due to the drop in part-time female qualifiers.

Table L: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by mode of study and gender, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time (20)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2006-07	82,920	35,435	47,485	52,615	21,840	30,775	30,305	13,595	16,710
2007-08	83,335	36,015	47,315	51,085	21,515	29,570	32,245	14,505	17,740
2008-09	84,030	37,270	46,760	53,585	23,010	30,575	30,445	14,260	16,185
2009-10	83,885	37,410	46,470	55,075	23,925	31,155	28,805	13,490	15,320
2010-11	90,480	41,215	49,265	58,490	25,935	32,560	31,990	15,280	16,710
2011-12	92,870	41,440	51,430	62,275	27,130	35,145	30,595	14,310	16,285
2012-13	95,575	42,280	53,290	63,340	27,425	35,915	32,230	14,855	17,375
2013-14	97,340	42,320	55,005	66,150	27,945	38,195	31,195	14,375	16,815
2014-15	97,040	42,125	54,890	67,210	27,930	39,280	29,800	14,195	15,610
2015-16	97,565	42,955	54,570	69,215	29,055	40,160	28,310	13,900	14,410

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

Refer to Notes to Tables.

## Section 5: Participation Rates for Entrants to Scottish Higher Education

### Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)

40. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) roughly equates to the probability that a 16 year old will participate in Higher Education by the age of 30.
41. The Scottish HEIPR, displayed in Table M, is a measure of all initial entrants aged between 16 and 30 (inclusive). An initial entrant is defined as any student who participates for at least six months on a course which is expected to last for at least six months, who has not participated in Higher Education previously for a period for at least six months (whether at a college or an HEI).
42. The measure does not show the proportion currently participating in HE, the proportion continuing beyond the first six months, or those who successfully complete a course. The HEIPR measures the likelihood of participation in higher education and is suitable for comparison with measures in other countries. Key strengths of these rates, compared to student number statistics, are that these participation rates are more inclusive and better recognise the importance of lifelong learning.
43. The initial participation rates for each age group (16 to 30), in scope of this calculation, are summed to give the HEIPR.
44. Table M shows that the Scottish HEIPR has increased from 55.4% in 2014-15 to 55.9% in 2015-16.

Table M: Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) by age, 2014-15 and 2015-16

Age	2014-15			2015-16			Change from 2014-15
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	
16	1,131	59,569	1.9%	1,299	58,234	2.2%	↑
17	9,677	61,669	15.7%	9,436	59,847	15.8%	↑
18	13,029	63,315	20.6%	13,242	62,206	21.3%	↑
19	3,755	66,249	5.7%	3,595	65,430	5.5%	↓
20	1,815	69,134	2.6%	1,559	68,012	2.3%	↓
21	1,113	70,661	1.6%	1,071	70,811	1.5%	↓
22	853	75,636	1.1%	830	72,715	1.1%	↔
23	781	76,950	1.0%	788	76,667	1.0%	↔
24	658	74,037	0.9%	742	77,259	1.0%	↑
25	630	72,354	0.9%	602	74,762	0.8%	↓
26	555	72,768	0.8%	576	73,668	0.8%	↔
27	557	71,185	0.8%	519	73,688	0.7%	↓
28	519	70,389	0.7%	461	71,860	0.6%	↓
29	428	70,041	0.6%	458	71,011	0.6%	↔
30	366	68,138	0.5%	406	70,622	0.6%	↑
<b>16-30</b>	<b>35,867</b>		<b>55.4%</b>	<b>35,584</b>		<b>55.9%</b>	<b>↑</b>

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and National Records of Scotland (NRS)

45. Further detailed information on the HEIPR, including how it is calculated can be found in SFC's [Participation Rates for Entrants to Scottish Higher Education in 2012-13](#) publication. A breakdown of Table M, using different variables, is available on request. Contact details can be found on the cover of this report.
46. Statistics for [Participation rates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland](#) are also available.