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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 characteristics¹

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.

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

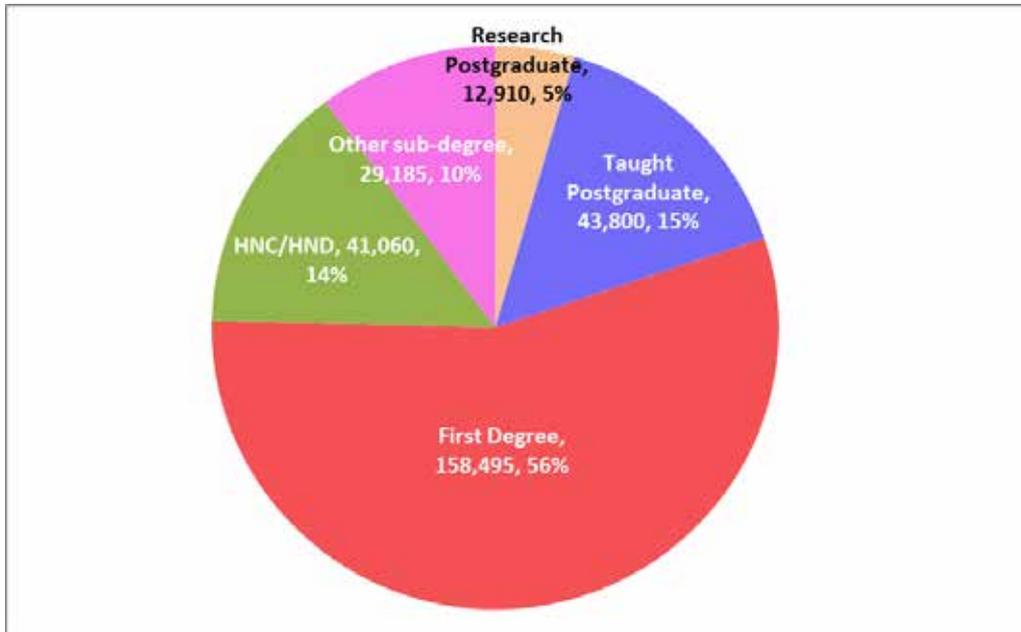
Table A: Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by institution type and level of study, 2006-07 to 2015-16

| Institution Type / Academic Session | Level of Study | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | All Levels | Postgraduate | | First Degree | Sub-degree | |
| | | Research Postgraduate (1) | Taught Postgraduate | | HNC/HND | Other sub-degree |
| Total | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2015-16 | 285,450 | 12,910 | 43,800 | 158,495 | 41,060 | 29,185 |
| All students at HEIs | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2015-16 | 235,565 | 12,910 | 43,800 | 157,440 | 4,930 | 16,480 |
| All students at colleges | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 2015-16 | 49,890 | - | - | 1,055 | 36,130 | 12,705 |

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

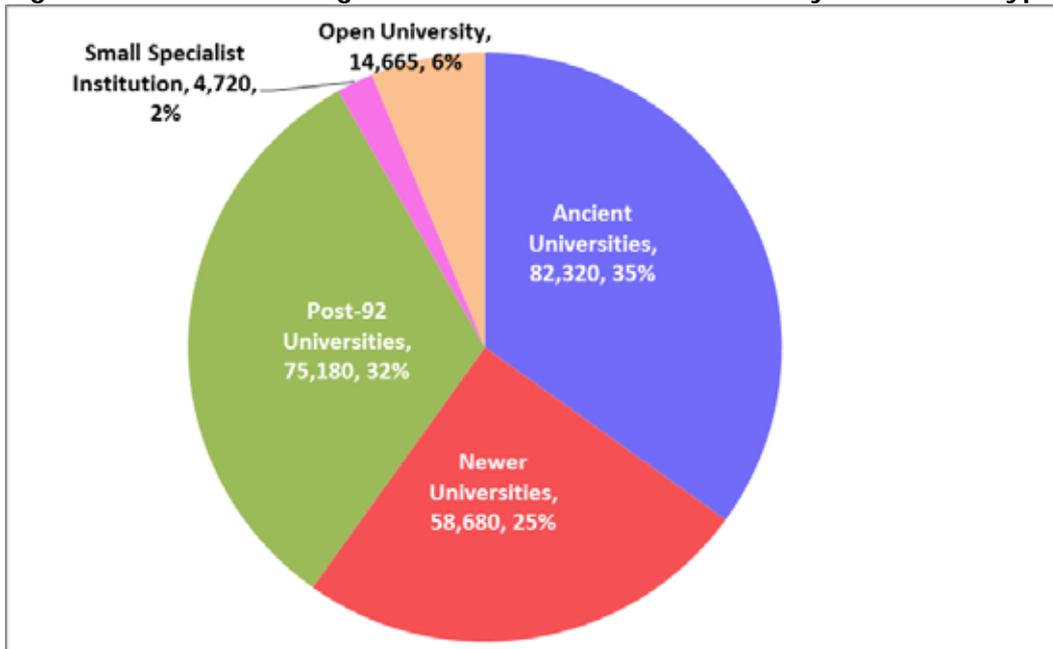
- Figures 1 shows the proportion of all HE students by level of study. As mentioned above, first degree students account for 66.8% of students at HEI's and Figure 1 shows that this proportion drops to 56% of all HE students.

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



- 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 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at HEIs | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at colleges | | | | | | | | | |
| 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+ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Total | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at HEIs | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at colleges | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at HEIs | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at colleges | | | | | | |
| 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.

15. 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](#).
16. 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

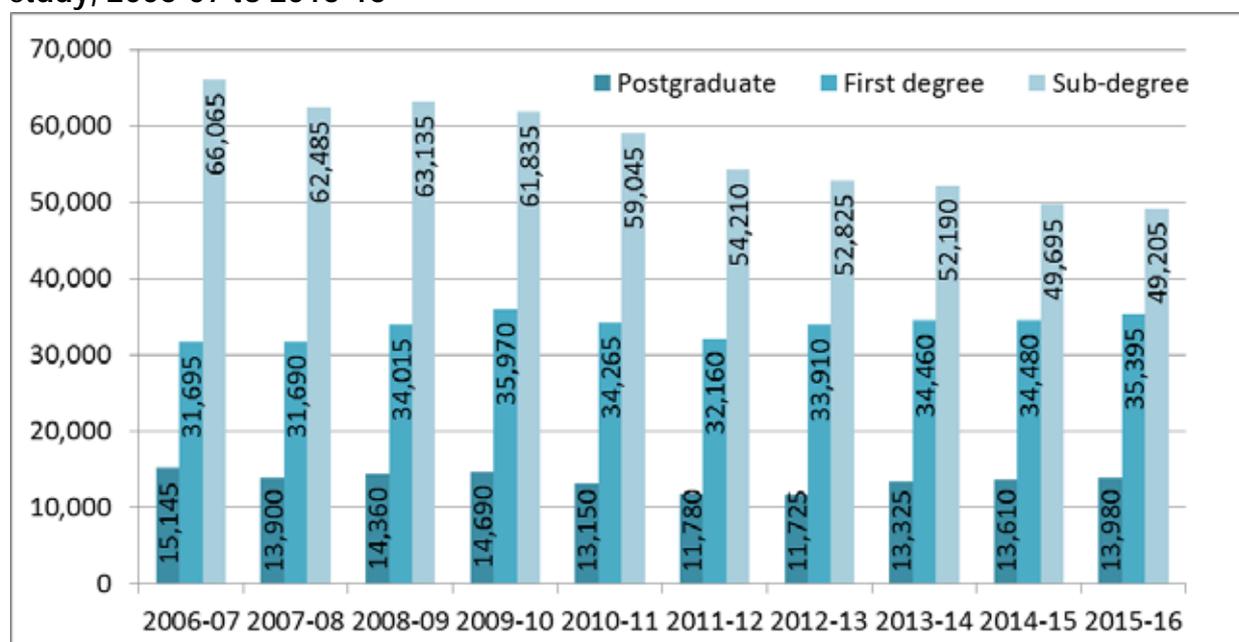
| Subject Area | All levels | | | Postgraduate | | | First degree | | | Sub-degree | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Total | Male (%) | Female (%) | Total | Male (%) | Female (%) | Total | Male (%) | Female (%) | Total | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Total (21) | 135,090 | 43.2% | 56.8% | 32,805 | 41.7% | 58.3% | 49,095 | 41.3% | 58.7% | 53,190 | 45.8% | 54.2% |
| Medical Studies | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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% |
| Total | 16,135 | 20.1% | 79.9% | 4,535 | 26.3% | 73.7% | 7,725 | 18.7% | 81.3% | 3,875 | 15.7% | 84.3% |
| Science and Engineering | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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% |
| Total | 40,540 | 66.5% | 33.5% | 8,995 | 59.6% | 40.4% | 17,430 | 59.9% | 40.1% | 14,120 | 79.1% | 20.9% |
| Business and Social Studies | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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% |
| Total | 44,465 | 36.8% | 63.2% | 10,950 | 41.8% | 58.2% | 13,665 | 38.1% | 61.9% | 19,850 | 33.2% | 66.8% |
| Education and the Arts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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% |
| Total | 27,105 | 32.6% | 67.4% | 8,140 | 30.5% | 69.5% | 9,485 | 30.3% | 69.7% | 9,480 | 36.7% | 63.3% |
| Combined (7) | 6,750 | 42.2% | 57.8% | 160 | 36.0% | 64.0% | 770 | 40.4% | 59.6% | 5,820 | 42.6% | 57.4% |
| Supplementary subjects contained in the above categories | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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

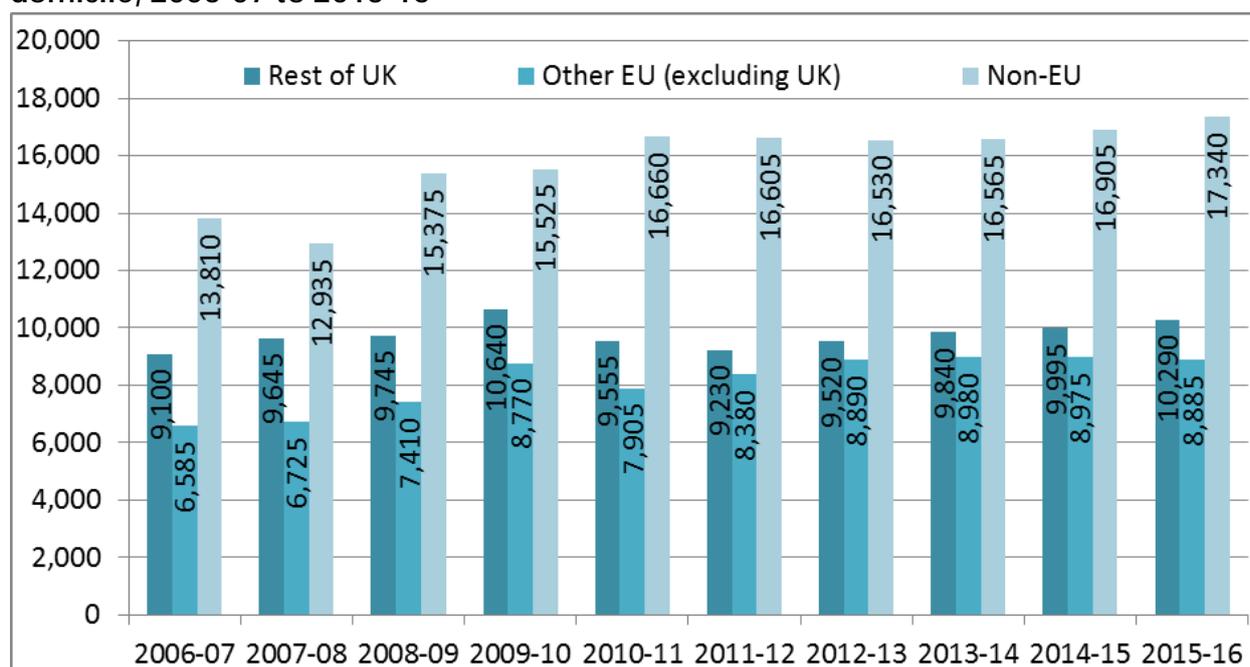
18. Figure 3 shows that the number of Scottish domiciled first degree entrants has increased by 11.7% between 2006-07 and 2015-16. In the same time period the number of Scottish domiciled sub-degree students decreased by 25.5% which means a higher proportion of entrants are now at first degree level.
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

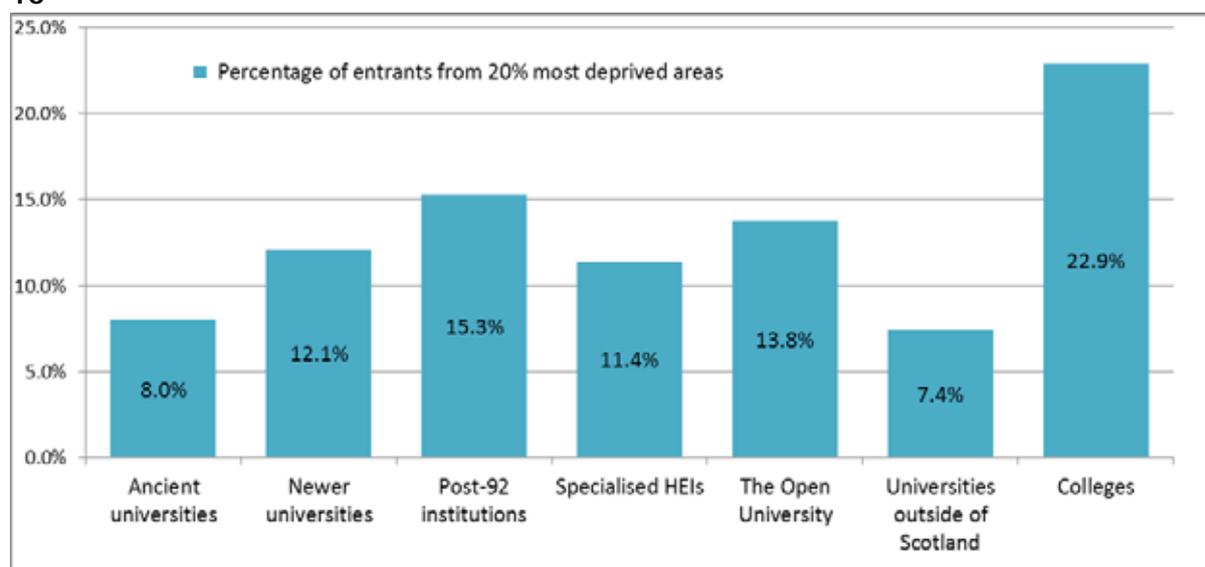
| Level of Study / Academic Session | Total all domiciles (13) | Scotland | England | Wales | Northern Ireland | Other UK | Total UK | EU | Non-EU Europe | Non-European |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|-------|------------------|----------|----------|-------|---------------|--------------|
| All levels | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Postgraduate | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| First Degree | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Sub-degree | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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% |
| All entrants from 20% most deprived areas (16,22) | 15.0% | 14.8% | 14.9% | 15.1% | 15.4% | 15.1% | 15.8% | 15.9% | 16.0% | 16.1% |
| % 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% |
| Under-representation of total population from 20% most deprived areas | -4.6% | -4.5% | -4.3% | -4.1% | -3.6% | -3.9% | -3.5% | -3.4% | -3.2% | -3.1% |
| Under-representation of working age population from 20% most deprived areas | -4.4% | -4.2% | -4.1% | -3.8% | -3.4% | -3.7% | -3.5% | -3.4% | -3.3% | -3.2% |

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

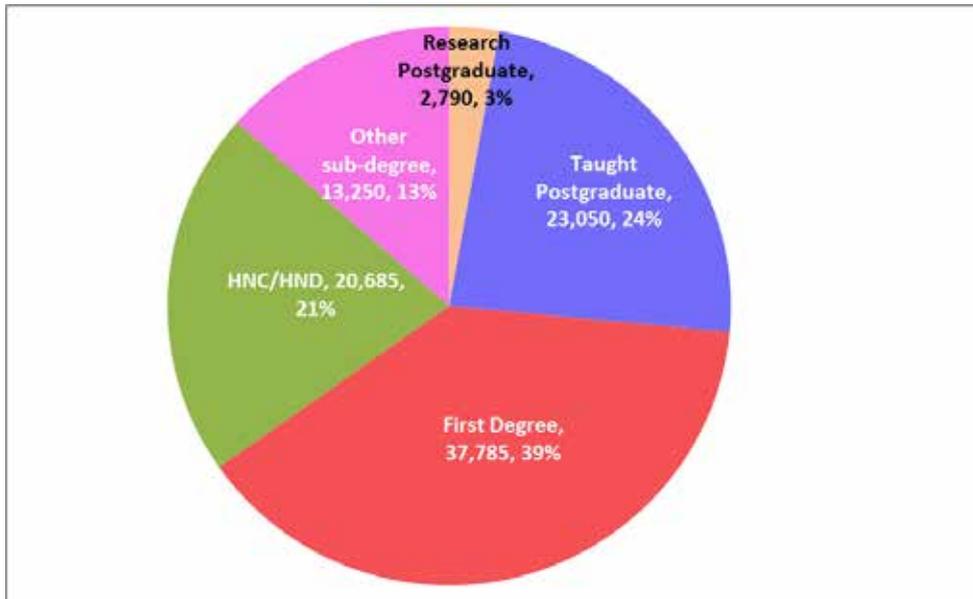


Table I: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by level of qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2015-16

| 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 |
| Total | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at HEIs | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| All students at colleges | | | | | | |
| 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+ |
|---|-----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| All levels | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Postgraduate | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | 25,845 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25.5% | 37.8% | 23.0% | 9.2% | 3.8% | 0.7% |
| First Degree | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | 37,785 | 0.0% | 3.4% | 73.5% | 10.8% | 6.9% | 3.7% | 1.3% | 0.3% |
| Sub-degree | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
|---|--------|----------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Total | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Postgraduate | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | 25,845 | 41.1% | 9.9% | 13.3% | 35.6% |
| First Degree | | | | | |
| 2015-16 | 37,785 | 70.6% | 12.0% | 9.1% | 8.3% |
| Sub-degree | | | | | |
| 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% | ↑ |
| 16-30 | 35,867 | | 55.4% | 35,584 | | 55.9% | ↑ |

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.