

Statistical Fact Sheet 4

Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories - 2011/12 to 2015/16

- In 2015/16, 9.3% of students enrolled at NI HEIs self-reported as having a disability.
- Of those NI domiciled students enrolled at NI HEIs who were asked to provide their religion in 2015/16 (excluding those at the Open University), 30.2% of students gave their religion as 'Protestant', while 47.4% of students gave their religion as 'Roman Catholic' and 22.3% of students fell into the 'Other' or 'Not Known' categories.

Disability ⁽¹⁾	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Disability	3,745	4,020	4,160	4,550	5,140
No disability/not known	52,975	52,140	52,235	51,895	50,100
Total	56,720	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245

Religion ^{(2) (3)}	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Protestant	14,505	14,065	13,800	13,655	13,125
Roman Catholic	21,275	21,115	21,325	21,210	20,595
Other	3,510	4,115	4,665	5,170	5,640
Not known	3,970	4,085	4,350	4,265	4,055
Non NI Domiciles	8,645	8,335	8,120	8,355	8,090
Total	51,905	51,715	52,260	52,650	51,505

Age	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
20 and under	20,080	20,010	19,995	20,610	19,810
21 to 24	14,680	14,955	15,115	14,870	15,185
25 and over	21,960	21,190	21,280	20,960	20,250
Unknown	0	0	5	0	0
Total	56,720	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245

Gender ⁽⁴⁾	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Male	24,060	24,015	24,400	24,670	23,865
Female	32,660	32,140	31,995	31,775	31,380
Total	56,720	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245

Ethnicity ⁽¹⁾	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
White	49,320	48,380	48,415	49,150	49,575
Irish traveller	10	10	15	15	10
Black	385	330	330	455	360
Indian	420	335	315	285	300
Pakistani	290	155	135	235	195
Bangladeshi	220	200	150	100	115
Chinese	615	805	900	550	350
Other Asian	430	415	385	360	295
Mixed	300	325	340	325	340
Other	135	180	190	235	220
Unknown	4,585	5,025	5,220	4,740	3,480
Total	56,720	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245

Marital Status⁽²⁾	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Single (never married or never in civil partnership)	36,815	37,100	36,645	37,230	36,515
Married or in civil partnership	4,985	4,945	4,940	4,660	4,360
Separated (but still legally married or in civil partnership)	305	290	290	275	260
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	305	285	260	245	260
Widowed	60	60	50	55	55
Co-habiting	720	655	740	725	700
Unknown	70	40	1,210	1,105	1,260
Non NI Domiciles	8,645	8,335	8,120	8,355	8,090
Total	51,905	51,715	52,260	52,650	51,505

Dependents⁽²⁾	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Young people/children (YP/C)	4,495	4,480	4,570	4,530	4,330
Other relative/friends (OR/F)	375	365	395	375	315
Both YP/C & OR/F ⁽⁵⁾	580	615	595	550	470
No dependents	37,740	37,880	37,270	37,655	36,965
Unknown	70	40	1,310	1,185	1,340
Non NI Domiciles	8,645	8,335	8,120	8,355	8,090
Total	51,905	51,715	52,260	52,650	51,505

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Information on disability and ethnicity is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
2. Information on religion, marital status and dependents is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI HE institutions.
3. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
4. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE no longer counts the Open University as a wholly English institution, but splits it between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, depending on where the national centre is located. Figures for the previous academic years have been updated to reflect this change.
5. Enrolments at the OU (where the national centre is located in NI) have been removed from the figures for religion, marital status and dependents due to high levels of unknowns.
6. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures in the attached table are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1, 2 rounded to 0. Due to rounding, the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown.
7. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

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