

**BIS** | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

**WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

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# Introduction

This Official Statistics Release provides the latest information on 3 measures of Widening Participation in Higher Education:

- The estimated percentages of 15 year olds, by Free School Meals (FSM) status, who progressed to Higher Education (HE) by age 19 in 2009/10. The information is presented at national and local authority level.
- The estimated percentages of A level students, by school/college type, who progressed to Higher Education and to the most selective Higher Education Institutions by age 19 in 2009/10.
- Estimated proportions of young 2010/11 graduates in different occupation classifications by social background on entry to Higher Education. This uses Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) at both points, split into two groups.

The first two measures cover pupils from English maintained schools who have progressed to Higher Education in UK Higher Education Institutions and English Further Education Colleges. The measure on graduate outcomes covers English domiciled graduates from UK Higher Education Institutions. The first two measures use matched data which takes longer to become available for use than the sources used for the graduate outcomes measure.

These measures are intended to contribute to the understanding of widening participation issues as part of a range of measures, which have different strengths and limitations. Annex E provides information on some of the other measures available.

The social background indicator is included in this release for the first time. Otherwise this release updates the previous release of August 2011.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/higher-education/official-statistics-releases/widening-participation-in-higher-education/analysis-of-progression-rates-for-young-people-in-england-by-free-school-meal-receipt>

BIS will consider whether it will be feasible to bring forward publication in future.

# Key Findings

## Table 1

This table compares the progression of pupils with and without Free School Meals to Higher Education.

**Table 1: Estimated percentage of maintained school pupils aged 15 by Free School Meal status who entered HE by age 19 Academic Years 2005/06 to 2009/10 UK Higher Education Institutions and English Further Education Colleges**

	Estimated % who entered HE			
	FSM <sup>[1]</sup>	Non-FSM <sup>[1]</sup>	Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	All
2005/06	13%	33%	19	30%
2006/07	14%	33%	19	31%
2007/08	15%	33%	18	31%
2008/09	17%	35%	18	33%
2009/10	18%	36%	18	34%

pp = percentage points

[1] FSM and Non-FSM refer to whether pupils were receiving Free School Meals or not.

[2] Gap is the difference between FSM and non-FSM expressed in percentage points. Percentage figures are rounded; gap figures are calculated from un-rounded data and therefore may not correspond to the gap between rounded percentages.

The table shows that an estimated 13% of maintained school pupils who received Free School Meals (FSM) at age 15 entered Higher Education by age 19 in 2005/06. This rose steadily to an estimated 18% in 2009/10. The estimated progression rate for pupils not receiving Free School Meals has risen from 33% in 2007/08 to 36% in 2009/10. The estimated gap between FSM and Non-FSM rates was 19 percentage points in 2005/06 and 2006/07 and has remained steady at 18 percentage points from 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Prior attainment is not accounted for in this measure. Many pupils will not continue their education; therefore may not hold the qualifications to progress to HE. See Annex A, in particular the caveats, for more details on this measure.

## Table 2

This table breaks down the 2009/10 progression rates by Local Authority.

**Table 2: Estimated percentage of maintained school pupils aged 15 in 2005/06 by Free School Meal status who entered HE in 2008/09 at age 18 or 2009/10 at age 19, by Local Authority UK Higher Education Institutions and English further education colleges**

Local Authority <sup>[1]</sup>	Estimated percentage who entered HE				% of pupils with FSM <sup>[4]</sup>
	FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Non-FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Gap (pp) <sup>[3]</sup>	All	
Camden	39%	49%	10	45%	30%
Greenwich	21%	33%	12	29%	26%
Hackney	36%	43%	7	40%	36%
Hammersmith and Fulham	34%	53%	19	47%	28%
Islington	34%	34%	1	34%	37%
Kensington and Chelsea	44%	51%	6	49%	26%
Lambeth	31%	45%	15	40%	37%
Lewisham	27%	41%	14	37%	24%
Southwark	31%	40%	10	35%	46%
Tower Hamlets	37%	38%	1	37%	62%
Wandsworth	35%	44%	9	41%	22%
Westminster	52%	47%	-5	48%	29%
Barking and Dagenham	23%	31%	8	28%	28%
Barnet	36%	58%	22	54%	16%
Bexley	18%	37%	19	35%	9%
Brent	39%	58%	18	53%	24%
Bromley	18%	42%	24	39%	10%
Croydon	27%	40%	13	38%	16%
Ealing	36%	55%	19	49%	25%
Enfield	32%	46%	14	44%	19%
Haringey	35%	42%	7	39%	35%
Harrow	36%	62%	26	57%	19%
Havering	15%	36%	20	34%	9%
Hillingdon	23%	41%	18	38%	18%
Hounslow	38%	52%	14	48%	18%
Kingston upon Thames	30%	52%	22	50%	8%
Merton	24%	38%	14	36%	14%
Newham	43%	49%	6	46%	37%
Redbridge	41%	59%	18	56%	15%
Richmond upon Thames	23%	42%	19	40%	13%
Sutton	21%	52%	32	50%	7%
Waltham Forest	31%	39%	8	37%	22%
Birmingham	24%	42%	17	36%	32%
Coventry	17%	36%	19	33%	15%
Dudley	11%	38%	26	34%	14%
Sandwell	15%	29%	13	26%	18%

Local Authority <sup>[1]</sup>	Estimated percentage who entered HE				% of pupils with FSM <sup>[4]</sup>
	FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Non-FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Gap (pp) <sup>[3]</sup>	All	
Solihull	14%	41%	27	38%	11%
Walsall	16%	33%	17	30%	16%
Wolverhampton	14%	34%	20	31%	17%
Knowsley	12%	23%	11	19%	31%
Liverpool	14%	39%	24	31%	31%
St. Helens	13%	38%	25	34%	16%
Sefton	19%	40%	21	37%	15%
Wirral	16%	44%	29	36%	28%
Bolton	20%	35%	15	33%	14%
Bury	18%	38%	20	35%	12%
Manchester	18%	35%	17	28%	41%
Oldham	24%	33%	9	31%	18%
Rochdale	18%	34%	16	30%	24%
Salford	8%	27%	19	23%	19%
Stockport	12%	37%	25	34%	10%
Tameside	15%	29%	14	27%	15%
Trafford	21%	49%	28	46%	11%
Wigan	9%	34%	25	31%	13%
Barnsley	8%	26%	19	23%	16%
Doncaster	10%	29%	19	27%	13%
Rotherham	12%	29%	17	27%	14%
Sheffield	14%	33%	18	30%	15%
Bradford	19%	33%	14	30%	23%
Calderdale	18%	36%	18	34%	11%
Kirklees	18%	37%	18	34%	16%
Leeds	12%	33%	21	29%	18%
Wakefield	12%	28%	16	25%	13%
Gateshead	15%	35%	20	32%	15%
Newcastle upon Tyne	10%	32%	22	27%	20%
North Tyneside	13%	35%	22	33%	9%
South Tyneside	11%	32%	21	28%	21%
Sunderland	10%	29%	18	26%	12%
Isles of Scilly <sup>[5]</sup>	-	42%	-	42%	-
Bath and North East Somerset	11%	36%	25	35%	6%
Bristol, City of	9%	22%	12	19%	16%
North Somerset	12%	37%	25	35%	7%
South Gloucestershire	13%	29%	16	28%	6%
Hartlepool	14%	37%	23	33%	18%
Middlesbrough	17%	35%	18	29%	29%
Redcar and Cleveland	14%	39%	26	34%	18%
Stockton-on-Tees	12%	37%	25	33%	15%
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	9%	19%	10	17%	17%
East Riding of Yorkshire	14%	39%	25	37%	7%
North East Lincolnshire	8%	26%	19	23%	16%

Local Authority <sup>[1]</sup>	Estimated percentage who entered HE				% of pupils with FSM <sup>[4]</sup>
	FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Non-FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Gap (pp) <sup>[3]</sup>	All	
North Lincolnshire	7%	32%	25	29%	10%
North Yorkshire	14%	40%	27	39%	5%
York	10%	37%	27	35%	7%
Bedfordshire	14%	37%	23	35%	8%
Luton	29%	39%	10	36%	24%
Buckinghamshire	24%	51%	27	49%	5%
Milton Keynes	15%	35%	20	33%	10%
Derbyshire	12%	34%	23	32%	9%
Derby	12%	35%	23	31%	14%
Dorset	15%	32%	17	31%	6%
Poole	13%	36%	24	35%	5%
Bournemouth	11%	31%	20	29%	12%
Durham	7%	33%	26	28%	18%
Darlington	16%	37%	21	34%	13%
East Sussex	8%	29%	21	27%	9%
Brighton and Hove	10%	30%	20	27%	16%
Hampshire	9%	35%	25	33%	6%
Portsmouth	13%	22%	8	20%	14%
Southampton	9%	24%	15	22%	13%
Leicestershire	13%	37%	23	35%	5%
Leicester	24%	39%	15	36%	19%
Rutland <sup>[5]</sup>	-	37%	-	35%	4%
Staffordshire	13%	35%	23	33%	7%
Stoke-on-Trent	12%	26%	14	23%	17%
Wiltshire	8%	36%	28	34%	5%
Swindon	3%	24%	22	23%	8%
Bracknell Forest	11%	36%	24	34%	6%
Windsor and Maidenhead	19%	42%	23	40%	5%
West Berkshire	11%	39%	28	38%	5%
Reading	12%	43%	32	39%	13%
Slough	33%	55%	22	52%	14%
Wokingham	16%	43%	28	42%	4%
Cambridgeshire	9%	38%	29	35%	7%
Peterborough	16%	33%	17	30%	15%
Cheshire	11%	41%	29	38%	8%
Halton	11%	26%	15	23%	19%
Warrington	15%	39%	24	37%	7%
Devon	12%	32%	20	30%	7%
Plymouth	8%	33%	25	30%	11%
Torbay	9%	36%	27	32%	12%
Essex	11%	33%	21	31%	8%
Southend-on-Sea	11%	39%	28	36%	13%
Thurrock	11%	26%	15	24%	11%
Herefordshire	7%	35%	28	33%	6%

Local Authority <sup>[1]</sup>	Estimated percentage who entered HE				% of pupils with FSM <sup>[4]</sup>
	FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Non-FSM <sup>[2]</sup>	Gap (pp) <sup>[3]</sup>	All	
Worcestershire	13%	35%	22	34%	7%
Kent	11%	35%	25	33%	8%
Medway	11%	31%	21	29%	9%
Lancashire	16%	38%	22	35%	11%
Blackburn with Darwen	25%	38%	13	35%	24%
Blackpool	16%	29%	13	27%	15%
Nottinghamshire	9%	32%	23	29%	11%
Nottingham	13%	26%	13	22%	27%
Shropshire	11%	35%	25	34%	6%
Telford and Wrekin	13%	34%	21	31%	15%
Cornwall	16%	33%	17	31%	9%
Cumbria	8%	37%	28	33%	11%
Gloucestershire	10%	38%	29	37%	5%
Hertfordshire	18%	45%	27	43%	6%
Isle of Wight	8%	32%	23	28%	13%
Lincolnshire	7%	36%	29	34%	6%
Norfolk	10%	30%	20	28%	9%
Northamptonshire	13%	34%	21	32%	7%
Northumberland	11%	37%	26	34%	9%
Oxfordshire	11%	36%	24	34%	7%
Somerset	10%	32%	22	31%	6%
Suffolk	13%	33%	21	32%	8%
Surrey	16%	40%	24	39%	5%
Warwickshire	17%	37%	20	36%	6%
West Sussex	11%	34%	23	33%	5%
<b>Total England</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>13%</b>

pp = percentage points - = less than 0.5% or suppressed

[1] Local authority refers to the location of the school the pupil attended, rather than their home address.

[2] FSM and Non-FSM refer to whether pupils were receiving Free School Meals or not.

[3] Percentage figures are rounded; gap figures are calculated from un-rounded data and therefore may not correspond to the gap between rounded percentages.

[4] Percentage of pupils with Free School Meals according to the matched data used to produce this table; figures may vary slightly from other sources

[5] Percentages below 0.5 are not shown in the table, nor are related figures which could potentially disclose these; the small numbers involved explain the difference between the non-FSM and overall percentages for these small authorities.

The figures in the table suggest that 92 Local Authorities out of 149 (62%) have a larger gap between the progression rates for FSM and Non-FSM pupils than the England level gap (of 18 percentage points). The equivalent proportion of authorities in the previous year was 59%.

In addition, an Excel table associated with this publication on the webpage gives a time series of this information.



Figures are estimates. Care should be taken when comparing progression rates across Local Authorities. In particular, it is not possible to conclude that the gaps in progression rates shown for different Local Authorities are a reflection of the performance of educational institutions in those authorities. This is because the composition of the Non-FSM group (and to a lesser extent the FSM group) will vary considerably in terms of levels of affluence and other factors that will impact on educational attainment and progression. The proportion of pupils with FSM varies considerably between authorities, as illustrated in the last column of the table. Note that there is a potential for minor errors in the matching process deployed. See Annex A for more details on this measure and Annex D for information about the matching process.

## Table 3

This table compares progression to HE from the state and independent sector for A level students, with selective state schools/colleges shown separately for the latest two years.

**Table 3a: Estimated number and percentage of A level students who entered HE by age 19 and the percentage who progressed to the most selective HE Institutions, by independent and state school/college. Academic Years 2006/07 to 2009/10**

School/college type	Total age 17 in 2004/05	Progressed to HE by age 19 in 2006/07		of which; Most selective HE <sup>[1]</sup>	
		Number	% of total age 17 in 2004/05	Number	% of total age 17 in 2004/05
Independent	28,545	24,380	85%	17,925	63%
State <sup>[2]</sup>	198,610	143,935	72%	51,440	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,155</b>	<b>168,310</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>69,365</b>	<b>31%</b>

School/college type	Total age 17 in 2005/06	Progressed to HE by age 19 in 2007/08		of which; Most selective HE <sup>[1]</sup>	
		Number	% of total age 17 in 2005/06	Number	% of total age 17 in 2005/06
Independent	30,350	25,325	83%	19,195	63%
State <sup>[2]</sup>	234,860	158,655	68%	58,195	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,210</b>	<b>183,980</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>77,385</b>	<b>29%</b>

School/college type	Total age 17 in 2006/07	Progressed to HE by age 19 in 2008/09		of which; Most selective HE <sup>[1]</sup>	
		Number	% of total age 17 in 2006/07	Number	% of total age 17 in 2006/07
Independent	30,435	24,935	82%	19,005	62%
Selective State	20,305	17,995	89%	11,705	58%
Other State	215,570	145,730	68%	48,690	23%
<b>State</b>	<b>235,875</b>	<b>163,725</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>60,395</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,310</b>	<b>188,660</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>79,400</b>	<b>30%</b>

School/college type	Total age 17 in 2007/08	Progressed to HE by age 19 in 2009/10		of which; Most selective HE <sup>[1]</sup>	
		Number	% of total age 17 in 2007/08	Number	% of total age 17 in 2006/08
Independent	28,510	24,710	87%	18,535	65%
Selective state	23,630	21,055	89%	14,065	60%
Other state	223,280	153,425	69%	49,970	22%
<b>Total state</b>	<b>246,915</b>	<b>174,485</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>64,035</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>275,420</b>	<b>199,195</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>82,570</b>	<b>30%</b>

[1] The most selective are defined as the top third of HEIs when ranked by mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A level grades of entrants.

[2] Indicators to separately identify selective state schools are not available on the matched datasets before 2006/07, so progression rates to HE by age 19 are not available for these schools before 2008/09.

This table summarises progression rates from table 3a.

**Table 3b: Estimated percentage of A level students who entered HE by age 19 and the percentage who progressed to the most selective HE Institutions, by independent and state school/college. Academic Years 2006/07 to 2009/10**

School/college type	Progression rate to all HE				Progression rate to the most selective HE <sup>[1]</sup>			
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<b>Independent</b>	85%	83%	82%	87%	63%	63%	62%	65%
Selective state <sup>[2]</sup>	..	..	89%	89%	..	..	58%	60%
Other state <sup>[2]</sup>	..	..	68%	69%	..	..	23%	22%
<b>Total state</b>	72%	68%	69%	71%	26%	25%	26%	26%
<b>All</b>	74%	69%	71%	72%	31%	29%	30%	30%
<b>Independent/ State Gap (pp)</b>	13	16	13	16	37	38	37	39

.. = not available

[1] The most selective are defined as the top third of HEIs when ranked by mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A level grades of entrants.

[2] Indicators to separately identify selective state schools are not available on the matched datasets before 2006/07, so progression rates to HE by age 19 are not available for these schools before 2008/09.

An estimated 71% of those who studied A levels in state schools and colleges at age 17 in 2007/08 progressed to Higher Education by age 19 in 2009/10. For independent school and college pupils the estimated progression rate was 87%. The gap between these progression rates has fluctuated between 13 and 16 percentage points from 2006/07 to 2009/10.

The estimated progression rate for state school and college pupils to the most selective Higher Education Institutions was 26% in 2009/10, the same as the previous year. The equivalent progression rate for independent school and college pupils was 65% in 2009/10, which had risen by 3 percentage points since 2008/09. There was a reduction in 17 year olds in independent schools and a rise in 17 year olds in state schools in the relevant year, which may be connected. The gap between state and independent progression rates to the most selective institutions has fluctuated between 37 and 39 percentage points from 2006/07 to 2009/10.

Note that the student numbers shown are from matched data which has been produced for the purpose of calculating progression rates, other sources may give different student numbers. See Annex B for more information on this measure and Annex D for more information on the matching procedure.

## Table 4

For young graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating, this table gives graduate outcomes by social background on entry to Higher Education.

**Table 4: English domiciled full-time first degree graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating: estimated percentages for Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) on entry to Higher Education and in employment Aged 20-22 in graduation year**

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2005/06 graduates</b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	64%	36%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	61%	39%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	3%		

  

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2006/07 graduates</b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	69%	31%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	65%	35%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	4%		

  

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2007/08 graduates</b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	69%	31%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	65%	35%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	4%		

  

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2008/09 graduates</b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	68%	32%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	64%	36%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	3%		

  

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2009/10 graduates</b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	70%	30%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	65%	35%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	5%		

  

<b>Employment SOC <sup>[1]</sup> of 2010/11 graduates <sup>[3]</sup></b>			
<b>SOC <sup>[1]</sup> on entry to HE</b>	Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	Total
Most advantaged (SOC 1 to 3)	72%	28%	100%
Less advantaged (SOC 4 to 9)	66%	34%	100%
Gap (pp) <sup>[2]</sup>	6%		

Source: HESA Student Record and DLHE survey

[1] Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) classifies jobs in terms of skill level and skill content. SOC 1 to 3 is sometimes used as a proxy for graduate level jobs. Figures should be treated as estimates and considered to be broadly indicative rather than precise measures, due to data limitations. See Annex C for details.

[2] Percentage figures are rounded; gap figures are calculated from un-rounded data and therefore may not correspond to the gap between rounded percentages.

[3] A change to the UCAS question on occupation in 2008/09 means that 2010/11 graduate figures are not comparable with previous years. See Annex C for details.

The table covers young graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating. An estimated 72% of those who came from the most advantaged backgrounds before higher education were in the most advantaged occupation groups six months after graduating in 2010/11. 66% of those from less advantaged backgrounds were in the most advantaged occupation groups. 2010/11 figures are not comparable with previous years, due to a change to the UCAS question on occupation. See Annex C for details.

The analysis looks at the position six months after graduation. At this point many people have not yet reached their career destination and may not be in a graduate level job yet.

# Technical Annexes

## Annex A

### **The estimated percentages of maintained schools pupils aged 15, by free school meal status, who progressed to Higher Education by age 19**

For the most recent data, the denominator used in this measure covers pupils aged 15 in 2005/06 in English maintained schools. This denominator is broken down by free school meal (FSM) status.

The numerator is calculated by identifying pupils who progressed to UK Higher Education (HE) in either 2008/09 at age 18, or in 2009/10 at age 19. HE students are those on programmes of study for which the level of instruction is above that of level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework, e.g. courses leading to the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE A-levels), the Advanced Level of the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE A-levels) or the Advanced Higher Grade and Higher Grade of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Advanced Highers/Highers).

This measure is calculated using matched data. This matches the National Pupil Database to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Individualised Learner Record and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record. This allows pupils to be tracked from English schools at age 15 to higher education (HE) by age 19. The measure covers HE courses at both UK Higher Education Institutions and English Further Education Colleges. It must be noted, due to the matching procedures deployed, all figures in this measure should be treated as estimates. Further details of the matching procedure can be found in Annex D.

The following table helps to demonstrate how the cohort is tracked through to entry into HE.

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Age at start of academic year</b>	<b>Stage of Education</b>
2005/06	15	GCSEs or equivalent (Key Stage 4)
2006/07	16	AS Levels or equivalent (Key Stage 5)
2007/08	17	A Levels or equivalent (Key Stage 5)
2008/09	18	Entry to HE
2009/10	19	Entry to HE (following a gap year)

Free School Meals status refers to whether or not a successful claim for Free School Meals has been made for the pupil. Those who are entitled but do not claim will not appear in the analysis. Free school meals may be claimed if parents receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### **Caveats**

1. There may be pupils who are eligible for FSM but do not claim for a number of reasons. Such pupils will not be classified as in receipt of FSM for the purposes of this measure.
2. Pupils may have claimed FSM in earlier school years, but not when age 15. Such pupils will not be recorded as in receipt of FSM in this measure.
3. This measure only tracks entry to HE by age 19. A number of pupils may enter HE at a later age and are not included in this measure.
4. Prior attainment is not accounted for in this measure. Many pupils will not continue their education; therefore will not hold the qualifications to progress to HE.
5. Due to the matching procedures deployed, all figures in this measure should be treated as estimates.

The following table gives the figures underlying the percentages given in table 1. Note that these figures are obtained from the matched data which has been produced for the purpose of calculating progression rates; other sources may give different pupil numbers.

**Table A: Estimated number and percentage of maintained school pupils aged 15 by Free School Meal status who entered HE by age 19 Academic Years 2005/06 to 2009/10**  
**UK higher education institutions and English further education colleges**

	<b>Pupils aged 15<sup>[1]</sup></b>	<b>% of all<sup>[2]</sup></b>	<b>Estimated number who entered HE by age 19</b>	<b>% of all<sup>[2]</sup></b>
	<b>in 2001/02</b>		<b>in 2005/06</b>	
<b>FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	79,745	14%	10,760	6%
<b>Non-FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	475,205	85%	156,005	93%
<b>Unrecorded FSM status</b>	1,670	-	310	-
<b>All</b>	556,615	100%	167,070	100%
	<b>in 2002/03</b>		<b>in 2006/07</b>	
<b>FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	81,115	14%	11,405	7%
<b>Non-FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	492,610	86%	163,955	93%
<b>All</b>	573,730	100%	175,360	100%
	<b>in 2003/04</b>		<b>in 2007/08</b>	
<b>FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	82,785	14%	12,550	7%
<b>Non-FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	508,415	86%	169,545	93%
<b>All</b>	591,205	100%	182,095	100%
	<b>in 2004/05</b>		<b>in 2008/09</b>	
<b>FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	80,320	14%	13,845	7%
<b>Non-FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	503,125	86%	176,240	93%
<b>All</b>	583,445	100%	190,085	100%
	<b>in 2005/06</b>		<b>in 2009/10</b>	
<b>FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	78,215	13%	14,380	7%
<b>Non-FSM<sup>[3]</sup></b>	514,860	86%	186,820	93%
<b>Unrecorded FSM status<sup>[4]</sup></b>	3,425	1%	135	-
<b>All</b>	596,495	100%	201,335	100%

- = less than 0.5%

[1] Numbers of pupils according to the matched data used to produce this table; figures may vary from other sources.

[2] Percentage figures are rounded and calculated from un-rounded data; rounded figures may appear to have inconsistencies between totals and sums of constituent parts.

[3] FSM and Non-FSM refer to whether pupils were receiving Free School Meals or not.

[4] A small number of pupils had no FSM status recorded in the data used (this coincided with the change from annual to termly census in 2005/06).

The table shows that there were an estimated 78,215 pupils who were in receipt of Free Schools Meals at age 15 in 2005/06 who represented around 13% of all 15 year olds on the matched dataset. It is estimated that around 7% of Higher Education entrants had received Free School Meals when they were aged 15. The table shows that the proportion of 15 year old pupils with Free School Meals has remained broadly steady at around 13%



to 14% between 2001/02 and 2005/06. The estimated percentage of Higher Education entrants who received Free School Meals at the age of 15 has been consistent from 2006/07 to 2009/10.

## Annex B

### **The estimated percentages of A level students, by school and college type, who progressed to higher education and the most selective higher education institutions by age 19**

The denominator is defined as pupils aged 17 in 2007/08 studying at least one GCE A level at English schools and colleges. This denominator is broken down by the school/college type: state, selective state or independent.

The numerator is calculated by identifying the pupils who progress to UK HE in 2008/09 age 18, or in 2009/10 age 19, and of those, which pupils progress to the most selective HEIs. HE students are those students on programmes of study for which the level of instruction is above that of level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework, e.g. courses leading to the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE A-levels), the Advanced Level of the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE A-levels) or the Advanced Higher Grade and Higher Grade of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Advanced Highers/Highers).

This measure is calculated using matched data. This matches the National Pupil Database to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Individualised Learner Record and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record. It must be noted, due to the matching procedures deployed, all figures in this measure should be treated as estimates. Further details of the matching procedure can be found in Annex D.

The “most selective” Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are defined as the top third of HEIs when ranked by mean UCAS tariff score<sup>1</sup> from the top three A level grades. This measure only covers HE courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and excludes HE courses at English Further Education Colleges.

The following school types make up the state school/college group in this measure: Community, Voluntary aided, Voluntary controlled, Foundation, City Technology College, Community special, Non-maintained special, Pupil referral unit, Further Education, Miscellaneous, Academies, Higher Education Institutions, Sixth form centres. Schools with sixth forms comprise selective and non-selective institutions. Information on school type comes from DfE records.

#### **Caveats**

1. Analysis of changes across academic years in this top third list has shown that 94% of HEIs remained in the top third for four consecutive years.
2. This measure is restricted to top three GCE A level attainment. Pupils who study other qualifications at Key Stage 5 will be excluded from this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on UCAS tariff scores is available on the UCAS website:  
[http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas\\_tariff/tariffables/](http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff/tariffables/)

3. Prior attainment is not accounted for in this measure. Many pupils may not achieve the required Level 3 qualifications to progress to HE.
4. Due to the matching procedures deployed, all figures in this measure should be treated as estimates.

## Annex C

### **Graduates in full-time employment six months after graduating: Estimated proportions of young graduates in different occupation classifications by social background on entry to Higher Education.**

The table covers English domiciled first degree graduates who studied full-time, were aged 20 to 22 at the start of their last academic year in UK Higher Education and were in full-time employment six months after graduating. Data is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record, and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Only those with Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) information in both sources are covered.

The table gives the SOC groups on entry to Higher Education and in employment, split two ways into the “top three” group and the others. The background SOC on entry to Higher Education will often reflect the occupation of the student’s parents, while the employment SOC will reflect the occupation of the graduate.

SOC codes 1 to 3 are: Managers and senior officials; Professional occupations; Associate professional and technical occupations. This is a widely used approximation of graduate level occupations.

The remaining SOC codes 4 to 9 are: Administrative and secretarial occupations; Skilled trades occupations; Personal service occupations; Sales and customer service occupations; Process, plant and machine operatives; Elementary occupations.

SOC data on entry to Higher Education is collected by UCAS and appears on the HESA Student Record. It is therefore not available for students who did not apply via UCAS or did not provide this information on their UCAS application. Around 80% of young entrants have SOC details recorded.

The occupation question on the UCAS form was changed for entrants in 2008/09 and changed back in the following year. It previously asked: *if you are under 21, please give the occupation of your parent, step-parent or guardian who earns the most. If he or she is retired or unemployed, give the most recent occupation. If you are 21 or over, please give your own occupation.* For 2008/09 the age criteria was replaced with whether the applicant was in full-time education. Young entrants not in full-time education would therefore give their own occupation in 2008/09, but a parent’s occupation in other years. This may have caused a shift from most advantaged to less advantaged SOC groups, distorting the trend. 2008/09 entrants completing 3 year courses graduated in 2010/11. For this reason figures on 2010/11 graduates are not comparable with other years.

The Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, used to derive Standard Occupation Classification in employment, has a response rate of around 80%.

Not all graduates will be settled into their career path six months after graduating. Figures should be treated as estimates and considered to be broadly indicative rather than precise measures, due to data limitations.

## Annex D

### Details of the matching process

Tables 1, 2 and 3 use matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, the HESA Student Record and the SFA ILR.

The National Pupil Database (NPD) contains administrative data on all pupils in schools in England, collected by the Department for Education. Key Stage 1 (KS1) to Key Stage 5 (KS5) data and Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) records were matched to the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The matching process allows for school pupils to be tracked through to Higher Education. It has been estimated that coverage is at least 95% of the HE students that we would most expect to be matched. Although it is not possible to know for certain - it is highly unlikely that matching errors would cause the estimate to vary by more than the level of rounding used. The match achieved is called a "fuzzy match" where we rely on names, postcodes, dates of birth, etc and there is some potential for minor errors in the matching process. For this reason, the figures are deemed estimates due to the reliability of the matching procedure used and are subsequently rounded to allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed.

## Annex E

### Other widening participation measures

The measures given in the main body of this publication could be considered alongside other statistics on widening participation in Higher Education. Some other measures are described in this annex.

#### **Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE): Trends in young participation in higher education core results for England**

HEFCE have an established programme of analysis tracking the proportion of young people from different backgrounds who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 ('young participation'), and periodically report progress on this measure. The latest publication (January 2010)<sup>2</sup> reports on trends from 1994/95, with provisional results (based upon applications data) up to 2009/2010. The results cover young people from England in UK Higher Education Institutions.

The starting point for the participation rate is an estimate of the population size of the young cohort at age 15, as they start their final year of compulsory education. The cohort is then allowed three years to undertake their GCSEs and further education before entrants to higher education (typically aged 18) are recorded followed by a further year of entrants (typically aged 19). The young participation rate is then simply the proportion that those HE entrants form of the population of that cohort when it was aged 15. HEFCE reference the cohorts by the two years in which they can enter HE. For example the participation rate for the 2006/07 cohort relates to that group of young people who were aged 15 on 31 August 2003, aged 18 on 31 August 2006, with those who entered HE doing so in academic years 2006/07 or 2007/08.

This young participation rate can then be directly interpreted as the proportion of a particular cohort of young people who enter higher education. The HE entrants in the measure are drawn from a single real cohort of young people followed across academic years – rather than combining young entrants from different cohorts who enter HE in a single academic year. This makes the participation rate less susceptible to distortions from demographic or behaviour changes (for example, from young people delaying their entry to HE to age 19 rather than age 18) that do not reflect a change in the proportion of young people entering HE.

#### **Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA): Performance Indicators in Higher Education**

HESA has published *Performance Indicators in Higher Education*<sup>3</sup> since 2002/03, prior to which they were produced by HEFCE. In addition to data about young peoples' socio-economic class, the Performance Indicators (PIs) provide information about the proportion of entrants who are from state schools and low participation neighbourhoods. The indicator for state schools reflects the percentage of young, full-time entrants to first degrees in English Higher Education Institutions who had previously attended a school or college in the state sector.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10\\_03/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03/)

<sup>3</sup> Latest publication available on the HESA website: <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/2072/141/>

The low participation neighbourhood indicator is the percentage of young, full-time entrants to first degree courses in English HEIs whose home area (as denoted by their postcode) is known to have a low proportion of 18 and 19 year-olds in higher education. Those students whose postcode falls within areas which have the lowest proportions (bottom 20%) of HE participation are denoted as being from a low participation neighbourhood (LPN). Please note that the new POLAR2 (Participation of Local Area 2) low participation data is not comparable with the low participation data published prior to 2006/07 (although this earlier data has been included in the table below for completeness).

Although these indicators allow us to assess the relative performance of different institutions in attracting students from different backgrounds, they do not allow us (and were not designed) to assess progress on getting more people from less privileged backgrounds into HE. This is because the PIs provide us with the make-up of the HE student body, and not with the participation rates of students from different backgrounds - i.e. they say nothing about the underlying population the HE students are drawn from. A further important note is that the figures presented here are for UK-domiciled students in English HEIs.

Table B below shows widening participation measures from these two sources. It is important to realise that none of these measures are directly comparable, as there are differences in definitions, coverage and data sources.

**Table B: Progress on widening participation in higher education – basket of measures**

Academic Year	Progression to HE by FSM status (%)			HESA Performance Indicators (%)				HEFCE Trends in Young Participation (%)	
	FSM	Non-FSM	Gap (pp)	State schools	Lower socio-economic classes <sup>[1]</sup>	LPNs (POLAR2) <sup>[2]</sup>	LPNs (POLAR) <sup>[2]</sup>	Band 1 area <sup>[3]</sup>	Band 5 area <sup>[3]</sup>
2002/03	..	..	..	86.4	27.9	.	12.5	14	55
2003/04	..	..	..	86.1	28.2	.	13.3	14	54
2004/05	..	..	..	85.9	27.9	.	13.1	15	55
2005/06	13	33	19	86.9	29.1	.	13.5	15	55
2006/07	14	33	19	87.2	29.8	9.6	.	16	55
2007/08	15	33	18	87.4	29.4	9.9	.	17	56
2008/09	17	35	18	88.0	..	10.2	.	18	58
2009/10	18	36	18	88.4	30.1	10.5	.	19	57
2010/11	..	..	..	88.2	30.7	10.6	.	..	..

. not applicable .. not available

<sup>(1)</sup> Due to a one-off issue with socio-economic class information, comparable figures for 2008/09 are not available.

<sup>(2)</sup> From 1997-98 to 2005/06, Low Participation Neighbourhoods (LPNs) were defined as areas for which the higher education participation rate was less than two-thirds of the UK average rate, based on higher education participation levels in the late 1990's. From 2006/07, the LPN definition was updated to reflect changes in patterns of higher education participation since the 1990's. All wards have been ranked by their young participation rates (according to HEFCE's POLAR2 work, based on higher education participation in the early 2000's) and the bottom 20% of wards have been defined as LPNs.

<sup>(3)</sup> HEFCE produce five-level classifications of neighbourhood classification where young people live based on participation levels in HE and the education level, occupation and income of their parents. Band 1 reflects participation rates for that quintile of young people from the most disadvantaged areas. Band 5 reflects participation rates for that quintile of young people from the most advantaged areas.

### **Department for Education (DfE): Destinations of Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 pupils**

DfE has produced education destination measures showing the percentage of students progressing to further learning in a school, further education or sixth-form college, apprenticeship, work-based learning provider or higher education institution. The KS4 measure is based on activity at academic age 16 (i.e. the year after the young person finished compulsory schooling). The KS5 measure is based on activity in the year after the young person took their A Level or equivalent qualification/s.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/a00210491/destinations-ks-4-5-pupils>

#### Main differences between DfE KS5 measure and BIS progression to HE by school type measure

- The DfE figures cover those in the first year after KS5 exams, the BIS figures are those entering HE by age 19. So these BIS figures take into account those who took a gap year before entering Higher Education at age 19.
- The DfE figures cover all Level 3 qualifications equivalent to A levels (excluding AS levels), BIS figures are A level only.
- DfE figures cover those entered for A levels or equivalent qualifications at ages 16 to 18 (at the start of the academic year), BIS figures cover those studying A levels aged 17 at the start of the academic year.
- DfE figures cover only those who stayed in the education destination (in this case HE) for at least the first two terms, BIS covers all entrants except those who dropped out in the first two weeks.

### **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS): How have applications for full-time undergraduate higher education in the UK changed in 2012?**

UCAS published this research in July 2012, which uses applications for full-time courses made via UCAS up to 24 March 2012 and takes account of demographic fluctuations in applicant populations. This includes analysis of advantaged/disadvantaged backgrounds and applications to higher tariff institutions.



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