

## Statistical Fact Sheet 1

### Accredited Enrolments at Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland during the academic year 2013/14 – February 2014.

The 'Accredited<sup>1</sup> Enrolments at Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland' factsheet is a new regular quarterly report. Table 1 and Chart 1 show the number and percentage of accredited enrolments at Further Education (FE) colleges across Northern Ireland, by mode of attendance and Sector Subject Area (SSA) during the academic year 2013/14, as at the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Please note that accredited provision is only a subset of all FE enrolments delivered in FE Colleges. The focus on accredited provision within this factsheet is to present the progress towards the '[Further Education Means Business](#)' strategy, which has as one of its aims to encourage accredited economically focussed provision.

To date in 2013/14, as of 7<sup>th</sup> February:

- there are 133,200 accredited enrolments at FE Colleges in Northern Ireland. This can be disaggregated into 25,750 full time (19%) and 107,450 part time (81%) accredited enrolments.
- the largest proportion (29%) of accredited enrolments at FE colleges in Northern Ireland are in the SSA 'Preparation for life and work' (32,753), which are most likely related to Essential Skills enrolments.
- The highest proportion (15%) of all full time accredited enrolments is within the SSA 'Health, public services and care'.

The figures are a snapshot of the current academic year 2013/14 and include an element of estimation by FE colleges using planned enrolments for courses that are yet to commence and as such the figures are provisional and subject to change.

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<sup>1</sup> Accredited provision is identified if the enrolment record has an official OFQUAL Register of Regulated Qualification or DEL Access/PLAQ code and is 'level 3 or below' or is 'level 4 or above'.

**Table 1: Accredited Enrolments by Mode of Attendance and Sector Subject Area at Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland during the academic year 2013/14**

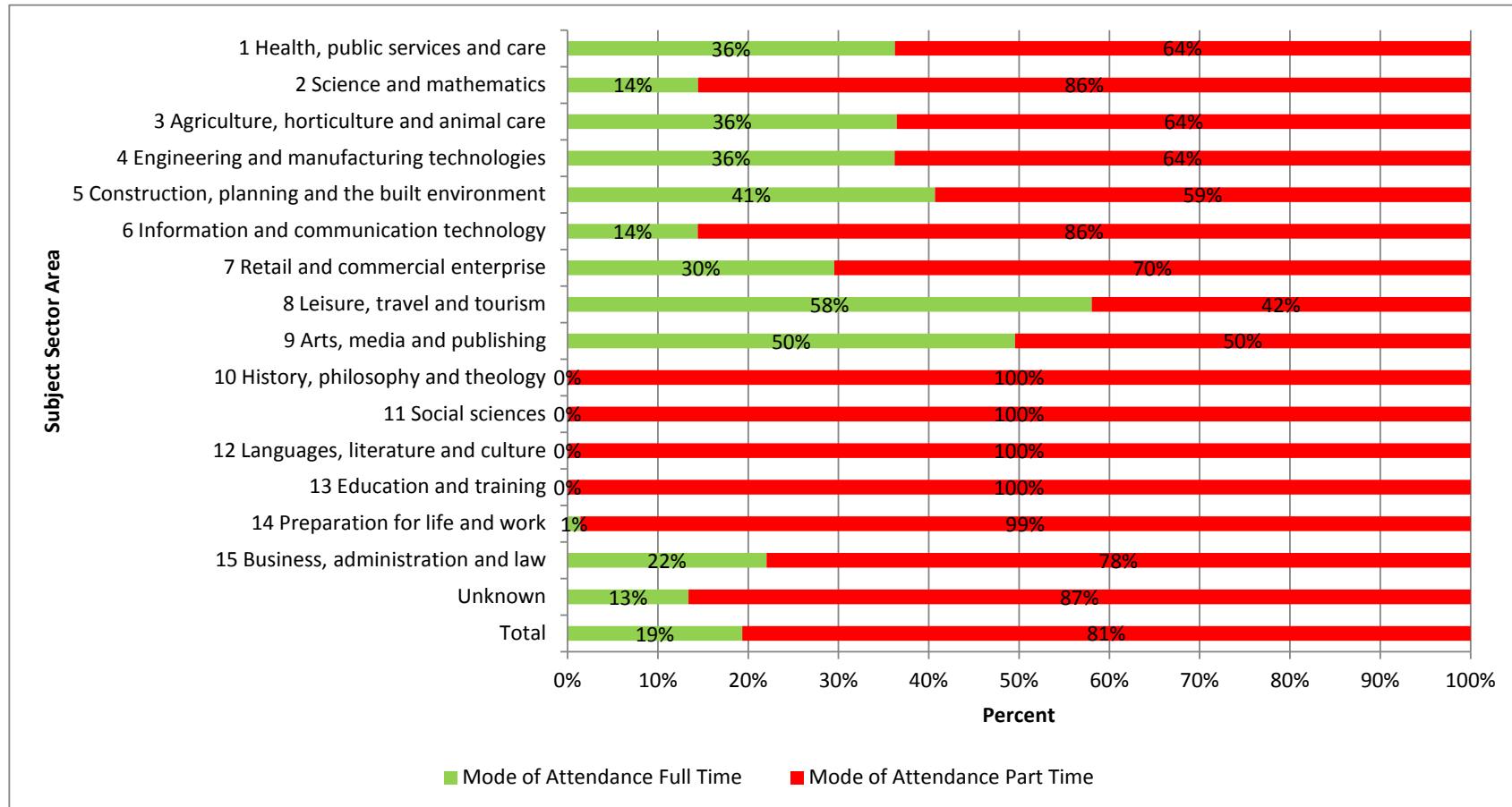
Sector Subject Area	Mode of Attendance		Total
	Full Time	Part Time	
1 Health, public services and care	3,765	6,627	10,392
2 Science and mathematics	571	3,378	3,949
3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	415	723	1,138
4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies	3,102	5,463	8,565
5 Construction, planning and the built environment	2,210	3,220	5,430
6 Information and communication technology	2,086	12,386	14,472
7 Retail and commercial enterprise	3,380	8,066	11,446
8 Leisure, travel and tourism	2,266	1,638	3,904
9 Arts, media and publishing	3,273	3,333	6,606
10 History, philosophy and theology	0	600	600
11 Social sciences	0	1,048	1,048
12 Languages, literature and culture	0	4,914	4,914
13 Education and training	0	784	784
14 Preparation for life and work	460	32,293	32,753
15 Business, administration and law	1,474	5,218	6,692
16 Unknown <sup>6</sup>	2,748	17,759	20,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,750</b>	<b>107,450</b>	<b>133,200</b>

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Notes:

1. Figures are correct as at 7th February 2014.
2. 2013/14 figures are provisional and therefore are subject to change. Full year data for 2013/14 are expected to be available in December 2014.
3. Accredited provision is identified if the enrolment record has an official OFQUAL Register of Regulated Qualification or DEL Access/PLAQ code and is 'level 3 or below' or is 'level 4' or above.
4. Mode of Attendance indicates whether a student is a full time student or a part time student.
5. The Sector Subject Area (SSA) code is derived from the official OFQUAL Register of Regulated Qualifications based on the qualification or unit code. The SSA code registered against each qualification or unit has been assigned by the responsible awarding organisation.
6. Those classed as SSA 'Unknown' are those enrolments which are for a qualification/unit which is not on the OFQUAL register, i.e. non-accredited or Access & Prescribed List of Approved Non NQF/QCF Qualification (PLAQ) courses or Higher Education courses and therefore do not have an associated SSA.
7. Academic year is defined as 1st August 20XX to 31st July 20XX+1.
8. A small number of erroneous records are excluded from the CDR database following data quality checks.

**Chart 1: Percentage of Accredited Enrolments by Mode of Attendance and Sector Subject Area at Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland during the academic year 2013/14**



**Source:** Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

**Notes:**

1. Figures are correct as at 7th February 2014.
2. 2013/14 figures are provisional and therefore are subject to change. Full year data for 2013/14 are expected to be available in December 2014.
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7. Academic year is defined as 1st August 20XX to 31st July 20XX+1.
8. A small number of erroneous records are excluded from the CDR database following data quality checks.

## Technical Notes

1. The source of the enrolment information is the Consolidated Data Return (CDR) return provided by all Further Education (FE) Colleges.
2. The return lists the enrolment records which are delivered through the FE Colleges.
3. The number of enrolments is a count of the number of enrolment records within the CDR return.
4. The enrolment information is correct as at 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
5. An academic year for this analysis has been defined as the 1<sup>st</sup> August 20XX to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 20XX+1.
6. Accredited provision is identified if the enrolment record has an official OFQUAL Register of Regulated Qualification or DEL Access/PLAQ code and is 'level 3 or below' or is 'level 4 or above'.
7. Previous FE enrolment publications, available at: <http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch/further-education-stats/fe-enrolments/all-further-education-provision-enrolments.htm>, have used the term 'Professional and Technical' to describe this cohort of FE provision. Professional and Technical were identified as any enrolment not coded as qualification aim '999', '599' or '199' i.e. recreational and KeySkills provision are excluded. The term 'Accredited' will now be used for future publications in regard to this type of provision within FE. This cohort of FE provision is comparable with the previous figures for Professional and Technical.
8. All accredited qualifications are assigned a Sector Subject Area (SSA) code by the awarding organisation. The Office of Qualifications & Examinations regulation (OFQUAL) is the lead body for managing this classification system. Further information is available at <http://www2.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/142-statisticsarticles/429-sector-subject-area-classification-system-ssac>. Those classed as SSA 'Unknown' are those enrolments which are for a qualification/unit which is not on the OFQUAL register, i.e. non-accredited or Access & Prescribed List of Approved Non NQF/QCF Qualification (PLAQ) courses or Higher Education courses and therefore do not have a SSA code associated with them.
9. The Mode of Attendance indicates whether the enrolment was full time student or part time study. An enrolment is coded as full time (student mode of attendance = '01') by the FE College as if the student is timetabled to attend for at least 15 hours per week over 7 sessions and for at least 30 weeks in the academic year. Any enrolment record not coded as full time (student mode of attendance NOT EQUAL to '01') is regarded as part time for this analysis.

## **User Consultation**

This is first time this statistical factsheet on Further Education enrolments has been produced using the Consolidated Data Return (CDR) therefore users' comments and/or any issues relating to the statistics are particularly welcomed and encouraged. These will all be considered for incorporation into the next version of this factsheet, which is scheduled to release in July 2014. A more comprehensive bulletin is scheduled for December 2014. See below for contact details.

## **Further Enquiries**

Further details about any of the statistics in this statistical factsheet can be obtained from:

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