

Participation in higher education

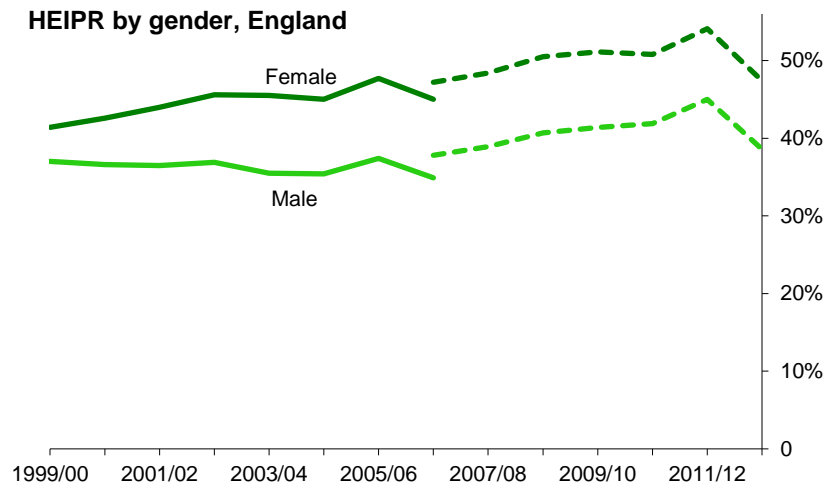
- The current participation indicator is the Higher Education Participation Rate (HEIPR). It measures initial participation for 17 to 30-year-old English domiciled first-time entrants to Higher Education.
- The overall HEIPR in England increased gradually from 39% in 1999/00 to 42% in 2005/06 before falling to 40% in 2006/07. The last Government's target was 50% by 2010.
- A new methodology was introduced in 2007/08 and the new series showed further increases to 2011/12 before a sharp drop in 2012/13. BIS says this was largely due to the fall in deferred entries in 2011/12 (the last year before higher fees).
- Under the old methodology participation among men was static or fell, while it increased among women. In recent years the gender gap has been 8-10 points.
- The HEIPR replaced the Age Participation Index which looked at entrants aged under 21 in Great Britain. This increased from 12% in 1979 to 30% in the early 1990s before increasing more gradually to 32% by the end of the 1990s.
- Since 2001/02 there have been only gradual increases in each under-represented group -those from state schools, socio-economic groups 4-7 and low participation neighbourhoods- as a proportion of all young entrants.
- Between 2005/06 and 2011/12 the proportion of English state school pupils eligible for free school meals going to higher education increased from 13% to 21%. In 2011/12 it was still only just over half the rate for pupils not eligible for free meals (39%)

HEIPR by gender: Academic years 1999/00-

	Entrants ('000s)			HEIPR		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
<i>Old methodology</i>						
1999/00	113	125	238	37	41	39
2000/01	112	128	238	37	43	40
2001/02	112	131	244	36	44	40
2002/03	117	138	255	37	46	41
2003/04	116	141	257	35	45	40
2004/05	118	143	261	35	45	40
2005/06	127	155	281	37	48	42
2006/07	121	148	269	35	45	40
<i>New methodology</i>						
2006/07	127	156	284	38	47	42
2007/08	132	162	294	39	48	44
2008/09	141	171	311	41	51	46
2009/10	146	176	322	41	51	46
2010/11	149	175	324	42	51	46
2011/12	158	183	341	45	54	49
2012/13	135	159	294	39	47	43

Source: Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 2006/07 to 2012/13 (Provisional), BIS

HEIPR by gender, England



Trends in participation from under-represented groups, UK

Percentage of young entrants to full-time first degree courses from:

	2001/02	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
State schools	86.0	87.4	87.8	88.0	88.5	88.8	88.7	88.9	89.3
NS-SEC 4-7	..	29.3	29.8	29.5	32.3	30.0	30.6	30.7	32.3
Low participation neighbourhoods	13.1	14.0	9.0	9.7	10.1	10.3	10.5	10.2	10.9

Notes: The low participation neighbourhood classification changed in 2006/07 and 2011/12 and is not comparable to earlier data. The question used to determine NS-SEC changed in 2008/09 and this figure is also not comparable to other data

Source: Performance indicators in higher education in the UK 2012/13, and earlier, HESA