Technical Note

Contents

1. Progression to Higher Education by Free School Meal status

The estimated percentages of maintained schools pupils aged 15, by free school meal status, who progressed to Higher Education by age 19
 Covering tables 1 and 2 of the release.

For the most recent data, the denominator used in this measure covers pupils aged 15 in 2009/10 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 2012/13 at age 18, or in 2013/14 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 Section 4.

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

Academic Year	Age at start of academic year	Stage of Education
2009/10	15	GCSEs or equivalent (Key Stage 4)
2010/11	16	AS Levels or equivalent (Key Stage 5)
2011/12	17	A Levels or equivalent (Key Stage 5)
2012/13	18	Entry to HE
2013/14	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
- Universal 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.

The table shows that there were an estimated 77,300 pupils who were in receipt of Free Schools Meals at age 15 in 2009/10 who represented around 13% of all 15 year olds in state-funded schools on the matched dataset. It is estimated that around 8% 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 12% to 14% between 2004/05 and 2009/10. The estimated percentage of Higher Education entrants who received Free School Meals at the age of 15 has been consistent from 2008/09 to 2011/12 and has risen slightly in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 cohorts.

Table A: Estimated number and percentage of 15 year old pupils from state-funded schools by Free School Meal status who entered HE by age 19
Academic Years 2008/09 to 2013/14
UK Higher Education Providers and English Further Education Colleges

	Pupils aged 15 [1]	% of all [2]	Estimated number who entered HE by age 19	% of all [2]
	in 2004/05		**in 2008/09**	
FSM [3]	80,320	14%	13,765	7%
Non-FSM [3]	503,125	86%	175,520	93%
All	583,445	100%	189,285	100%
	in 2005/06		**in 2009/10**	
FSM [3]	78,215	13%	14,300	7%
Non-FSM [3]	514,860	86%	186,125	93%
Unrecorded FSM status [4]	3,425	1%	135	-
All	596,495	100%	200,560	100%
	in 2006/07		**in 2010/11**	
FSM [3]	76,990	13%	15,210	7%
Non-FSM [3]	523,055	87%	196,455	93%
Unrecorded FSM status [4]	3,290	1%	135	-
All	603,335	100%	211,800	100%
	in 2007/08		**in 2011/12**	
FSM [3]	74,825	12%	15,525	7%
Non-FSM [3]	522,190	87%	202,775	93%
Unrecorded FSM status [4]	4,225	1%	215	-
All	601,235	100%	218,520	100%
	in 2008/09		**in 2012/13**	
FSM [3]	74,205	13%	16,705	8%
Non-FSM [3]	502,660	86%	200,150	92%
Unrecorded FSM status [4]	4,735	1%	225	-
All	581,595	100%	217,080	100%
	in 2009/10		**in 2013/14**	
FSM [3]	77,300	13%	17,355	8%
Non-FSM [3]	499,705	86%	196,075	92%
Unrecorded FSM status [4]	4,535	1%	145	-
All	581,540	100%	213,575	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 unrounded 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).

2. Progression to Higher Education/Most Selective Higher Education by school type

The estimated percentages of A level and equivalent students, by school and college type, who progressed to higher education and the most selective higher education institutions by age 19
Covering tables 3a, 3b and 3c of the release.

For the most recent data, the denominator is defined as pupils aged 17 in 2011/12 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 2012/13 at age 18, or in 2013/14 at age 19, and of those, which pupils progress to the most selective Higher Education Providers (HEPs). 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 only covers HE courses at UK Higher Education Institutions and excludes HE courses at English Further Education Colleges.

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 Section 4.

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.

The headings of Tables 3a and 3b have changed since the last publication, from *A level* to *A level and equivalent* to better reflect their coverage. A new table, 3c has been added, showing only A level students, for the years that consistent data are available.

Caveats

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

Most Selective HE

The "most selective" Higher Education Providers (HEPs) are defined as the top third of HE providers when ranked by mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A level grades of entrants.

This measure is calculated using matched data from the DfE National Pupil Database, the Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learner Record and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. It uses pupils aged 17 studying A levels at schools and colleges in England, who have progressed to UK HEPs by age 19. It excludes HE courses at Further Education colleges. It takes the mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A levels of these entrants to each HEP. Students with no A level points recorded on the database are excluded from the calculations that identify the most selective group of HEPs.

This is a way of grouping HEPs for statistical purposes using available information. It does not cover all students and all qualifications and is not intended as a comprehensive measure of qualifications on entry to Higher Education. Users should be aware that the Higher Education sector has a diverse mix of institutions and courses, so any grouping of HEPs has limitations as an indicator of quality.

The HEPs included in this group change every year; although 82% of HEPs remained in the top third for 8 consecutive years, from 2006/07 to 2013/14. The calculation is restricted to the top three A level attainment; pupils who study other qualifications at Key Stage 5 will be excluded. Institutions with a considerable proportion of entrants who studied a combination of A levels and other qualifications may appear to have low scores. As the analysis covers students from schools and colleges in England, some institutions in other UK countries have scores based on small numbers of students. As this measure uses matched data, all figures should be treated as estimates.

A level Grade	UCAS points
A*	140
A	120
B	100
C	80
D	60
E	40

Further information on UCAS tariff scores is available on the UCAS website:
http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/explore-your-options/entry-requirements/tariff-tables

For each Higher Education Institution, Table B shows the estimated mean tariff score of entrants and whether the institution is included in the most selective group.

Table B: Estimated mean UCAS tariff score from the top three A-level grades of entrants to each Higher Education Provider (HEP) by age 19 in 2013/14
From schools and colleges in England

Institution	Mean points	Most Selective group
Aberystwyth University	237.0	
Anglia Ruskin University	180.4	
Arts University Bournemouth	238.6	
Aston University	266.3	MS
Bangor University	226.8	
Bath Spa University	223.4	
Birkbeck College	191.7	
Birmingham City University	195.7	
Bishop Grosseteste University	187.6	
Bournemouth University	230.7	
Brunel University	246.6	
Buckinghamshire New University	170.5	
Canterbury Christ Church University	194.7	
Cardiff Metropolitan University	196.1	
Cardiff University	307.8	MS
Central School of Speech and Drama	248.9	
City University	264.3	MS
College of St Mark and St John	176.9	
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	234.0	
Courtauld Institute of Art	345.9	MS
Coventry University	202.7	
De Montfort University	204.1	
Edge Hill University	197.1	
Edinburgh Napier University	234.8	
Falmouth University	230.0	
Glasgow Caledonian University	191.1	
Glasgow School of Art	312.2	MS
Glyndwr University	186.6	
Goldsmiths College	268.1	MS
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	263.6	MS
Harper Adams University	226.2	
Heriot-Watt University	264.2	MS
Heythrop College	257.7	
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	385.4	MS
Institute of Education	167.3	
Kings College London	342.0	MS
Kingston University	200.7	
Leeds College of Art	241.9	
Leeds Metropolitan University	192.5	
Leeds Trinity University	176.5	

Institution	Mean points	Most Selective group
Liverpool Hope University	191.3	
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	223.4	
Liverpool John Moores University	205.0	
London Metropolitan University	148.5	
London School of Economics and Political Science	368.6	MS
London South Bank University	161.2	
Loughborough University	299.9	MS
Manchester Metropolitan University	215.8	
Middlesex University	178.7	
Newman University	184.2	
Norwich University of the Arts	225.5	
Nottingham Trent University	229.3	
Open University	197.4	
Oxford Brookes University	246.9	
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	226.2	
Queen Mary and Westfield College	309.6	MS
Queens University of Belfast	312.4	MS
Ravensbourne	206.1	
Robert Gordon University	223.8	
Roehampton University	200.1	
Rose Bruford College	227.5	
Royal Academy of Music	284.6	MS
Royal Agricultural University	230.0	
Royal College of Music	252.6	
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	281.7	MS
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	294.6	MS
Royal Northern College of Music	258.8	
Royal Veterinary College	325.7	MS
School of Oriental and African Studies	308.8	MS
Sheffield Hallam University	214.1	
Southampton Solent University	178.2	
SRUC	60.0	
St Georges Hospital Medical School	312.5	MS
St Marys University College, Twickenham	202.0	
Staffordshire University	174.9	
Stranmillis University College	120.0	
Swansea University	245.3	
Teesside University	171.0	
Trinity Laban Conservatoire	253.1	
University Campus Suffolk	204.8	
University College Birmingham	141.4	
University College London	361.7	MS
University for the Creative Arts	198.6	
University of Aberdeen	278.7	MS
University of Abertay Dundee	201.4	

Institution	Mean points	Most Selective group
University of Bath	356.2	MS
University of Bedfordshire	150.7	
University of Birmingham	330.5	MS
University of Bolton	158.8	
University of Bradford	208.1	
University of Brighton	237.5	
University of Bristol	357.7	MS
University of Buckingham	247.1	
University of Cambridge	400.7	MS
University of Central Lancashire	212.5	
University of Chester	216.8	
University of Chichester	193.9	
University of Cumbria	176.5	
University of Derby	188.3	
University of Dundee	271.3	MS
University of Durham	363.4	MS
University of East Anglia	302.2	MS
University of East London	160.7	
University of Edinburgh	348.4	MS
University of Essex	239.3	
University of Exeter	341.0	MS
University of Glamorgan	220.0	
University of Glasgow	330.4	MS
University of Gloucestershire	204.9	
University of Greenwich	195.1	
University of Hertfordshire	208.1	
University of Huddersfield	210.6	
University of Hull	232.9	
University of Keele	260.4	MS
University of Kent	267.6	MS
University of Lancaster	325.4	MS
University of Leeds	325.0	MS
University of Leicester	301.1	MS
University of Lincoln	222.6	
University of Liverpool	306.2	MS
University of Manchester	323.4	MS
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	321.7	MS
University of Northampton	177.3	
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	231.6	
University of Nottingham	330.7	MS
University of Oxford	390.5	MS
University of Plymouth	217.7	
University of Portsmouth	220.4	
University of Reading	288.3	MS
University of Salford	216.2	

Institution	Mean points	Most Selective group
University of Sheffield	332.0	MS
University of Southampton	317.6	MS
University of St Andrews	362.5	MS
University of Stirling	257.7	
University of Strathclyde	282.7	MS
University of Sunderland	193.2	
University of Surrey	302.7	MS
University of Sussex	310.3	MS
University of the Arts, London	248.7	
University of the Highlands and Islands	231.1	
University of the West of Scotland	192.9	
University of the West of England, Bristol	220.0	
University of Ulster	227.3	
University of Wales Trinity St David	172.3	
University of Wales, Newport	100.0	
University of Warwick	358.5	MS
University of West London	167.6	
University of Westminster	224.0	
University of Winchester	223.2	
University of Wolverhampton	153.7	
University of Worcester	196.5	
University of York	329.1	MS
Writtle College	205.5	
York St John University	206.5	

3. Graduate outcomes by social background

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.
Covers Table 4 in the release.

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, those who deferred entry or completed 4 year courses graduated in 2011/12. For this reason figures on 2011/12 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.

4. 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.

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