

Statistical Fact Sheet 5

Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions by country of institution and subject area – 2015/16

Of the 55,245 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2015/16:

- 14,175 (25.7%) were enrolled on Narrow STEM¹ related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 26.5%, 29.2% and 29.4% respectively.
- 26,380 (47.8%) were enrolled on Broad STEM² related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 45.2%, 48.7% and 45.8% respectively.
- the three most popular subject areas studied in NI HEIs were ‘Subjects allied to medicine’ (7,960), ‘Business and administrative studies’ (7,690) and ‘Education’ (6,415).

Enrolments at UK HEIs by subject area and country of institution– 2015/16

Subject Area	Country of Institution			
	England	NI	Wales	Scotland
Biological Sciences	176,195	3,800	21,850	15,465
Physical Sciences	75,680	1,760	11,665	5,815
Mathematical Sciences	36,575	575	4,405	1,605
Computer Science	76,125	4,285	10,690	5,165
Engineering and technology	129,465	3,755	20,250	9,785
Total Narrow STEM¹ related subjects	494,040	14,175	68,860	37,830
Medicine and dentistry	52,235	2,095	7,655	3,565
Subjects allied to medicine	233,670	7,960	29,130	14,170
Veterinary Science	5,255	0	1,520	0
Agriculture and related subjects	15,090	610	1,975	1,350
Architecture, building & planning	40,190	1,545	5,600	2,050
Total Broad STEM² related subjects	840,485	26,380	114,740	58,965
Social studies	178,305	4,785	20,510	10,550
Law	74,215	2,110	8,280	4,060
Business and administrative studies	269,120	7,690	32,580	17,110
Mass communications & documentation	42,880	790	3,350	2,295
Languages	87,815	1,890	11,155	7,500
Historical and philosophical studies	68,775	1,415	10,815	4,370
Creative arts and design	147,190	2,270	11,900	8,465
Education	124,395	6,415	13,905	11,435
Combined	28,175	1,500	8,320	3,930
All subject Areas	1,861,345	55,245	235,565	128,675
% Narrow STEM¹ related subject	26.5%	25.7%	29.2%	29.4%
% Broad STEM² related subject	45.2%	47.8%	48.7%	45.8%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Narrow STEM related courses include: Biological sciences; Physical sciences; Mathematical sciences; Computer science; and Engineering & Technology.
2. Broad STEM related courses include: Medicine & Dentistry; Subjects allied to Medicine; Biological sciences; Veterinary Science; Agriculture & related subjects; Physical sciences; Mathematical sciences; Computer science; Engineering & Technology; and Architecture, Building & Planning.
3. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, in line with HESA rounding strategy, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
4. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the total shown.
5. 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>