

Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2017-18

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Summary: This release contains information on HE provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland from 2008-09 to 2017-18

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland's colleges and universities, students, parents, guardians and the general public

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The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.



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Executive Summary

- There were 296,695 students in higher education in Scotland in 2017-18, the highest number on record. This is an increase of 4,075 (+1.4%) from 2016-17, primarily as a result of an increase in students at higher education institutions (HEIs). The largest increase of students was at First Degree level.
- In 2017-18, HE entrants at colleges accounted for 26.3% of all HE entrants in Scotland.
- In 2017-18, females made up 57.4% of the total number of HE students. This proportion has been increasing since 2010-11. At HEIs, females account for 58.6% of students whilst at colleges females account for 51.3% of students.
- In 2017-18, there were 104,520 new entrants to HEIs Institutions, an increase of 3,225 (+3.2%) since 2016-17. Meanwhile, there were 37,300 new entrants to colleges, a reduction of 1,195 (-3.1%) since 2016-17.
- The number of Scottish domiciled entrants increased by 0.7% between 2016-17 and 2017-18. In the same time period, the number of Scottish domiciled postgraduate entrants increased by 7%, whilst the number of Scottish domiciled first degree entrants increased by 4.4% and Scottish domiciled sub-degree entrants reduced by 4.0%.
- There were 104,160 higher education qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2017-18, which is the highest level over the last ten years. There was an increase of 2,405 (+2.4%) qualifiers between 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Of all qualifiers, 66.6% achieved graduate level qualifications (first degree level or above) in 2017-18.

HE Student and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2017-18

Key Statistics



296,695

students

1.4% increase since 2016-17, **p.10**

141,820

entrants

1.5% increase since 2016-17, **p.13**



104,160

qualifiers

2.4% increase since 2016-17, **p.23**



Introduction

1. This report contains information relating to higher education (HE) provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland. Student data from Scottish HEIs and colleges have been combined to allow reporting on all HE provision delivered in Scotland.
2. This report includes information on a number of different HE student populations, including the total number of students; the number of entrants and the number of qualifiers from HE courses. These populations are considered by multiple breakdowns including level of study, mode of study, domicile and protected characteristics, such as age and gender. Previous releases of this report contained information relating to access and inclusion measures, however, these will be covered in the [Report on Widening Access Publication](#) (RoWA) going forward. The RoWA contains more coverage of the wider access measures for Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher and further education in Scotland.
3. This report follows on from [HESA's First Statistical Release of UK Higher Education Student Statistics](#) for 2017-18 with focus on Scottish institutions and Scottish-domiciled students. Scottish Funding Council (SFC) also publishes an annual report on [College Statistics](#) detailing further and higher education students at colleges in Scotland.
4. This report covers a ten year time period, 2008-09 to 2017-18 and is accompanied by background tables including additional tables and further detail that is not included within the main body of the report.

Section 1 – Student Numbers and Characteristics

1. This section addresses the number of students studying HE in all years and at all levels of study, across HEIs and colleges. The term ‘student numbers’ specifically refers here to student enrolments, or instances of study, and those students studying more than one course will have multiple enrolments. Student enrolments are considered in relation to student characteristics such as age, gender and mode of study across the last ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18) and this report discusses these trends occurring over this timeframe.

Total Student Numbers

2. Table A below details the number of students studying HE courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by institution type and level of study over the last ten years.
3. In 2017-18 there were 296,695 higher education students in Scotland, the highest number on record. This was also 4,075 more students than in 2016-17, an increase of 1.4%, HEI. Across Scottish institutions, there were 3,910 more students undertaking First Degrees in 2017-18 than the previous year.
4. Overall, since 2008-09 the number of students on other sub-degree courses has reduced whilst the number of students studying HNC/HND courses increased, despite fluctuations. However, the number of students studying these both of these types of courses has continued to decrease in 2017-18, including 1,100 fewer HNC/HND students and 1,550 fewer other sub-degree students since 2016-17. Colleges hosted 87.9% of HNC/HND students in 2017-18. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 the number of students studying these courses at college reduced by 2.6% (990 students) and this was mirrored in HEIs where student numbers on these courses reduced by 2.0% (105 students). Meanwhile, there were 2,815 more postgraduate students in 2017-18 than 2016-17, of which, 2,715 were studying taught postgraduate courses, 5.9% up on last year.
5. In 2017-18 the number of students studying at HEIs increased, overall, by 5,175 students on the previous year. Over the last ten years there has been an increase of 15,850 students (up 6.9%) in Scottish HEIs. Those studying First Degrees saw the largest actual increase (3,935 students) up 2.4% on 2016-17 and 20.4% since 2008-09 at this level. Following this, the number of students studying taught postgraduate courses increased by 5.9% with 2,715 more students in 2017-18. There was little change in the number of students on research postgraduate courses between 2016-17 and 2017-18, however, since 2008-09 there has been an increase of 32.3%.

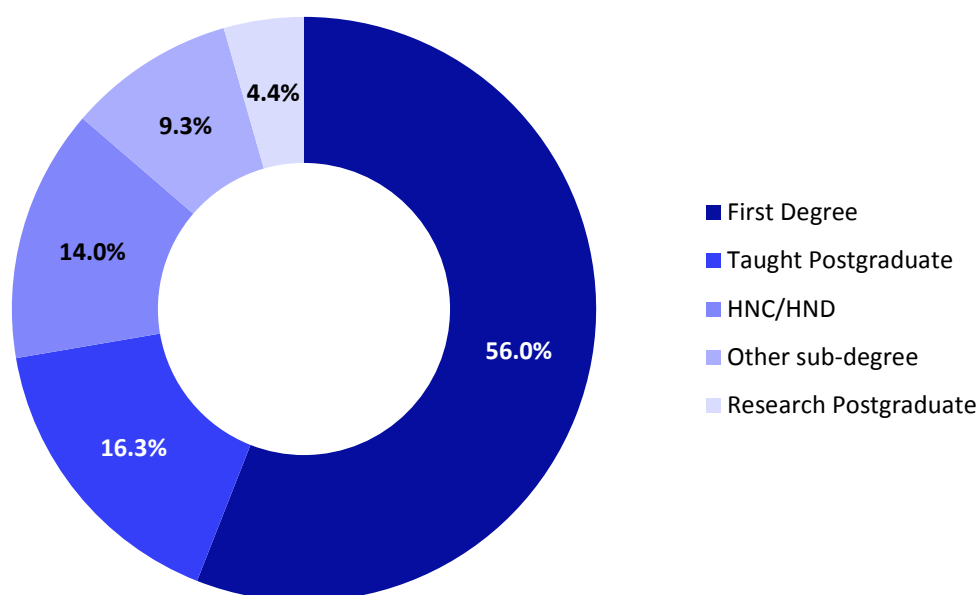
Table A: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by institution Type and Level of Study 2008-09 to 2017-18

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
Total						
2008-09	279,615	9,935	42,760	137,720	39,105	50,095
2009-10	287,565	10,665	44,285	146,175	41,230	45,205
2010-11	290,000	11,325	45,255	149,715	42,315	41,390
2011-12	281,630	11,660	43,280	149,350	41,345	35,990
2012-13 (2)	278,745	11,965	41,530	150,935	39,745	34,565
2013-14 (2)	279,495	12,180	41,925	152,460	41,285	31,640
2014-15 (2)	281,285	12,525	43,675	154,420	40,765	29,905
2015-16	285,450	12,910	43,800	158,495	41,060	29,185
2016-17	292,620	13,045	45,780	162,130	42,660	29,005
2017-18	296,695	13,145	48,495	166,040	41,560	27,455
All students at HEIs						
2008-09	231,260	9,935	42,660	137,040	4,745	36,875
2009-10	237,765	10,665	44,165	145,535	4,540	32,855
2010-11	238,645	11,325	45,155	148,770	4,120	29,275
2011-12	233,010	11,660	43,245	148,425	3,875	25,800
2012-13 (2)	230,950	11,965	41,515	149,860	3,605	24,005
2013-14 (2)	230,805	12,180	41,925	151,325	4,905	20,470
2014-15 (2)	232,570	12,525	43,675	153,325	4,955	18,090
2015-16	235,565	12,910	43,800	157,440	4,930	16,480
2016-17	241,935	13,045	45,780	161,125	5,135	16,850
2017-18	247,110	13,145	48,495	165,060	5,030	15,385
All students at colleges						
2008-09	48,355	-	100	680	34,360	13,215
2009-10	49,800	-	120	640	36,690	12,355
2010-11	51,355	-	100	945	38,195	12,115
2011-12	48,620	-	35	925	37,465	10,190
2012-13 (2)	47,795	-	15	1,075	36,140	10,560
2013-14 (2)	48,690	-	-	1,135	36,380	11,175
2014-15 (2)	48,715	-	-	1,095	35,810	11,810
2015-16	49,890	-	-	1,055	36,130	12,705
2016-17	50,685	-	-	1,005	37,525	12,155
2017-18	49,585	-	-	980	36,535	12,070

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Figure 1: Proportional split of students in higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of Study, 2017-18



6. Figure 1, above, shows the proportional split of students in HE by level of study in 2017-18. The majority of students, 56.0%, were studying First Degree programmes whilst research postgraduate students accounted for the smallest proportion, 4.4%.

Mode of Study and Gender

7. Table B below shows students at HEIs and colleges by mode of study, detailing student numbers on part-time and full-time courses. Three quarters (75.0%) of HE students studied full-time in 2017-18, equivalent to 222,580 students. This is an increase of 2.9% on 2016-17, with 76.9% of students at HEIs and 65.8% of students at colleges doing so. Over the last ten years, since 2008-09, the overall proportion of HE students studying full-time courses has increased by 9.7pp, from 65.4% 2008-09.
8. In 2017-18 there were 222,580 full-time and 74,115 part-time students studying HE at Scottish institutions. The number of part-time HE students reduced by 2.5% between 2016-17 and 2017-18, equivalent to 1,910 students. This resulted from a reduction 990 students from HEIs and 920 students from colleges. There were 96,830 part-time HE students at Scottish institutions in 2008-09 and this has continually declined over the last ten years most notably between 2010-11 and 2011-12 when there was a reduction of 11.1%. Similarly, the proportion of students accounted for by those studying part-time has also been reducing.

9. Meanwhile, in 2017-18, of the 222,580 full-time HE students at Scottish institutions, 85.3% studied at HEIs. Meanwhile, 77.1% of, the 74,115, part-time students studied at HEIs. The overall number of full-time HE students increased between 2016-17 and 2017-18 by 2.8%, an increase of 5,985 students on 2016-17 levels. This was reached by an increase of 6,165 students (up 3.4%) at HEIs and a decrease of 180 students at colleges (down 0.5%) since 2016-17.
10. Table B also details the breakdown of students by gender across modes of study. Overall, females accounted for 57.4% of students studying HE in 2017-18, 14.9pp more than males. This is the largest gender gap experienced over the last ten years and 1.2pp larger than in 2008-09, despite fluctuating throughout this time.
11. The gender balance of HE students varies depending on institution type. As has been seen throughout the last ten years, males constitute a smaller proportion of students in HEIs than in colleges. In 2017-18, females accounted for 58.6% of HE students in HEIs compared to 57.4% in 2008-09. Meanwhile, the gender split in colleges was more even with females accounting for 51.3% of HE students in 2017-18.
12. Although females account for a higher proportion of students regardless of mode of study, the gender imbalance for part-time students is more pronounced (15.2pp difference) in comparison to full-time students (14.8pp). Females account for 57.8% of full-time HE students in HEIs and 54.6% in colleges. Meanwhile they account for 61.1% of the part-time student population in HEIs. However, part-time HE activity at college has a higher proportion of males (54.9%) compared to females. However, the gender gap within part-time HE college activity reduced from 2016-17 to 2017-18 which could be the start of a downward trend here also.
13. Overall, 75.1% of males and 75.0% of females participated in HE on a full-time basis in 2017-18. At HEIs 78.4% of males and 75.9% of females studied full-time whereas at colleges 61.2% of males and 70% of females studied in this way.

Table B: Students in higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by mode of study and gender, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total									
2008-09	279,615	122,415	157,195	182,780	81,450	101,330	96,830	40,965	55,865
2009-10	287,565	126,995	160,565	191,615	86,465	105,150	95,950	40,535	55,415
2010-11	290,000	128,900	161,100	197,490	89,165	108,325	92,505	39,735	52,770
2011-12	281,630	124,100	157,525	199,430	89,150	110,280	82,200	34,950	47,245
2012-13 (2,7)	278,745	122,465	156,050	198,405	88,245	110,160	80,340	34,220	45,890
2013-14 (2,7)	279,495	121,970	157,485	202,700	89,490	113,180	76,795	32,480	44,305
2014-15 (2,7)	281,285	122,910	158,270	207,305	90,745	116,500	73,980	32,165	41,770
2015-16 (2,7)	285,450	123,905	161,410	212,215	92,095	120,000	73,235	31,805	41,410
2016-17 (2,7)	292,620	125,615	166,755	216,595	92,975	123,470	76,025	32,640	43,285
2017-18	296,695	125,980	170,265	222,580	94,640	127,690	74,115	31,340	42,575
All students at HEIs									
2008-09	231,260	98,495	132,765	156,830	69,075	87,755	74,430	29,420	45,010
2009-10	237,765	102,270	135,495	162,970	72,700	90,270	74,790	29,570	45,225
2010-11	238,645	103,250	135,395	166,350	73,870	92,480	72,295	29,380	42,910
2011-12	233,010	99,995	133,010	167,365	73,545	93,820	65,640	26,450	39,190
2012-13 (2,7)	230,950	98,640	132,080	167,065	73,190	93,880	63,885	25,450	38,205
2013-14 (2,7)	230,805	97,830	132,935	170,800	74,380	96,390	60,000	23,450	36,545
2014-15 (2,7)	232,570	98,775	133,690	174,840	75,790	98,990	57,730	22,985	34,700
2015-16 (2,7)	235,565	98,905	136,545	179,460	76,925	102,445	56,105	21,980	34,105
2016-17 (2,7)	241,935	100,515	141,205	183,795	77,980	105,685	58,140	22,535	35,520
2017-18	247,110	101,940	144,810	189,960	79,920	109,870	57,150	22,020	34,940
All students at colleges									
2008-09	48,355	23,925	24,430	25,955	12,375	13,580	22,400	11,550	10,855
2009-10	49,800	24,730	25,075	28,640	13,765	14,880	21,160	10,965	10,195
2010-11	51,355	25,650	25,705	31,140	15,295	15,845	20,215	10,355	9,860
2011-12	48,620	24,105	24,515	32,065	15,605	16,460	16,555	8,500	8,055
2012-13 (2)	47,795	23,825	23,970	31,340	15,055	16,280	16,455	8,770	7,690
2013-14 (2)	48,690	24,140	24,550	31,900	15,110	16,790	16,795	9,035	7,760
2014-15 (2)	48,715	24,135	24,580	32,465	14,955	17,510	16,250	9,180	7,070
2015-16 (2)	49,890	25,000	24,865	32,755	15,175	17,555	17,135	9,825	7,310
2016-17 (2)	50,685	25,100	25,550	32,800	14,995	17,785	17,885	10,105	7,765
2017-18	49,585	24,040	25,455	32,620	14,720	17,820	16,965	9,320	7,635

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Age

14. Table C below details the number of HE students at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age group.
15. Overall, students aged 21-24 accounted for the largest proportion of students studying HE in Scotland's HEIs and colleges in 2017-18 (26.5%), an increase of 3.8pp on the 2008-09 proportion and comparable to 2016-17 (up 0.1pp year on year). In 2017-18, students aged under 25 accounted for 64.7% of the HE student population in Scotland. However, since 2016-17, it was the number of students in the HE population aged 25 and over that increased more, by 2,195 students, equivalent an increase of 2.2%, compared to 1,900, or 1.0%, for those under 25.
16. In 2017-18, 28.6% of students at Scottish HEIs were aged between 21 and 24 compared to 24.2% in 2008-09. Collectively, there were 161,855 students aged under 25 at HEIs in 2017-18, an increase of 2.3% on the previous year whilst the number of students aged 25 and over (85,150) saw an increase of 1.8%. However, the proportion of students in these age categories remained relatively stable on 2016-17 with the gap only increasing by 0.1%. Over the last ten years, consistently, those aged between 21-24 have accounted for the largest proportion of students and those aged over 60 have made up the smallest proportion. However, variation between age groups has changed over time. In 2017-18, in HEIs, students aged under 25 accounted for 65.5% of the student population compared to 57.6% in 2008-09, meaning the gap has increased by 7.9pp over this time. Specifically, the number of students aged 16-18, 19-20 and 21-24 have increased since 2008-09 whilst those aged 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+ have all reduced in student numbers. There has been an increase of students aged 25-29 since 2008-09 but this was outweighed by the reduction in all other over 25 age categories.
17. A slightly different picture is seen in colleges. Those aged 16-18 were the most prominent age group in 2017-18 accounting for 24.3% of the student population. In 2017-18 there were 30,190 students aged under 25 accounting for 60.9% of the student population whilst there were 19,300 aged 25 and over. Specifically, there were 12,045 students aged between 16 and 18. Similar to HEIs, the proportional split of age groups in Scotland's colleges has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years. Those aged between 16 and 18 comprised around 25% of the student population and those aged over 60 made up the smallest proportion with less than 1% in each year. In 2017-18 there was a 22pp gap between the proportion of HE students aged below 25 and above 25 in colleges, 8pp more than in 2008-09.

Table C: Students in higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by age, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Institution type / Academic session	Total (10)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Total									
2008-09	279,615	40,450	57,095	63,280	34,355	39,730	28,630	11,020	4,890
2009-10	287,565	43,330	59,245	66,655	35,400	38,915	27,865	10,855	5,170
2010-11	290,000	41,925	62,415	69,885	36,630	38,560	25,740	10,100	4,655
2011-12	281,630	41,735	62,835	69,725	34,735	35,705	23,010	9,225	4,565
2012-13	278,745	42,370	62,440	70,985	33,715	34,250	21,355	8,995	4,545
2013-14	279,495	42,985	64,605	71,620	33,295	33,625	20,440	8,710	4,105
2014-15	281,285	44,070	66,610	72,765	33,755	33,265	19,125	8,175	3,305
2015-16	285,450	44,680	66,295	75,555	34,445	33,805	18,985	8,245	3,205
2016-17	292,620	45,330	67,785	77,030	35,425	35,170	19,350	8,605	3,705
2017-18	296,695	44,955	68,585	78,505	36,530	36,565	19,420	8,765	3,170
All students at HEIs (2)									
2008-09	231,260	29,290	48,105	55,895	28,895	32,175	22,970	9,190	4,615
2009-10	237,765	31,330	49,825	58,705	29,540	31,780	22,395	9,205	4,900
2010-11	238,645	29,955	52,180	60,935	30,475	31,430	20,730	8,425	4,440
2011-12	233,010	29,515	52,605	61,630	29,030	29,280	18,705	7,780	4,395
2012-13 (2)	230,950	30,370	51,905	62,970	28,060	28,115	17,500	7,625	4,350
2013-14 (2)	230,805	30,755	53,690	63,375	27,675	27,550	16,695	7,120	3,860
2014-15 (2)	232,570	31,590	55,435	64,470	28,225	27,365	15,675	6,660	3,055
2015-16	235,565	32,140	55,650	67,050	28,855	27,315	15,130	6,445	2,835
2016-17	241,935	32,630	56,900	68,650	29,615	28,400	15,570	6,775	3,320
2017-18	247,110	32,910	58,235	70,710	30,750	29,335	15,445	6,820	2,800
All students at colleges (2)									
2008-09	48,355	11,160	8,990	7,385	5,460	7,555	5,660	1,835	275
2009-10	49,800	12,000	9,420	7,945	5,860	7,140	5,475	1,650	270
2010-11	51,355	11,970	10,240	8,945	6,155	7,130	5,010	1,675	215
2011-12	48,620	12,220	10,230	8,095	5,705	6,430	4,305	1,445	170
2012-13 (2)	47,795	12,000	10,535	8,015	5,655	6,135	3,855	1,370	200
2013-14 (2)	48,690	12,225	10,915	8,245	5,620	6,075	3,745	1,590	245
2014-15 (2)	48,715	12,480	11,175	8,295	5,530	5,900	3,450	1,515	250
2015-16	49,890	12,540	10,645	8,505	5,590	6,490	3,850	1,800	370
2016-17	50,685	12,700	10,885	8,380	5,810	6,770	3,780	1,830	385
2017-18	49,585	12,045	10,350	7,795	5,780	7,230	3,975	1,945	370

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Section 2 – Entrant Numbers and Characteristics

1. This section concerns students beginning a higher education course in a given academic year (i.e. entrants in that academic year), rather than the total student population as is shown in the previous section.

Total Entrants

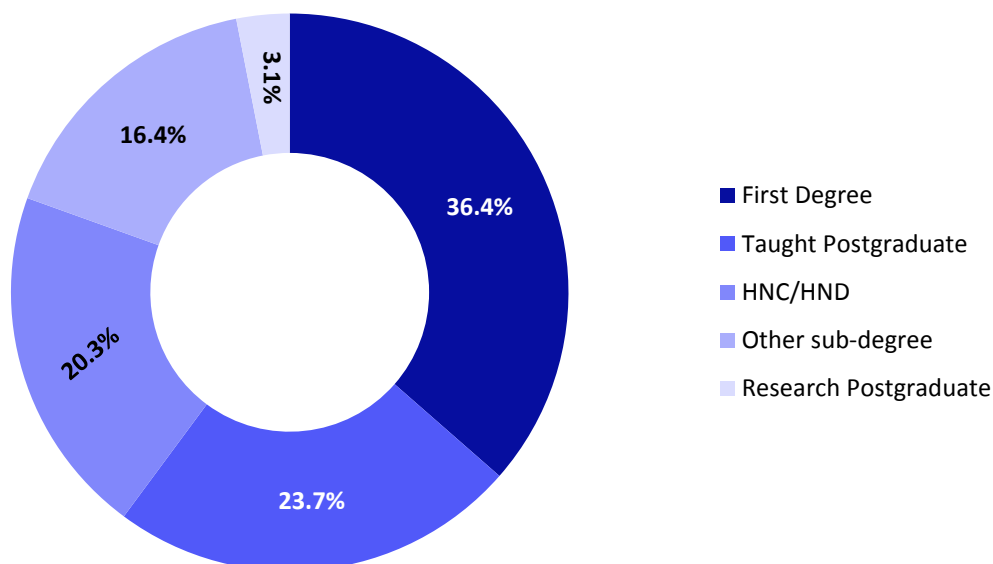
2. Table D below displays the total number of HE entrants to Scottish Institutions over the last ten academic years, detailed by level of study and type of institution. Table D shows that in 2017-18 there were 141,820 entrants to HE courses in Scottish Institutions, 2,035, or 1.5%, more than in 2016-17. This amounts from an increase of 3,225 entrants to HEIs (up 3.2%) and a reduction of 1,195 entrants to colleges (down 3.1%) on 2016-17.
3. Over the last ten years the number of entrants to HE courses in Scotland has fluctuated but overall there has been a reduction of 1.6% with 2,310 fewer students in 2017-18 than in 2008-09. Colleges have witnessed a larger reduction, of 2.2%, compared to a reduction of 1.4% in the number of entrants to HEIs over the same time period.
4. In earlier years, students studying at a sub-degree level, particularly other sub-degrees made up a greater share of student numbers than they do now. In 2008-09 there were 39,465 entrants to sub-degrees but this number has reduced by 40.9% since. Specifically, entrants to HEIs accounted for 14,935 students of this reduction.
5. In 2017-18, 48.8% of HE entrants at HEIs were on First Degree programmes compared to 1.8% in colleges. When considering the undergraduate population, colleges accounted for 35.9% of entrants to this level of study in 2017-18, majority of whom, 68.4%, entered HNC/HND programmes, compared to 3.2% of HEI entrant populations taking up these types of courses.
6. In 2017-18, HE entrants to colleges accounted for 26.3% of all HE entrants in Scotland, a reduction of 1.2pp since 2016-17. However, over the last ten years the distribution of entrants studying HE at colleges and HEIs has remained relatively stable, with the proportion of entrants to colleges decreasing by only 0.2pp.
7. When comparing entrants in 2017-18 to 2008-09, there have been increases in entrant numbers at all levels of study with the exception of other Sub-degrees. The reduction of entrants to these types of courses equated to more than the combined increase in all other levels of study over the last ten years. However, it is still important to note that, over this timeframe, the number of entrants to Taught Postgraduate courses increased by 30.7%, to Research Postgraduate courses by 19.4% and First Degrees by 10.5%.

Table D: Entrants to higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2008-09-2017-18

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
Total						
2008-09	144,130	3,655	25,720	46,775	28,470	39,465
2009-10	147,465	3,790	27,700	50,295	29,600	36,080
2010-11	140,590	3,865	26,840	46,860	30,250	32,775
2011-12	132,365	3,800	25,915	44,945	29,275	28,430
2012-13	133,415	3,940	25,870	46,870	27,945	28,790
2013-14	135,365	4,090	27,290	47,855	29,485	26,650
2014-15	133,660	4,175	27,935	48,075	28,215	25,255
2015-16	135,090	4,175	28,630	49,095	28,215	24,975
2016-17	139,785	4,165	31,200	50,245	29,700	24,480
2017-18	141,820	4,365	33,610	51,690	28,855	23,310
All students at HEIs						
2008-09	105,975	3,655	25,645	46,255	3,290	27,125
2009-10	108,840	3,790	27,610	49,765	3,110	24,570
2010-11	101,080	3,865	26,765	46,070	2,885	21,500
2011-12	95,350	3,800	25,905	44,140	2,465	19,040
2012-13 (2)	96,970	3,940	25,870	45,970	2,410	18,780
2013-14 (2)	97,900	4,090	27,290	46,920	3,465	16,135
2014-15	96,875	4,175	27,935	47,230	3,410	14,125
2015-16	97,135	4,175	28,630	48,300	3,285	12,745
2016-17	101,295	4,165	31,200	49,575	3,420	12,940
2017-18	104,520	4,365	33,610	51,020	3,340	12,190
All students at colleges						
2008-09	38,150	-	80	515	25,175	12,340
2009-10	38,625	-	90	535	26,490	11,505
2010-11	39,510	-	75	790	27,370	11,275
2011-12	37,015	-	10	805	26,810	9,385
2012-13 (2)	36,445	-	-	900	25,535	10,010
2013-14 (2)	37,465	-	-	935	26,020	10,510
2014-15 (2)	36,780	-	-	845	24,805	11,135
2015-16	37,955	-	-	795	24,930	12,230
2016-17	38,495	-	-	670	26,280	11,540
2017-18	37,300	-	-	665	25,515	11,115

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Figure 2: Entrants to higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by Level of Study, 2017-18



8. Figure 2 above shows the proportional distribution of entrants across level of study in 2017-18. The distribution of entrants is more evenly spread than is the case for students in all years (Figure 1). It is important to recognise course duration will vary depending on the level of study. For example, First Degrees last, typically up to four years whilst sub-degrees and postgraduate courses tend to span one or two years, and therefore, the cohorts are not comparable. Nevertheless, of all entrants in 2017-18, 36.4% were to First Degree courses and nearly a quarter of students (23.7%) entered taught post-graduate courses, whilst a fifth (20.3%) of students entered HNC/HND courses.

Subject Area and Gender

9. Table E below shows entrants to higher education in HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender. Some HE subject areas at HEIs have tightly controlled student intakes which influence the profile of subjects delivered. Our controlled subjects sector communication outlines the intake targets for these subject areas and can be found on the [SFC website](#).
10. The HE courses with the largest overall number of entrants in 2017-18 mirror the largest entrant cohorts in 2016-17. Business and Administrative Studies saw the largest intake with 23,595 entrants, followed by Subjects Allied to Medicine with 15,385 entrants, Social Studies with 15,125 entrants and Engineering and Technology with 12,755 entrants.
11. The subjects with the highest proportions of female entrants were Subjects

allied to Medicine (83.8%), followed by Veterinary Science (82.1%) and Psychology (76.6%). Meanwhile, males accounted for the highest proportion of entrants to Engineering and Technology (84.3%) and Computer Science (79.7%).

12. In 2017-18, gender imbalances of entrants were greater at First Degree and sub-degree level, for each subject, than at postgraduate level. Those subjects with a particularly high gender imbalance at First Degree and Sub Degree level are being targeted through SFC's [Gender Action Plan](#). For example, the overall gender gap of entrants to Subjects allied to Medicine was at 70.8% for First Degrees and 73.7% for sub-degrees in 2017-18, with males only accounting for 14.6% and 13.1% of entrants respectively.

Table E: Entrants to higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender, 2017-18

Subject Area	All levels			Postgraduate			First degree			Sub-degree		
	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Total (7)	141,820	41.7%	58.1%	37,970	40.1%	59.8%	51,690	40.7%	59.2%	52,165	43.8%	55.8%
Medical Studies												
Subjects allied to Medicine	15,385	16.2%	83.8%	4,405	21.3%	78.5%	6,680	14.6%	85.4%	4,300	13.1%	86.9%
Medicine and Dentistry	2,285	36.8%	63.2%	960	37.0%	62.5%	1,290	37.2%	62.8%	35	14.3%	85.7%
Total	17,675	18.8%	81.2%	5,360	24.2%	75.8%	7,975	18.2%	81.7%	4,340	13.2%	86.8%
Science and Engineering												
Agriculture & related subjects	1,385	41.9%	58.1%	560	45.5%	54.5%	225	28.9%	68.9%	605	43.0%	56.2%
Architecture, building and planning	3,930	65.0%	34.9%	1,105	46.6%	53.4%	1,315	64.3%	35.7%	1,510	79.1%	20.5%
Biological Sciences	10,175	34.0%	65.6%	2,380	32.8%	67.2%	5,685	33.7%	66.3%	2,115	36.2%	61.5%
Engineering and Technology	12,755	84.3%	15.5%	2,760	73.7%	26.1%	4,325	82.5%	17.3%	5,670	90.7%	9.1%
Computer Science	7,890	79.7%	20.0%	1,775	68.5%	31.3%	3,265	81.5%	18.5%	2,850	84.9%	14.9%
Mathematical Sciences	1,850	58.6%	41.1%	560	56.3%	43.8%	1,160	57.8%	42.2%	130	80.8%	23.1%
Physical Sciences	4,410	51.2%	48.5%	1,445	51.2%	48.4%	2,350	51.9%	47.9%	615	48.8%	51.2%
Veterinary Science	420	17.9%	82.1%	85	29.4%	70.6%	290	15.5%	84.5%	45	11.1%	88.9%
Total	42,815	63.2%	36.6%	10,670	55.1%	44.7%	18,610	59.1%	40.9%	13,535	75.3%	24.2%
Business and Social Studies												
Business & Administrative studies	23,595	42.0%	57.9%	7,330	44.9%	55.0%	6,645	42.7%	57.3%	9,620	39.3%	60.6%
Law	5,315	36.2%	63.7%	1,765	41.1%	58.6%	2,095	34.4%	65.6%	1,460	33.2%	66.8%
Mass Communication & documentation	2,065	40.9%	58.6%	640	26.6%	74.2%	720	38.2%	61.1%	705	56.7%	42.6%
Social Studies	15,125	26.8%	73.1%	2,690	33.6%	66.2%	4,920	32.1%	67.9%	7,515	20.8%	79.0%
Total	46,105	36.3%	63.6%	12,425	41.0%	58.9%	14,380	37.6%	62.3%	19,300	32.3%	67.5%
Education and the Arts												
Creative Arts & Design	10,315	34.7%	64.8%	1,320	36.0%	64.0%	3,300	34.5%	65.2%	5,690	34.5%	64.9%
Education	9,510	26.3%	73.6%	5,705	26.8%	73.1%	2,315	16.2%	83.8%	1,490	39.9%	59.7%
Historical & Philosophical Studies	4,370	40.7%	58.1%	1,285	44.7%	54.9%	2,215	38.8%	61.2%	870	39.1%	55.2%
Languages	5,510	30.7%	68.4%	1,080	30.1%	69.4%	2,390	25.5%	74.3%	2,040	36.8%	60.8%
Total	29,705	32.1%	67.3%	9,395	30.9%	68.9%	10,225	29.2%	70.6%	10,090	36.2%	62.4%
Combined (11)	5,525	44.1%	55.9%	125	48.0%	52.0%	500	41.0%	59.0%	4,900	44.3%	55.6%
Supplementary subjects contained in the above categories												
Economics and Politics	3,600	52.2%	47.6%	1,070	47.7%	52.3%	2,040	49.8%	50.2%	490	72.4%	26.5%
English	1,980	28.8%	71.0%	460	28.3%	71.7%	1,040	23.1%	76.9%	475	42.1%	57.9%
Geography	860	36.0%	63.4%	275	41.8%	56.4%	570	33.3%	66.7%	15	-	-
Psychology	4,355	22.4%	76.6%	1,095	22.4%	77.6%	2,380	19.5%	80.5%	880	30.1%	64.8%

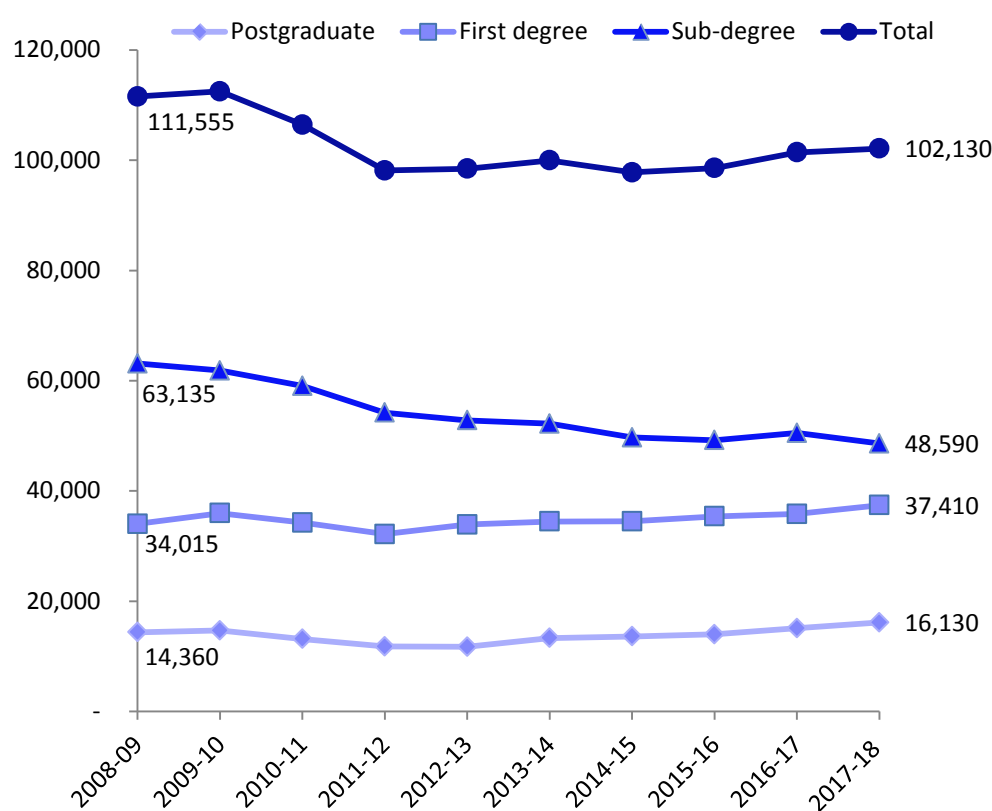
Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Domicile of Entrants

13. Figure 3 shows Scottish domiciled entrants to HE by level of study. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of Scottish domiciled entrants to postgraduate level study increased by 1,055 students, or 7.0%. Scottish-domiciled entrants to First Degree level courses increased by 1,575 students, equivalent to 4.4%, whilst those to Sub Degree courses decreased by 1,935 entrants (-3.8%).

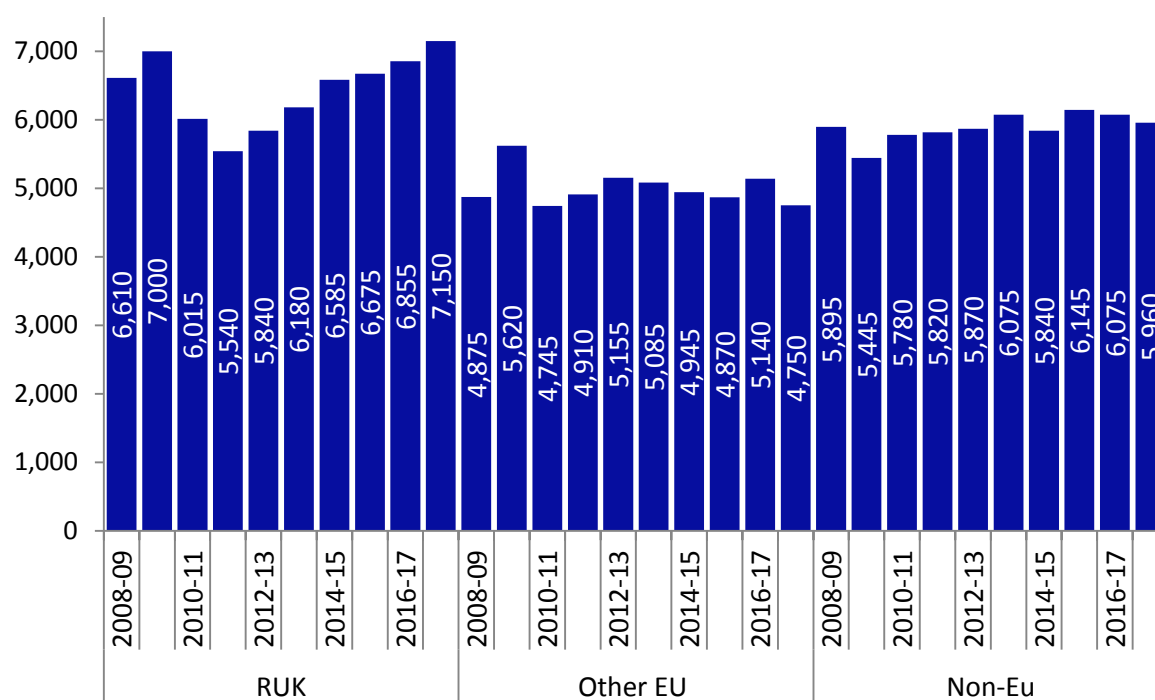
Figure 3: Scottish Domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2008-09 to 2017-18



14. Figure 3 above details the number of Scottish-domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish institutions by level of study over the last ten years (2008-09 to 2017-18). In 2017-18 102,130 Scottish-domiciled students entered HE in Scotland, 8.4% fewer than in 2008-09 when there were 111,555 Scottish domiciled entrants to Scottish institutions. This reduction was driven by 23.0% less students entering sub-degree courses in 2017-18 compared to 2008-09, which mirrors the overall trend of students on sub-degree courses reducing. Meanwhile, the number of Scottish-domiciled entrants to First Degree courses increased by 3,395 students, a 10.0% increase on 2008-09, whilst the number of entrants to postgraduate courses increased by 1,770 entrants, up 12.3% on 2008-09.

15. In 2013-14 SFC began investing in additional taught postgraduate places and subsequently there has been an increase of 4,405 Scottish-domiciled postgraduate entrants (+37.6%) since 2012-13.
16. Figure 4 below details non-Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants to HE at Scottish institutions by domicile, from 2008-09 to 2017-18. In earlier years, the number of students from the rest of the UK (RUK) at Scottish HEIs was controlled by the number of funded places available. This changed in 2012-13 when provision for RUK students at Scottish HEIs became funded by deregulated tuition fees.
17. Figure 4 shows that the number of RUK undergraduate entrants to Scottish institutions in 2017-18 (7,150 students) is the highest seen over the last ten years. Despite fluctuations throughout this time the number of RUK entrants has increased each year from 2011-12 when there were 5,540 RUK entrants, an increase of 29.1%.
18. Students from the EU (excluding RUK) are still eligible to have their provision supported through SFC funding. There were 125 fewer EU undergraduate entrants in 2017-18 (4,750 entrants) than there were in 2008-09, a reduction of 2.6%. Again, there have been fluctuations throughout this time with the highest number of EU students over the last ten years entering in 2009-10 (5,620 entrants).
19. The number of Non-EU undergraduate entrants in 2017-18 (5,960 students) was comparable to 2008-09 when 5,895 non-EU students entered. Meanwhile, there was a 1.9% decrease in Non-EU entrants since last year (2016-17).

Figure 4: Non-Scottish Domiciled Undergraduate Entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile, 2008-09 to 2017-18



20. Similar data is shown in Table F, below, which details the total number of students in HE at Scottish institutions split by domicile and level of study. In 2017-18, the total number of EU (excluding RUK) students decreased by 340 students on 2016-17. This, in part, resulted from a reduction of 540 EU students studying First Degrees from 2016-17 to 2017-18. Despite this, the number of EU (excluding RUK) students to Scottish institutions has increased by 22.3% over the last ten years.
21. There were 18,045 Non-European entrants to HE in 2017-18, over 1,000 more students than in 2016-17 (an increase of 6.1%). The number of Non-European entrants has increased since 2008-09 by 22.8%, equivalent to 3,355 students.

Table F: Entrants to Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile and Level of Study, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Level of Study / Academic Session	Total all domiciles (13)	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Other UK	Total UK	EU	Non-EU Europe	Non-European
All levels										
2008-09	144,130	111,555	7,745	235	1,430	110	121,300	7,410	685	14,690
2009-10	147,465	112,495	8,440	275	1,420	335	123,135	8,770	810	14,715
2010-11	140,590	106,460	7,800	235	1,390	75	116,015	7,905	870	15,790
2011-12	132,365	98,150	7,495	260	1,375	75	107,380	8,380	880	15,725
2012-13	133,415	98,455	7,910	285	1,165	155	107,975	8,890	965	15,565
2013-14	135,365	99,980	8,175	315	1,295	60	109,820	8,980	975	15,590
2014-15	133,660	97,790	8,405	285	1,240	65	107,780	8,975	1,030	15,875
2015-16	135,090	98,575	8,600	280	1,335	75	108,870	8,885	995	16,345
2016-17	139,785	101,430	9,240	325	1,335	100	112,430	9,405	935	17,010
2017-18	141,820	102,130	9,860	350	1,320	95	113,755	9,065	960	18,045
Postgraduate										
2008-09	29,380	14,360	2,550	100	235	20	17,320	2,535	335	9,155
2009-10	31,490	14,690	3,035	115	295	20	18,235	3,150	380	9,695
2010-11	30,705	13,150	3,095	100	270	15	16,660	3,160	395	10,480
2011-12	29,715	11,780	3,280	115	255	15	15,465	3,470	400	10,380
2012-13	29,810	11,725	3,280	120	215	65	15,405	3,730	485	10,175
2013-14	31,375	13,325	3,230	170	240	25	16,995	3,895	470	10,020
2014-15	32,110	13,610	3,030	125	230	25	17,020	4,025	520	10,545
2015-16	32,805	13,980	3,205	130	250	30	17,595	4,015	555	10,635
2016-17	35,360	15,075	3,710	150	250	30	19,215	4,270	500	11,380
2017-18	37,970	16,130	4,040	165	245	25	20,610	4,315	555	12,490
First Degree										
2008-09	46,775	34,015	4,320	100	1,100	70	39,625	4,075	285	2,790
2009-10	50,295	35,970	4,715	130	1,065	60	41,950	4,830	350	3,155
2010-11	46,860	34,265	3,720	100	1,035	45	39,170	4,175	330	3,185
2011-12	44,945	32,160	3,495	95	1,070	50	36,865	4,210	410	3,455
2012-13	46,870	33,910	3,910	125	885	45	38,875	4,500	370	3,125
2013-14	47,855	34,460	4,255	110	975	25	39,825	4,280	390	3,360
2014-15	48,075	34,480	4,670	125	955	30	40,265	4,115	385	3,310
2015-16	49,095	35,395	4,695	125	1,025	40	41,280	3,945	350	3,520
2016-17	50,245	35,835	4,810	135	1,010	45	41,835	4,455	365	3,595
2017-18	51,690	37,410	5,030	135	985	45	43,600	3,915	335	3,835
Sub-degree										
2008-09	67,935	63,135	875	30	95	20	64,310	800	70	2,750
2009-10	65,680	61,835	690	25	60	255	62,950	790	80	1,860
2010-11	63,025	59,045	985	35	85	10	60,185	570	140	2,125
2011-12	57,705	54,210	720	50	50	10	55,045	700	65	1,890
2012-13	56,735	52,825	725	40	65	45	53,695	655	110	2,265
2013-14	56,135	52,190	695	35	80	5	53,000	805	115	2,210
2014-15	53,475	49,695	705	35	60	5	50,500	830	125	2,020
2015-16	53,190	49,205	700	25	60	5	49,995	925	85	2,190
2016-17	54,180	50,525	720	35	75	25	51,380	685	75	2,040
2017-18	52,165	48,590	790	50	90	25	49,540	835	70	1,720

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Section 3 – Qualifier Numbers and Characteristics

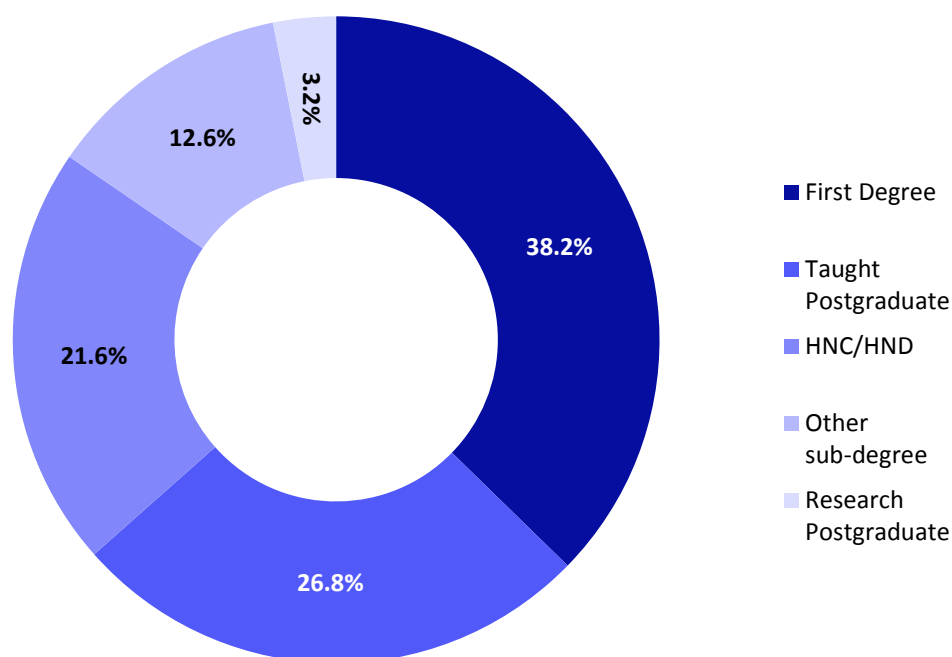
1. This section considers students qualifying from Scottish institutions with a HE qualification across the last ten academic years (2008-09 to 2017-18). The number of qualifiers is shown across different levels and modes of study as well as for selected protected characteristics. Further breakdowns are available in the accompanying background tables.
2. Information on the destinations of qualifiers is contained in HESA's Destination of Leavers publication and the HESA longitudinal survey publication. Details of these can be found on the [HESA website](#). Information on destinations of HE students in colleges is available in [SFC's College Leaver Destinations publication](#).
3. Table G below shows that there were 104,160 higher education qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2017-18, 2,405 qualifiers more than in 2016-17, and 20,130 more than in 2008-09. In 2017-18, 73.5% of qualifiers were from HEIs and HEIs saw an increase of 1,830 qualifiers (up 2.4%) on 2016-17 compared to 575 more qualifiers from colleges than last year (up 2.1%).
4. Overall, the distribution of qualifiers across levels of study has remained relatively stable over the last ten years. Those qualifying from First Degree level studies have consistently constituted the largest proportion of qualifiers. In 2017-18 those qualifying from a First Degree course accounted for 37.3% of all qualifiers, only 0.3pp lower than in 2016-17 and 0.5pp lower than in 2008-09. The largest percentage increase in qualifiers between 2016-17 and 2017-18 (7%) was at research postgraduate level, where the number of qualifiers increased by 215 qualifying students. Meanwhile, the number of qualifiers from other sub-degree level courses increased by 565 students, split almost equally across institution types, an increase of 5.8% from HEIs and 3.8% from colleges on 2016-17.
5. Since 2008-09 the number of qualifiers from taught and research postgraduate programmes has increased by over 40% whilst the number from First Degree courses has increased by 22.4% (7,105 qualifiers). The number of qualifiers from HNC/HND programmes has increased by 5,310 students (31.8%), however, the number from other sub-degrees has decreased over this same time period (-8.3%) equivalent to a reduction of 1,155 qualifiers.

Table G: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by institution type and level of qualification obtained, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Qualification Obtained					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
Total						
2008-09	84,030	2,275	19,355	31,750	16,685	13,965
2009-10	83,885	2,330	19,045	32,095	18,260	12,155
2010-11	90,480	2,590	20,920	33,130	20,000	13,840
2011-12	92,870	2,710	22,360	34,585	20,530	12,675
2012-13 (2)	95,575	2,870	22,685	36,025	20,570	13,430
2013-14 (2)	97,340	2,605	24,110	37,010	20,525	13,090
2014-15 (2)	96,950	2,930	24,135	36,870	19,970	13,050
2015-16	97,400	2,790	23,050	37,785	20,525	13,250
2016-17	101,755	3,050	26,340	38,225	21,895	12,245
2017-18	104,160	3,265	27,240	38,855	21,995	12,810
All students at HEIs						
2008-09	61,565	2,275	19,315	31,465	1,715	6,790
2009-10	60,530	2,330	19,000	31,790	1,675	5,730
2010-11	64,295	2,590	20,875	32,555	1,765	6,500
2011-12	67,930	2,710	22,350	34,085	1,865	6,925
2012-13 (2)	70,005	2,870	22,670	35,440	1,920	7,110
2013-14 (2)	71,615	2,605	24,110	36,340	2,320	6,240
2014-15 (2)	71,175	2,930	24,135	36,210	2,330	5,575
2015-16	70,830	2,790	23,050	37,140	2,565	5,285
2016-17	74,765	3,050	26,340	37,650	2,785	4,940
2017-18	76,595	3,265	27,240	38,295	2,570	5,225
All students at colleges						
2008-09	22,465	-	40	285	14,970	7,175
2009-10	23,355	-	45	300	16,585	6,420
2010-11	26,185	-	40	570	18,230	7,340
2011-12	24,935	-	15	505	18,670	5,750
2012-13 (2)	25,565	-	15	585	18,650	6,320
2013-14 (2)	25,725	-	-	670	18,205	6,850
2014-15 (2)	25,775	-	-	660	17,640	7,475
2015-16	26,575	-	-	645	17,960	7,965
2016-17	26,990	-	-	575	19,110	7,305
2017-18	27,565	-	-	560	19,425	7,585

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Figure 5: Distribution of qualifiers from higher education courses by level of qualification obtained, 2017-18



6. Figure 5, above, shows the proportional split of qualifiers from HE courses by level qualification obtained in 2017-18. The distribution of qualifiers is similar to the distribution of entrants, with 38.2% of students qualifying with First Degree level qualifications and just over a quarter (26.8%) with a taught postgraduate qualification in 2017-18.

Gender, Age and Domicile of Qualifiers

7. Table H below displays HE qualifiers at Scottish Institutions by age and level of qualification. The full-time series for 2008-09 to 2017-18 by institution type is available in the background tables online.
8. As is shown in Table H, throughout the last ten years those aged 21-24 have accounted for the largest proportion of qualifiers at Scottish institutions, of which there were 44,555 qualifiers in 2017-18, 42.8% of the total qualifiers population. The distribution of qualifiers follows the logic that students will be studying for a longer or shorter timeframe depending on the type of course. For example, a school leaver who enters a four year First Degree straight from school, would likely qualify within the age bracket of 21-24 along with four cohorts of one-year HNC/HND students who fall into this age bracket when graduating. However, the age distribution of students differs depending of the level of qualification obtained. When considering postgraduate qualifications, the age profile shifts up with the largest proportion (37.7%) aged 25-29. The

proportional distribution of First Degree qualifiers is in line with the sector level, but more pronounced, with 73.4% of all First Degree qualifiers aged between 21-24. The age distribution of qualifiers from sub-degrees is more evenly spread than other levels of qualification obtained; with 25.3% aged 19-20 and 22.2% aged 21-24 in 2017-18.

9. At a sector level, 55.7% of qualifiers were under 25 years old which was mirrored at sub-degree level with 57.5% of qualifiers in the this age group. However, there is a clear switch in age profiles of qualifiers from First Degrees and those from postgraduate level degrees. In 2017-18 of the 30,505 qualifiers from postgraduate degrees, 72.8% were aged 25 or over whilst 76.5% of the 38,855 First Degree qualifiers were aged between 16 and 24.
10. Table H shows that the largest proportional increase between last year and 2017-18 was for HE qualifiers aged 50-59 year olds (+8.5%), an increase of 235 qualifiers. Between 2016-17 and 2017-18 the largest actual increase (940 students) was from qualifiers aged 21-24. It is also worth noting the marked reduction in qualifiers aged 40-49, from 8,510 qualifiers in 2008-09 to 6,995 in 2017-18. When considering this reduction broken down by level of study it is apparent that this has resulted from the reduction in 40-49 year olds qualifying from sub-degree courses.

Table H: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by age and level of qualification obtained, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Level of Qualification / Academic Session	Total (6)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
All levels									
2008-09	84,030	2,580	7,870	33,455	15,025	12,965	8,510	3,005	610
2009-10	83,885	2,830	8,110	33,620	15,495	12,650	7,900	2,735	535
2010-11	90,480	2,930	9,165	36,170	17,270	13,250	7,955	3,000	740
2011-12	92,870	3,140	9,360	37,945	18,360	13,320	7,450	2,705	580
2012-13	95,575	3,585	14,815	38,895	16,055	12,295	6,660	2,545	715
2013-14	97,340	3,755	15,685	39,770	15,930	12,285	6,545	2,615	755
2014-15	96,955	3,005	10,455	42,465	18,465	12,975	6,155	2,720	705
2015-16	97,405	3,045	10,260	42,395	18,275	13,300	6,535	2,855	735
2016-17	101,755	3,415	10,330	43,615	19,850	14,480	6,625	2,765	670
2017-18	104,160	3,455	9,985	44,555	20,475	14,935	6,995	3,000	725
Postgraduate									
2017-18	30,505	-	5	8,290	11,510	6,735	2,775	990	200
First Degree									
2017-18	38,855	5	1,185	28,515	4,460	2,750	1,305	525	115
Sub-degree									
2017-18	34,800	3,450	8,800	7,750	4,505	5,445	2,920	1,485	415

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

11. Table I below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by domicile and qualification obtained. The full series for 2008-09 to 2017-18 by institution type is available in the Background Tables online.
12. In 2017-18, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 68.7% of all HE qualifiers from Scottish institutions including 69.7% of qualifiers from First Degrees. First degrees account for the largest percentage of qualifiers; however, there is also a comparable number of qualifiers from sub-degree courses of which 93.5% were Scottish-domiciled in 2017-18. In 2017-18 of all Scottish domiciled qualifiers, 45.5% qualified from sub-degree level courses, 37.8% from First Degree level and 16.7% from postgraduate level.
13. Table I also shows that there were 730 more Scottish domiciled qualifiers in 2017-18 than in 2016-17, up 1.0%, whilst the total number of qualifiers from the rest of the UK increased by 710 qualifiers (8.7%) in the same time frame. There was an increase of 385 qualifiers from the rest of the EU, up 5.2%, and 575 qualifiers, an increase of 3.7%, from elsewhere.

Table I: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by Domicile and Qualification obtained, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Level of Qualification/ Academic Session	Total	Scotland	Rest of UK	EU (excluding UK)	Non-EU International
Total					
2008-09	84,030	61,435	7,485	5,005	10,100
2009-10	83,885	60,740	6,605	5,755	10,725
2010-11	90,480	64,715	7,110	5,955	12,655
2011-12	92,870	65,045	7,500	6,095	14,230
2012-13	95,575	66,640	7,945	6,475	14,515
2013-14	97,340	68,530	7,260	6,855	14,695
2014-15	96,955	67,100	7,130	7,320	15,405
2015-16	97,405	68,685	7,630	7,320	13,760
2016-17	101,755	70,815	8,190	7,365	15,385
2017-18	104,160	71,545	8,905	7,750	15,960
Postgraduate					
2017-18	30,505	11,940	3,285	3,850	11,430
First Degree					
2017-18	38,855	27,065	4,965	3,485	3,340
Sub-degree					
2017-18	34,800	32,540	660	415	1,190

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

14. Table J below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by gender and mode of study. The table displays that females made up a higher proportion of

qualifiers from HE in 2017-18 (57.5%) which is in line with the last ten years. This is more pronounced for full-time courses where females constituted 59.4% of qualifiers in 2017-18 and less so for part-time courses where females accounted for 52.9% in the same year.

15. From 2016-17 to 2017-18, the number of male HE qualifiers increased by only 290 students compared to 2,070 female. This resulted from part-time course qualifiers where the number of males qualifying decreased by 445 qualifiers on 2016-17 whilst the number of female qualifiers increased by 340. The increase of 1,730 full-time female qualifiers between 2016-17 and 2017-18, up 4.1%, more than double that of the year on year increase in the number of males qualifying from full-time courses, equivalent to 725 students.

Table J: Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by mode of study and gender, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time (20)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2008-09	84,030	37,270	46,760	53,585	23,010	30,575	30,445	14,260	16,185
2009-10	83,885	37,410	46,470	55,075	23,925	31,155	28,805	13,490	15,320
2010-11	90,480	41,215	49,265	58,490	25,935	32,560	31,990	15,280	16,710
2011-12	92,870	41,440	51,430	62,275	27,130	35,145	30,595	14,310	16,285
2012-13	95,575	42,280	53,290	63,340	27,425	35,915	32,230	14,855	17,375
2013-14	97,340	42,320	55,005	66,150	27,945	38,195	31,195	14,375	16,815
2014-15	96,955	42,070	54,860	67,140	27,875	39,250	29,800	14,195	15,610
2015-16	97,365	42,855	54,505	69,055	28,960	40,095	28,310	13,900	14,410
2016-17	101,755	43,950	57,740	71,320	29,240	42,080	30,375	14,715	15,660
2017-18	104,160	44,240	59,810	73,870	29,965	43,810	30,290	14,270	16,000

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to notes to tables.

Section 4 – Participation Rates for Entrants to Higher Education in Scotland

Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)

1. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is an estimate of the probability that a 16 year old will participate in Higher Education by the age of 30.
2. The Scottish HEIPR, detailed in Table H, is a measure of all Scottish or Scottish-domiciled initial entrants aged between 16 and 30 (inclusive). An initial entrant is defined as any student who participates in Higher Education for at least six months on a course which is expected to last for at least six months. They must not have participated in Higher Education previously for period of more than six months (whether that is at a college or a HEI).
3. This participation measure does not show the proportion currently participating in HE, the proportion continuing beyond the first six months, or those who successfully complete a course. The HEIPR measures the likelihood of participation in higher education and is suitable for comparison with the HEIPR of other UK nations. The key strength of having a participation rate statistic, in comparison to student number statistics, is that these participation rates are more inclusive and can be used to infer and recognise the importance of lifelong learning.
4. The initial participation rates for each age group (16 to 30), in scope of this calculation, are summed to give the overall HEIPR.
5. Table H shows that in 2017-18 the Scottish HEIPR, 56.6%, was 1.1% lower than in 2016-17. This can be attributed to the reduction in participation of sixteen and seventeen year olds, as well as some other age groups with varying weighting. Interestingly, despite a reduction of around 700 18 year olds from the Scottish population between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the participation rate for this age group has remained unchanged (21.9%) over these two years.

Table H: Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate, 2016-17 to 2017-18

	2016-17*			2017-18			
Age	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Year-on-Year Change in HEIPR
16	1,373	56,626	2.4%	1,234	55,210	2.2%	↓
17	9,584	58,628	16.3%	9,005	56,782	15.9%	↓
18	13,258	60,623	21.9%	12,967	59,307	21.9%	↔
19	3,745	65,514	5.7%	3,545	63,606	5.6%	↓
20	1,668	68,174	2.4%	1,652	67,963	2.4%	↔
21	1,113	69,836	1.6%	1,037	69,452	1.5%	↓
22	868	72,162	1.2%	834	70,513	1.2%	↔
23	766	74,114	1.0%	750	72,595	1.0%	↔
24	685	77,694	0.9%	634	74,373	0.9%	↔
25	643	78,104	0.8%	614	77,988	0.8%	↔
26	605	75,462	0.8%	601	78,512	0.8%	↔
27	523	74,507	0.7%	533	75,882	0.7%	↔
28	553	74,498	0.7%	477	74,961	0.6%	↓
29	429	72,580	0.6%	443	74,869	0.6%	↔
30	403	71,671	0.6%	457	72,954	0.6%	↔
16-30	36,216		57.7%	34,783		56.6%	↓

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

*The Scottish HEIPR has been restated in this publication for 2016-17 due to a previous error with over estimation of the population figures. This means that the Scottish HEIPR has increased by 0.3pp from what was previously stated.

- There are oddities between the Scotland population which is used to calculate the HEIPR population and the true Scottish Population, due to swelling of some age ranges. For example, the HEIPR methodology estimates there were 60,023 18 year olds in 2016-17 but a year later, in 2017-18 the 19 year old population increased to 63,606. This would suggest that the population was being swollen by individuals entering Scotland from that age group. Given the demographics of the student population in Scotland, it would seem likely that Scotland's population was being swollen by the influx of students around this age group coming to Scotland to study.

Annex A: Notes to Tables

1. The numbering of the notes refers to additional tables published on the SFC website and not to any of the tables in this publication. For full details please see the associated Excel Workbook.
2. The figures include Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students at the Open University (OU) up to 2011-12. The OU had 20 Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students in 2011-12.
3. Students at the former land-based colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge, which merged with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) to form SRUC in October 2012, were still recorded through the college reporting until 2012-13. They are included in the figures for colleges for 2012-13 but are included with the SRUC and HEI related figures from 2013-14.
 - In 2010-11, Glasgow Metropolitan College, Glasgow College of Nautical Studies and Central College Glasgow merged to form City of Glasgow College.
 - In 2012-13 Telford College, Stevenson College and Jewel and Esk Valley College merged to form Edinburgh College.
 - In 2012-13 Barony College, Elmwood College and Oatridge College merged with the Scottish Agricultural College to form SRUC.
 - On 1 November 2013, Aberdeen College and Banff and Buchan College merged to form North East Scotland College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Ayr College, James Watt College (Kilwinning campus) and Kilmarnock College merged to form Ayrshire College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Adam Smith College, Carnegie College and SRUC (non-land base element) merged to form Fife College.
 - On 1 November 2013, North Glasgow College, John Wheatley College and Stow College merged to form Glasgow Kelvin College.
 - On 31 July 2013, Anniesland College, Cardonald College and Langside College merged to form Glasgow Clyde College.
 - On 1 November 2013, Angus College and Dundee College merged to form Dundee and Angus College.
 - On 1 November 2013, Cumbernauld College and Motherwell College merged to form New College Lanarkshire, and on 1 April 2014, they were joined by Coatbridge College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Clydebank College, Reid Kerr College and James Watt College (Greenock campus) merged to form West College Scotland.
4. The Edinburgh College of Art merged with the University of Edinburgh at the start of academic session 2011-12.
5. The college full-time equivalents (FTEs) for HE students exclude the additional

volume associated with students receiving extended learning support as this is not reported in the same way for HEIs. When looking at college FTEs on their own, FTEs accounting for extended learning support should be used. These can be accessed on the SFC [Infact database](#).

6. A number of institution mergers happened across the university and college sectors over the time period shown in this publication. Full details of these are described in [Annex A: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).
7. Totals include students whose genders were not reported.
8. The totals include Scottish domiciled students whose local authority was not recorded.
9. The above table does not include Scottish domiciled students at UK institutions outside of Scotland and does not represent rates of participation in Scottish local authorities.
10. Totals include students whose ages were not reported.
11. The 'Combined' subject grouping is used in recognition of programmes of study which cut across different subject areas.
12. Total includes students from overseas whose specific country of domicile was not recorded.
13. This table includes students at UK HEIs only and does not include students studying at colleges.
14. The above table does not include Scottish domiciled entrants at UK institutions outside of Scotland and does not represent rates of participation in Scottish local authorities.
15. The total includes a small number of students at the Open University who are domiciled outside the UK
16. Includes students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and students from the UK whose specific country of domicile was not reported.
17. Where universities are group in 'types', these types comprised the following HEIs:
 - Ancient Universities: University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrews.
 - Newer Universities: University of Dundee, Heriot-Watt University, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde.
 - Post-92 Universities: University of Abertay Dundee, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian University, Edinburgh Napier

University, University of the West of Scotland, Robert Gordon University and the University of the Highlands & Islands.

- Small Specialist Institutions: SRUC, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow School of Art.
18. Deprived areas are defined as the 20% lowest ranked areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) for the relevant year. In this table, Academic Years (AY) 2001-02 to 2004-05 relate to SIMD 2004, 2005-06 and 2006-07 relate to SIMD 2006, AY 2007-08 to 2010-11 relate to SIMD 2009 and AY 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 relate to SIMD 2012.
 19. The working population is defined as number of persons aged 16-64.
 20. Includes students obtaining qualifications from writing up and dormant status who were previously studying full-time.
 21. The totals in 2016-17 included 212 students whose gender was reported at 'Other' or 'Unknown'.
 22. The entrant figures shown in the table will not match Scottish domiciled entrant figures in other tables as not all postcodes from student records can be matched to postcodes in SIMD.
 23. The figures include Scottish-domiciled research postgraduate students at the Open University up to 2011-12.
 24. Aegrotat degrees; this is an honours degree without classification, awarded on the understanding that had the candidate not been unwell, he or she would have passed.
 25. Totals include other qualification classifications.

Annex B: Methodology, Data Definitions, and Quality Information

Data Sources

This publication contains information on students from both colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) who are attending Higher Education courses in Scotland. These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from HEIs and by SFC from further education colleges (colleges).

Coverage

Following a consultation in 2007, the method of counting students at HEIs was changed in 2009 in order to provide a greater level of consistency with HESA. The figures in this publication that relate to higher education institutions are defined by HESA's standard registration population. Time-series have been revised according to this definition.

The standard registration population includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at point in the reporting period 1 August to 21 July except; dormant students, incoming visiting exchange students, student who study wholly outside the UK, students on sabbatical and writing up students.

Data from Scottish colleges continues to exclude those students who do not complete the first 25% of their course (the point at which they become eligible for funding).

Student Instances

HESA's Student Records use the term 'instance' to describe a student's engagement within an institution. A student may enrol on more than one course and, therefore, have more than one instance. It is instances that are reported in this publication, consistent with HESA's methodology. The same approach is taken when reporting on student activity at Scottish colleges. Where references are made in this release to 'students' this should be interpreted as instances.

Full-time Equivalents

Full-time Equivalents (FTE) represent the expected hours of learning undertaken by a student during their course, as a proportion of the expected learning of full-time study. For example; a student with an FTE of 0.8 is expected to undertake 20% fewer hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course, a student with an FTE of 1.2 is expected to undertake 20% more hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course.

At UK HEIs, full-time students are those normally required to attend an institution for periods amounting to more than 24 weeks within the year of study, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their institution. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amounts to an average of at least 21 hours per week. Full-time HE students at Scottish Colleges are those which meet the criteria of at least 480 planned notional hours.

Open University

Students attending the Open University, whose location (domicile) prior to study was in Scotland, are classified in this publication as studying at a Scottish HEI. Where comparisons are made with other UK countries, the Open University is regarded as a separate institution in each country. Students studying at the Open University whose location (domicile) prior to study was outside the UK or recorded as an unknown UK domicile are excluded prior to 2012-13. This methodology differs from that used by HESA where the Open University is counted as a whole English institution; as a result student figures reported in this release will differ from those reported by HESA.

Domicile

The full list of countries included in each domicile grouping is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Level of Study

The full list of qualifications included in each level of study category is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Subject Tables

Subject data from higher education institutions is apportioned to broadly reflect the weight of a particular subject within the study programmes of individual enrolments. This process is consistent with the treatment of subject breakdowns by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). As well as being counted in the main subject groupings, supplementary subjects are shown separately for clarity. Economics and Politics are included in Social Studies, English is included in Languages, Geography is included in Social Studies, Environmental Science is in Physical Sciences and Psychology is included in Biological Sciences.

Data Presentation

Our rounding strategy is in line with [HESA's](#). In all tables in this release, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 whilst values of 0, 1 and 2 have been rounded to 0 and presented as '-'. Percentages are based on rounded figures. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to

totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Figures and percentage in the text and charts are calculated from rounded values.

Percentage changes in actual numbers, for example between one year and the next, are referred to as x%. However, when discussing the difference between percentages, such as the difference between two proportions, percentage points (pp) is used.

Data Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information in the following dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. For further information please see [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Relevance

HESA is the official UK agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education at higher education institutions. SFC collects data on provision at colleges through the Further Education Statistics (FES) data collections.

Accuracy

The procedures followed by HESA to ensure quality of the data are provided on the HESA website. The guidance issued by SFC for the submission of the Scottish college records is on the SFC website.

The following table gives the proportions of the overall student populations at Scottish HEIs and colleges where the ethnicity and disability were unknown, both for all students and for Scottish domiciled students only. The proportion of Scottish-domiciled students at Scottish HEIs and colleges and for whom their unitary authority of residence was not recorded is also given.

Proportion unknown for key variables, 2013-14 to 2016-17

Proportion of unknowns for key variables	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
LA unknown for					
Scottish Domiciles:					
HEIs	0.5%	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%
Colleges	2.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%	0.3%

Scottish HEIs are only required to return ethnicity information for UK-domiciled students.

Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical publication is pre-announced and then published on the SFC website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables available on the website only which is a freely available resource.

Comparability

HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. The Statistical First Release [‘Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Institutions in the UK’](#) provides information on this topic.

Associate Students by gender, age and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile, 2017-18

When a college and HEI share responsibility for students, for example, when a HEI acts as the awarding body for a course that is partly delivered at college, these students appear in both the HEI and college data and are known as Associate Students.

Following consultation, it was decided to continue counting Associate Students in both sectors in this publication and to produce a separate table quantifying the number of identifiable Associate Students. The table shows a split by gender, age, and percentages from the most deprived areas for the 1,480 students who have been identified as Associate Students in colleges in 2017-18.

	Number of Associate Students	Percentage of Associate Students
Gender		
Male	820	55.4%
Female	655	44.3%
Total	1,480	
Age group		
16-18	485	32.8%
19-20	465	31.4%
21-24	230	15.5%
25-29	125	8.4%
30-39	125	8.4%
40-49	45	3.0%
50-59	5	0.3%
Total	1,480	
Deprivation Quintile		
20% most deprived areas	310	20.9%
40% most deprived areas	595	40.2%

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication Title	Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions, 2017-18
Description	Includes ten data on Higher Education students, entrants and qualifiers in Scottish Higher Education Institutions and Colleges over a ten year time series (2008-09 to 2017-18)
Theme	Higher Education
Topic	Student Information
Format	PDF and Excel Tables
Data Source(s)	This publication contains information on students from both colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) who are attending Higher Education courses in Scotland. These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from HEIs and by SFC from further education colleges (colleges). Population data used to calculate the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate is sourced from National Records Scotland Mid-Year Population Estimates .
Date that data are acquired	College statistics: 5/10/2018 HEI data: 23/11/18
Release date	26/03/2019
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Trend data over ten academic years, 2008-09 to 2017-18.
Continuity of data	<p>Following a consultation in 2007, the method of counting students at HEIs was changed in 2009 in order to provide a greater level of consistency with HESA. The figures in this publication that relate to higher education institutions are defined by HESA's standard registration population. Time-series have been revised according to this definition.</p> <p>The standard registration population includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at point in the reporting period 1 August to 21 July except; dormant students, incoming visiting exchange students, student who study wholly outside the UK, students on sabbatical and writing up students.</p> <p>Data from Scottish colleges continues to exclude those students who do not complete the first 25% of their course (the point at which they become eligible for funding).</p>
Revisions statement	There are two revisions to historical figures presented in this publication, in Tables 23 and 37.
Revisions relevant to this publication	<p>In Table 23 (Background tables), the number of Non-EU domiciled students at HEIs in England has been revised from 16,890 to 244,565 due to an error.</p> <p>The Scottish HEIPR has been restated in this publication for 2016-17 only, due to a previous error with over estimation of the population figures.</p>

Relevance and Key uses of this statistics	HESA is the official UK agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education at higher education institutions. SFC collects data on provision at colleges in Scotland through the Further Education Statistics (FES) data collection.
Accuracy	The procedures followed by HESA to ensure quality of the data are provided on the HESA website. The guidance issued by SFC for the submission of the Scottish college records is on the SFC website.
Comparability	HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. The Statistical First Release ‘Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Institutions in the UK’ provides information on this topic.
Accessibility	SFC has a style guideline which sets out options to make all publications as accessible to potential readers as possible. More information relating to accessibility of the website .
Coherence and clarity	This statistical publication is pre-announced and then published on the SFC website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables available in Excel format on the website only which is a freely available resource.
Value type and unity of measurement	Number, percentage, percentage points
Disclosure	In all tables in this release, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, and 0, 1 and 2 have been rounded to 0. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Figures and percentages in the text and charts are calculated from rounded values. This is to mitigate the risk of identification of individuals.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics undertaken in 2013 by UK Statistics Authority, as part of Assessment Report 255.
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Help email	datarequests@sfc.ac.uk
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