

Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet 4: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2014/15 to 2018/19

- In 2018/19, 11.2% of students enrolled at NI HEIs self-reported as having a disability; an increase from 10.4% in 2017/18.
- In 2018/19, of those NI domiciled students enrolled at NI HEIs who were asked to provide the religion they were brought up in, 31.2% of students stated 'Protestant', 49.5% stated 'Roman Catholic' and the remainder were categorised as 'Other' (2.6%), 'No Religion' (8.7%) or 'Unknown' (8.0%).

Disability ⁽¹⁾	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Disability	4,550	5,140	5,250	5,650	6,220
No disability/unknown	51,895	50,100	49,320	48,810	49,535
Total	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460	55,755

Religion ^{(2) (3) (4)}	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Protestant	13,655	13,125	12,955	12,695	13,145
Roman Catholic	21,210	20,595	20,535	20,425	20,865
Other	5,170	5,640	3,580	2,190	1,105
Unknown	4,265	4,055	3,675	3,615	3,360
No Religion	-	-	1,765	2,830	3,685
Total	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755	42,165

Age	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
20 and under	20,610	19,810	19,395	19,190	19,160
21 to 24	14,870	15,185	15,360	15,810	16,350
25 and over	20,960	20,250	19,815	19,460	20,245
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460	55,755

Sex	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Male	24,670	23,865	23,540	23,180	23,265
Female	31,775	31,380	31,030	31,280	32,490
Total	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460	55,755

Ethnicity ⁽¹⁾	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
White	49,150	49,575	48,625	48,040	48,710
Irish Traveller	15	10	15	10	15
Black	455	360	370	340	430
Indian	285	300	295	275	355
Pakistani	235	195	185	150	180
Bangladeshi	100	115	115	55	60
Chinese	550	350	355	370	375
Other Asian	360	295	300	280	340
Mixed	325	340	380	405	445
Other	235	220	235	200	235
Unknown	4,740	3,480	3,695	4,330	4,620
Total	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460	55,755

Marital Status⁽²⁾	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Single (never married or never in civil partnership)	37,230	36,515	35,920	34,560	34,900
Married or in civil partnership	4,660	4,360	4,120	3,875	4,080
Separated (but still legally married or in civil partnership)	275	260	245	235	240
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	245	260	225	215	220
Widowed	55	55	45	40	40
Co-habiting	725	700	685	650	710
Unknown	1,105	1,260	1,265	2,180	1,975
Total	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755	42,165

Dependants⁽²⁾	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Young people/children (YP/C)	4,530	4,330	4,140	3,980	4,135
Other relative/friends (OR/F)	375	315	290	280	290
Both YP/C and OR/F	550	470	405	375	405
No dependants	37,655	36,965	36,330	35,735	36,020
Unknown	1,185	1,340	1,345	1,380	1,315
Total	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755	42,165

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Information on disability and ethnicity is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
2. Information on religion, marital status and dependants is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI HE institutions.
3. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
4. A new coding framework was added to the HESA data collection for the Religion question in 2016/17, which includes an additional category for 'No Religion'. More information can be found at: [HESA Religion](#)
5. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, within DfE publications, Open University students are counted within the country where the national centre is located. Figures for the previous academic years have been updated to reflect this change.
6. Enrolments at the OU (where the national centre is located in NI) have been removed from the figures for religion, marital status and dependants due to high levels of unknowns.
7. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures in the attached table are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0. Due to rounding, the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown.
8. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Links

Data from this fact sheet are available in open data format at the following link:

[Higher Education Statistical Factsheets](#)

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

[Higher Education Statistics and Research](#)