Introduction

This publication is one of three reference volumes from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), which present statistics about the publicly-funded higher education institutions of the United Kingdom.

The statistics in this volume are derived from data collected from publicly funded Higher Education Institutions in the UK by HESA. The source data set contains information about the first destinations of students who obtained higher education qualifications during the 1995/96 academic year and who had studied for these primarily full-time. A Definitions section is included at the back of this book.

The figures throughout the volume exclude students obtaining higher education qualifications from further education colleges and those who studied with private and independent higher education providers.

1995/96 is the second year for which HESA has collected this data and a similar reference volume was published in July 1996 based on data collected about those obtaining qualifications during 1994/95. However, in making year on year comparisons, users should note that in 1994/95 data were only collected for students obtaining qualifications in a ten month period (1 October 1994 to 31 July 1995) whereas in 1995/96 (and in future years) data relate to students qualifying in a twelve month period 1 August to 31 July.

The other reference volumes produced by HESA are:

Resources of Higher Education Institutions - which draws on HESA's collection of data about finance and staff in higher education. Tabulations are included which record and analyse the income and expenditure of universities and colleges (with data shown at institution level) and also about the characteristics of academic staff (including gender balance within academic subject departments, ethnicity, etc.).

Students in Higher Education Institutions - which contains statistical data about all aspects of students in higher education institutions, including their examination results. Tabulations also cover subjects of study at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This publication is aimed at those seriously interested in finding out about issues concerning students in higher education.

While HESA publishes, and commissions others to publish, extensively from the data it collects, it is recognised that specific requirements by some interested parties may not be addressed. Therefore, the agency undertakes to provide a service to answer ad hoc enquiries about the data collected, for which a charge will normally be levied.

This section analyses some of the data contained in the main tables of the volume and presents summary statistics and selected key points.

Information was obtained from 256,900 qualifiers out of a possible 310,790, a response rate of 82.7%. Information about first destinations was linked to information already held by HESA about students and their studies to enable the analyses set out in this volume to be generated.

Table 1 - All Qualifiers by First Destination, Level of Qualification Obtained, Domicile and Gender 1995/96

			Employment in the UK	Employment overseas	Undertaking study or training	Not available for employment, study or training	Assumed to be unemployed	Other	**Total**
Postgraduate	**Home**	Female	13797	534	998	429	786	111	**16655**
		Male	11319	856	1402	217	790	93	**14677**
	Overseas	Female	593	1278	573	38	106	3615	**6203**
		Male	650	2762	838	121	93	5621	**10085**
First Degree	**Home**	Female	57048	2434	18451	4533	6023	1374	**89863**
		Male	50739	1943	15791	3378	7956	1304	**81111**
	Overseas	Female	1028	876	1581	117	221	4655	**8478**
		Male	920	1194	1789	183	181	6537	**10804**
Other Undergraduate	**Home**	Female	4537	54	3671	211	324	73	**8870**
		Male	3224	54	4905	207	542	81	**9013**
	Overseas	Female	110	31	122	10	13	265	**551**
		Male	39	60	153	6	8	324	**590**
Total			**144004**	**12076**	**50274**	**9450**	**17043**	**24053**	**256900**

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Table 1 shows the destinations of all students for whom HESA has information. Overall, 61% of respondents reported employment, including self employment, as their main activity. A further 20% reported that they were undertaking further study or training. Only 7% reported that they were unemployed.

Those gaining postgraduate qualifications were least likely to continue in further study or training, though no more likely than any other group to be employed. However, for these students the information is dominated by the reporting of overseas students, who make up 34% of qualifiers and over half of whom are reported only as returning home. Such students are included in the 'Other' category.

Overall, first degree graduates had the highest unemployment rate, at 8%, and the highest percentage of qualifiers recorded as being unavailable for employment, study or training (4%). The percentage of first degree graduates in employment (61%) and the percentage entering further study or training (20%) reflect the average for all qualifiers.
Almost half (47%) of those obtaining undergraduate qualifications other than first degrees went on to further study or training, and consequently a lower proportion (43%) than among other qualifiers went into employment.

There were few significant differences in destination patterns between the genders, though overall females were less likely to be unemployed (6%) than males (8%) and more likely to be employed (63% compared with 58%). However, these figures were influenced by the pattern of destinations of overseas students of whom 59% were male compared with 49% of students overall.

Table 2 shows information about UK domiciled qualifiers only. Two thirds were reported as being employed, 140,664 (64%) in the UK and 5,875 (3%) overseas. A further 45,218 (21%) were undertaking further study or training. Overall, 7% of UK domiciled qualifiers (8% of first degree graduates) were reported to be unemployed.

Table 2 - First Destination of UK Domiciled Qualifiers by Level of Qualification, Gender and Age Group 1995/96

			Employment in the UK	Employment overseas	Undertaking study or training	Not available for employment, study or training	Assumed to be unemployed	Other	**Total**
Postgraduate	**Female**	Under 25	5761	178	473	111	287	35	**6845**
		25 & Over	7995	354	524	318	489	76	**9756**
	Male	Under 25	3374	134	666	58	250	12	**4494**
		25 & Over	7923	722	735	159	538	81	**10158**
First Degree	**Female**	Under 25	46632	2245	14751	3498	4409	953	**72488**
		25 & Over	10386	188	3696	1035	1608	421	**17334**
	Male	Under 25	40975	1582	12539	2821	6018	997	**64932**
		25 & Over	9747	359	3248	555	1936	307	**16152**
Other Undergraduate	**Female**	Under 25	2578	38	2942	122	196	53	**5929**
		25 & Over	1940	15	719	89	126	20	**2909**
	Male	Under 25	2225	41	3981	148	383	52	**6830**
		25 & Over	993	13	919	59	158	29	**2171**
Total(1)			**140664**	**5875**	**45218**	**8975**	**16421**	**3036**	**220189**

(1) Unknown age counted in Total only.

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These summary statistics mask differences between those qualifying at different levels. At postgraduate level, 80% reported employment in the UK as their main activity, 8% further study and training and 5% reported being unemployed. Statistics for first degree graduates reflect the overall figures while among those gaining other undergraduate qualifications, 43% reported entering employment, 48% continuing with further study and training and 5% unemployment.

There were some notable differences between qualifiers of different ages and genders. Males aged 25 and over gaining first degrees were most likely (12%) of all qualifiers to be unemployed. This compares with 9% of females aged 25 and over gaining first degrees. Among first degree graduates aged under 25, men were again more likely to be unemployed than women (9% compared with 6%). Among males qualifying at postgraduate level, those aged under 25 were more than twice as likely (15%) as those aged 25 and over to continue into further study or training. Among those gaining qualifications at undergraduate level other than first degrees, males were almost twice as likely (6%) to be unemployed than females.

Table 3 - UK Domiciled Qualifiers by First Destination, Level of Qualification and Subject of Study 1995/96

	Employment in the UK	Employment overseas	Undertaking study or training	Not available for employment, study or training	Assumed to be unemployed	Other	**Total**
Postgraduate							
Medicine & Dentistry	517	59	59	13	7	1	**656**
Subjects Allied to Medicine	553	47	91	8	22	1	**722**
Biological Sciences	975	133	157	26	60	5	**1356**
Veterinary Science	47	7	2	1	4	1	**62**
Agriculture & Related Subjects	259	48	34	9	18	0	**368**
Physical Sciences	1400	205	302	30	89	12	**2038**
Mathematical Sciences	273	15	71	7	16	1	**383**
Computer Science	774	43	105	19	73	6	**1020**
Engineering & Technology	1693	125	246	35	99	7	**2205**
Architecture, Building & Planning	255	18	32	4	18	3	**330**
Social, Economic & Political Studies	1430	101	208	53	71	6	**1869**
Law	210	13	119	10	24	2	**378**
Business & Administrative Studies	1516	104	61	45	120	9	**1855**
Librarianship & Information Science	265	8	16	2	8	1	**300**
Languages	456	89	255	28	35	6	**869**
Humanities	493	28	271	45	35	12	**884**
Creative Arts & Design	480	26	82	15	51	23	**677**
Education	13285	299	221	275	789	106	**14975**
Combined	235	22	68	21	37	2	**385**
Undergraduate							
Medicine & Dentistry	3939	6	432	11	10	2	**4400**
Subjects Allied to Medicine	8317	80	911	242	394	54	**9998**
Biological Sciences	5598	202	3568	605	971	186	**11130**
Veterinary Science	320	4	12	1	4	0	**341**
Agriculture & Related Subjects	1612	79	526	130	190	35	**2572**
Physical Sciences	5553	222	3750	522	971	174	**11192**
Mathematical Sciences	1903	29	1054	134	259	22	**3401**
Computer Science	5331	169	1576	188	589	62	**7915**
Engineering & Technology	10323	375	3051	520	1308	185	**15762**
Architecture, Building & Planning	3428	132	1339	187	439	85	**5610**
Social, Economic & Political Studies	10591	331	3468	983	1512	249	**17134**
Law	1731	74	3984	314	292	49	**6444**
Business & Administrative Studies	15391	503	4606	1060	1803	289	**23652**
Librarianship & Information Science	1538	34	194	116	245	31	**2158**
Languages	6413	1023	3509	719	944	186	**12794**
Humanities	4245	231	2521	512	699	129	**8337**
Creative Arts & Design	7912	260	2700	555	1579	621	**13627**
Education	10147	183	454	302	683	120	**11889**
Combined	11256	548	5163	1228	1953	353	**20501**
Total	**140664**	**5875**	**45218**	**8975**	**16421**	**3036**	**220189**

Table 3 shows the destinations of students according to the subject of their qualification. These are shown separately for those who gained postgraduate qualifications and those qualifying at undergraduate level. Among postgraduates the overall unemployment rate was 5%. This varied across subjects from 1% of Medicine and Dentistry qualifiers to 10% of those who gained qualifications in the Combined subject area. Overall, 8% of postgraduate qualifiers went on to further study or training, with this proportion varying very widely across subject areas. Law(31%), Humanities (31%) and Languages (29%) had the highest proportion of postgraduate qualifiers who went on to further study and Education (1%), Veterinary Science (3%) and Business and Administrative Studies (3%) the lowest.

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Of those qualifying at undergraduate level, 7% were unemployed and 21% were undertaking further study. Those who had studied Creative Arts and Design (12%) and Librarianship and Information Science (11%) were most likely to be unemployed and those qualified in Medicine and Dentistry (less than 0.5%) and Veterinary Science (1%) least likely. Those qualifying in Veterinary Science and Education (both 4%) were least likely to continue into further study and those qualifying in Law (62%) most likely.

These subject differences are influenced by the training structures of many professions. Since the numbers of Medicine and Dentistry students is strictly controlled and planned centrally to meet national manpower requirements, it is not surprising that very few of those qualifying in Medicine and Dentistry are unemployed. Some qualifications at both undergraduate (B.Ed., etc.) and postgraduate (Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)) level in Education lead directly to professional accreditation so qualifiers do not need to undertake further study. Qualifiers in Law, however, need to continue professional training after qualification for entry to the profession.

Table 4 includes only those UK domiciled qualifiers reported as having entered employment and shows the type of occupations which they entered. By far the highest proportion (39%) of those leaving higher education entered professional occupations with this category including, among others, scientists, engineers, health professionals, teachers, lawyers, accountants, surveyors and librarians. Among postgraduate qualifiers the majority (77%) entered such occupations, though this would have been heavily influenced by the numbers with PGCE qualifications who would be expected to enter teaching.

Table 4 - UK Domiciled Qualifiers Entering Employment by Level of Qualification, Gender and Standard Occupational Classification 1995/96

	Managers & Administrators	Professional Occupations	Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	Clerical & Secretarial Occupations	Craft & Related Occupations	Personal & Protective Service Occupations	Sales Occupations	Plant & Machine Operatives	Other Occupations	Unknown	**Total**
Doctorate degrees											
Female	57	1071	90	8	0	2	4	0	18	7	1257
Male	101	1972	207	15	4	7	10	4	39	16	2375
Other PG degrees											
Female	607	2052	972	200	8	47	60	3	122	44	4115
Male	1087	2635	1134	157	23	60	76	9	200	79	5460
PGCE											
Female	60	8591	81	90	2	59	44	7	18	7	8959
Male	43	4096	60	59	10	17	13	8	29	5	4340
First degrees											
Female	9418	17764	10687	10888	343	3771	4809	285	1266	251	59482
Male	8821	17352	10291	6340	1034	2034	3526	762	2169	353	52682
Other UG											
Female	476	674	2260	546	51	207	247	15	91	24	4591
Male	573	509	910	351	212	144	256	77	207	39	3278
Total	**21243**	**56716**	**26692**	**18654**	**1687**	**6348**	**9045**	**1170**	**4159**	**825**	**146539**

Overall there were very few differences in the occupations entered by males and females, the only noticeable difference being in the proportion who entered Clerical and Secretarial occupations (15% of females and 10% of males). This difference can be seen among qualifiers at all levels except those gaining doctorate qualifications and PGCEs. Among those qualifying at postgraduate level, 82% of females and 71% of males entered professional occupations. Again this was influenced by PGCE qualifications where females made up two thirds (67%) of all those who entered employment.

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Table 5 also shows only those UK domiciled qualifiers reported as entering employment, but this time shows information about the business sector of the organisation which they entered. The highest percentages entered organisations in the Education sector (20%) and organisations involved in the diverse area of Property Development, Renting, Business and Research Activities (17%). The destinations of those obtaining postgraduate qualifications were predominantly in the Education sector (59% of all postgraduate qualifiers and 69% of the women).

Among those graduating with first degrees, Education sector organisations are less predominant (12%) as a first destination and were on a par with Health and Social Work organisations and Manufacturing. However, Education (17%) and Health and Social Work (16%) were the most popular destinations for women. Among those gaining undergraduate qualifications other than first degrees, employment in the Health and Social Work sector predominated, taking 38% of all qualifiers (53% of women qualifiers).

Table 5 - UK Domiciled Qualifiers Entering Employment by Level of Qualification, Gender and Standard Industrial Classification 1995/96

	Postgraduate		First Degrees		Other Undergraduate		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Agriculture & Forestry	31	57	231	467	64	166	1016
Fishing	2	6	8	22	2	1	41
Mining & Quarrying	28	137	155	445	2	14	781
Manufacturing	497	1096	5441	7931	253	475	15693
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	50	122	506	701	19	29	1427
Construction	35	122	371	1866	20	121	2535
Wholesale & Retail Trade/Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles & Personal & Household Goods	167	179	7046	5214	363	412	13381
Hotels & Restaurants	33	35	2429	1651	240	188	4576
Transport, Storage & Communication	128	303	2208	2606	120	154	5519
Financial Activities	138	376	3430	4064	138	144	8290
Property Development, Renting, Business & Research Activities	920	1835	9096	12276	250	482	24859
Public Administration & Defence/Social Security	784	907	3475	3235	318	231	8950
Education	9846	5786	10292	3593	88	67	29672
Health & Social Work	1135	613	9757	4178	2454	504	18641
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	369	365	3779	3383	195	231	8322
Private Households with Employed Persons	10	1	222	23	13	3	272
International Organisations & Bodies	28	27	98	52	1	0	206
Unknown	130	208	938	975	51	56	2358
Total	**14331**	**12175**	**59482**	**52682**	**4591**	**3278**	**146539**

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Table 6 presents more information about UK domiciled qualifiers entering employment. This table sets out the nature of employment - full or part-time, paid or unpaid, UK or overseas and the duration of any contract. The table also shows the numbers who were self-employed. These latter numbers were small, representing only 2% of those employed. Only among males obtaining undergraduate qualifications other than first degrees was the number of self-employed significantly higher than this average at 5%. The numbers working overseas were also small (4%) with the only significant difference being among male postgraduates at 7%. Only 2% of qualifiers reported being in unpaid employment.

Table 6 - All UK Domiciled Qualifiers Entering Employment by Level of Qualification, Gender, Employment Category and Duration of Employment 1995/96

	Employment in the UK											
	Paid employment											
	Full-time				Part-time							
	Terminates in the period up to 31 March 1997	Terminates after 31 March but before 30 September 1997	Terminates after 30 September 1997/Not fixed term	Termination date not known	Terminates in the period up to 31 March 1997	Terminates after 31 March but before 30 September 1997	Terminates after 30 September 1997/Not fixed term	Termination date not known	Self-employed	Unpaid Employment	Employment overseas	**Total Employed(1)**
Postgraduate												
Female	518	1497	9151	776	137	249	474	200	202	117	526	**14331**
Male	382	801	8129	763	86	103	220	111	287	83	842	**12175**
First Degree												
Female	4646	6111	33036	3965	820	749	3169	799	1104	1326	2401	**59482**
Male	3900	4153	33004	3478	436	340	1596	448	1509	707	1901	**52682**
Other Undergraduate												
Female	161	206	3073	423	30	43	254	63	84	24	53	**4591**
Male	132	158	2106	312	14	18	136	29	154	29	53	**3278**
Total	**9739**	**12926**	**88499**	**9717**	**1523**	**1502**	**5849**	**1650**	**3340**	**2286**	**5776**	**146539**

(1) Includes all unknowns.

Among those employed full-time, 73% had contracts which ended after 30 September 1997 or which were permanent. 19% were reported as being in employment ending before that date. Among those working part-time, there was more bias towards shorter contracts with 29% ending before 30 September and 56% after that date or permanent. Among those in full-time employment, first degree graduates were the group least likely (72%) to have contracts ending after 30 September or which were permanent. Among both postgraduate qualifiers and those gaining first degrees, females were more likely than males to have jobs which ended before 30 September. However, among those with part-time jobs this gender difference was only significant among those gaining undergraduate qualifications other than first degrees.

Table 7 shows more detailed information about those UK domiciled qualifiers who went on to further study or training. A total of 45,218 qualifiers reported their main activity as further study or training. Of these the highest number, 16,381 (36%) were on postgraduate diploma and certificate courses, including PGCEs. Of those obtaining undergraduate diplomas and certificates, 94% of those who continued studying registered for a first degree. Very few (169) of those obtaining doctorate qualifications went on to further study. Of those who did, 39% were taking postgraduate diplomas/certificates or were on a professional training course.

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Table 7 - UK Domiciled Qualifiers Entering Further Study or Training by Level of Qualification, Gender and Type of Study 1995/96

	Higher degree by research	Higher degree - taught	Diploma or certificate (including PGCE) or professional training course	First degree course	Private study	Other study or training	**Total**
Doctorate degrees							
Female	14	3	25	3	1	6	**52**
Male	39	8	41	11	6	12	**117**
Other PG degrees							
Female	613	32	148	7	6	23	**829**
Male	938	73	153	11	6	24	**1205**
PGCE							
Female	16	45	42	4	1	9	**117**
Male	19	29	22	3	0	7	**80**
First degrees							
Female	1803	5041	10057	608	98	844	**18451**
Male	2798	5943	5660	670	107	613	**15791**
Other UG diplomas/certificates							
Female	3	32	129	3449	10	48	**3671**
Male	6	96	104	4594	13	92	**4905**
Total	**6249**	**11302**	**16381**	**9360**	**248**	**1678**	**45218**

Table 2 showed that around 20% of both male and female first degree graduates went on to further study. Table 7 shows, however, that this masks differences in the types of further study between the genders. Among first degree graduates, over half (55%) of women who continued studying went on to study for postgraduate diplomas, including PGCEs compared with just over a third (36%) of men. Male first degree graduates were almost twice as likely as women(18% compared with 10%)to study for a higher degree by research and significantly more likely to study for a taught higher degree (38% of men and 27% of women).

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