Notes on Institutional Tables

It should be noted that a number of nursing colleges merged with higher education institutions in 1996/97.

The figures for the Queen's University of Belfast also include students studying at the Northern Ireland teacher training establishments.

Data returned by the Open University in 1996/97 provided a split between part-time first year students and other year students for the first time. Students taking Open University credits were all returned as studying at undergraduate level, although some were studying postgraduate level courses. This has the effect of apparently reducing part-time postgraduate numbers.

It is known that first year full-time postgraduate research students were under-reported for the University of Leeds. Total figures are not affected.

It is known that qualifications obtained were under-reported for the following institutions: De Montfort University, Sheffield Hallam University, South Bank University and the University of Paisley.

Some institutions returned awards from dormant status for the first time in 1996/97. Some institutions returned as awards from dormant status qualifications obtained by students who were actively following a programme of study at some stage in the reporting period 1996/97.

In 1996/97 for the first time, it has been possible for HESA, by using a new coding structure, to differentiate between unclassified first degrees (e.g. those in clinical subjects, which are predominantly awarded without classification) and those degrees awarded as "Pass/Unclassified" after completion of an honours programme. Classification of degree tables, which aggregate third class and pass degrees, are therefore not comparable with figures shown in previous volumes, but aim to provide a better representation of the proportion of students obtaining particular classifications. However, there is a small number of institutions which have not been able to adapt to the new coding structure in this first year, and therefore in the tables there are some students, mostly of clinical subjects, who are incorrectly assigned to the category "Third class/Pass".

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