

Definitions

A. HESA Student Data

Coverage

Higher education (HE) students are those students on programmes of study that are of a standard that is higher than the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education, the Higher Grade of the Scottish Certificate of Education, or the BTEC or SCOTVEC National Certificate/Diploma.

The HESA Student Record contains information about individual **enrolments**, which, because a student can be enrolled on more than one programme of study, will exceed the number of students. For ease of reading however, the terms enrolment and student have been used interchangeably throughout this volume.

The **HESA standard HE population** (Tables 0 to 7 and 20) has been derived from the HESA July Individualised Student Record. It includes all HE enrolments as at 1 December 1997 except (i) dormant students (those who have ceased studying but have not formally de-registered), (ii) postdoctoral students and (iii) students studying for the whole of their programme of study outside of the United Kingdom (UK). Students who left the institution prior to 1 December 1997, or who commenced a programme of study after this date are not included in the figures.

The **HESA session HE population** (Table 1) has been derived from the HESA July Individualised Student Record. It includes all HE enrolments active at any point in the academic year 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998 except (i) dormant students (those who have ceased studying but have not formally de-registered), (ii) postdoctoral students and (iii) students studying for the whole of their programme of study outside of the UK.

The **HESA qualifications obtained population** (Tables 5 and 8) is a count of student enrolments associated with the award of an HE qualification (excluding HE credits) during the period 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998 inclusive. It does not include dormant students. This population includes all qualifications obtained during the 1997/98 reporting year which were returned to HESA by 15 November 1998.

Data relating to qualifications obtained cannot therefore be directly compared to the HESA standard HE population as it is possible for a student who has obtained his or her qualification prior to 1 December 1998 to be included in Tables 5 and 8 but excluded from Tables 1 to 7 and 20 (similarly a student can commence a programme of study and obtain a qualification after 1 December 1998).

Further Education

Further education (FE) students are those students on programmes of study at HE institutions who are studying at a standard that is equal to or lower than the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education, the Higher Grade of the Scottish Certificate of Education, or the BTEC or SCOTVEC National Certificate/Diploma.

The **HESA standard FE population** (Table 1) has been derived from the HESA July Individualised Student Record. It is a count of all enrolments at HE institutions studying at FE level as at 1 December 1997 except dormant students (those who have ceased studying but have not formally de-registered). Students who left the institution prior to 1 December 1997, or who commenced a programme of study after this date are not included in the figures.

Full-time Equivalent

Student **full-time equivalent (FTE)** data (Table 1) represents the institutions assessment of the full-time equivalence of the student during the reporting year 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998. The FTE data is based on the **HESA session population**.

Mode of Study

Full-time students include all students studying full-time (for more than 18 weeks in the academic year), students on thick or thin **sandwich** courses (except where they have been tabulated separately), and those on a study-related year out of their institution.

Part-time students include those studying part-time, on block release, during the evenings only or full-time for less than 18 weeks in the academic year.

Other modes of study includes students writing-up theses or those on sabbatical.

Level of Study

Postgraduate programmes of study are those leading to higher degrees, diplomas and certificates (including Postgraduate Certificates of Education (PGCEs) and professional qualifications) which usually require a first degree as an entry qualification.

Higher degrees include doctorates, masters degrees and higher bachelors degrees.

Other postgraduate includes postgraduate diplomas, certificates and professional qualifications, PGCE, institutional postgraduate credits and no formal postgraduate qualification.

First degrees includes first degrees, first degrees with qualified teacher status/registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, enhanced first degrees, first degrees obtained concurrently with a diploma and intercalated first degrees.

Other undergraduate includes Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), foundation courses at HE level, HND, HNC, NVQ/SVQ levels 5 and 4, post-degree diplomas and certificates at undergraduate level, professional qualifications at undergraduate level, other undergraduate diplomas and certificates, other formal HE qualifications of less than degree standard, institutional undergraduate credit and no formal undergraduate qualifications.

First Year Students

First year students are those in their first year of a programme of study. In some cases the student's first year of study may be the second or subsequent year of a programme.

Domicile

Domicile data was supplied to HESA in the form of postcodes (UK domiciled students) or country codes. Postcodes were mapped to counties and unitary authorities and UK nations following consultation with Geoplan Postcode Marketing. Countries were mapped to geographical regions following consultation with the Department for Education and Employment. Where no data was supplied about the student's domicile, fee eligibility was used to determine whether domicile was UK, or overseas.

UK domiciled students are those normally resident in the UK, including those living in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Of those students from overseas, **other European Union (EU)** students are those normally resident in countries which were EU members as at 1 December 1997. **Other overseas** students are those whose normal place of residence prior to commencing their programme of study was outside the EU.

Age

Age is as at 31 August 1997.

Subject Areas

Programmes of study have been aggregated to 19 broad **subject areas**. The relationship of the academic content of the programme to the 19 areas has been compiled according to the following rules:

- a programme with a single subject is allocated to its area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within one area, the programme is allocated to that area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with a major/minor split, the programme is allocated to the area relating to the major part of study.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with an equal split, the programme is allocated to the 'Combined' area.

It should be noted that all subject combinations (major or minor) containing initial teacher training (ITT) are included in the 'Education' subject area.

Highest Qualification on Entry

It should be noted that a student's **highest qualification on entry** is not necessarily that required for entry to the institution. Categories used are:

Postgraduate qualifications (excluding PGCE) includes all postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates excluding the Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

PGCE - as described.

First degree of UK institution - as described.

Other graduate and equivalent qualifications include graduate qualifications obtained outside the UK, NVQ/SVQ level 5 plus any other qualifications at graduate level not listed above.

HE credits include Open University credits and credits from other UK HE institutions.

Other HE and professional qualifications include certificates and diplomas of education, HNC or HND (including BTEC and SCOTVEC equivalents), diplomas in HE, NVQ/SVQ level 4 and professional qualifications.

GCE A-level, SCE Highers and equivalent - as described plus ONC or OND (including BTEC and SCOTVEC equivalents).

A-level equivalent vocational qualifications include GNVQ/GSVQ level 3 and NVQ/SVQ level 3.

ACCESS courses - as described (both accredited and unaccredited).

GCSE/O-level qualifications only; SCE O grades and Standard grades - as described.

Other qualifications include International Baccalaureate, foundation courses, GNVQ/GSVQ levels 1 and 2, NVQ/SVQ levels 1 and 2, and any other qualifications not listed above.

No qualification required/held - the institution does not require the student to hold a qualification on entry or it is known that the student has no qualification.

Not known - nothing is known about the student's qualifications on entry to their programme of study.

Location of Institution

The allocation of an institution to a geographical region relates only to the administrative centre of the institution. There may be students registered at institutions who are studying in regions other than that of the administrative centre of the institution. The Open University is counted as a wholly English institution. The administrative centre is located in England, although The Open University teaches throughout the UK..

Classification

Certain qualifications obtained at first degree level are not subject to classification of award, notably medical and general degrees. These, together with ordinary degrees, have been included within the unclassified category. Third class honours, fourth class honours and the pass category have been aggregated. Lower second and undivided second class honours have been aggregated.

B. HESA First Destination Supplement (FDS) Data

Coverage

The **HESA FDS target population** includes all students reported to HESA for the reporting period 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998 as obtaining relevant qualifications (see 'Level of Qualification Obtained' section) and whose study was primarily full-time (including sandwich students and those writing up theses). The definition of full-time is different from that used in the section HESA student data. In particular, writing-up students **are included** in the definition of full-time on the first destination return, but **not** on the Individualised Student Record.

The **HESA FDS target population** therefore contains all HE students for whom first destination data was expected. However, the figures contained in this volume reflect the destinations of only the students for whom data was provided to HESA by institutions. Approximately 83.1% of students for whom first destination information was expected had data returned to HESA.

The **reference date** for the FDS was 31 December 1998. Institutions were asked to report the destinations of qualifiers in the target population which had been firmly determined by this date and which took effect not later than 31 March 1999.

Relevant qualifications for the first destination return are postgraduate degrees, PGCEs, first degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education, Certificates of Higher Education, Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates. Therefore the population for the FDS return does not necessarily represent the full cohort graduating during the reporting period.

Level of Qualification Obtained

Postgraduate qualifications include doctorate degrees, masters degrees, higher bachelors degrees and PGCEs.

First degrees are first degrees, first degrees with qualified teacher status/registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, enhanced first degrees and first degrees obtained concurrently with diplomas.

Other undergraduate qualifications are all higher education qualifications not included above which are within the scope of the FDS.

Age

Age on completion is as at 31 July 1998.

Subject Areas

Programmes of study have been aggregated to 19 broad **subject areas**. The relationship of the academic content of the programme to the 19 areas has been compiled according to the following rules:

- a programme with a single subject is allocated to its area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within one area, the programme is allocated to that area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with a major/minor split, the programme is allocated to the area relating to the major part of study.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with an equal split, the programme is allocated to the 'Combined' area.

It should be noted that all subject combinations (major or minor) containing initial teacher training (ITT) are included in the 'Education' subject area.

First Destination

All former students for whom first destination data was supplied reported a **main activity** (i.e. a respondent's first destination could not be given as 'unknown'). The main activities specified by HESA, and therefore the codes into which respondents reported principal activity needed to be assigned were:

- 01 Entered work (paid or unpaid, including voluntary work)
- 02 Returned to/Remained with previous employer
- 03 Self-employed
- 04 Undertaking study or training
- 05 Seeking employment or training
- 06 Not available for employment, study or training
- 07 Overseas student returning overseas (no other information available)

A respondent could also have a **secondary activity**.

Codes available were:

- 01 Full-time employment (paid or unpaid, including voluntary work)
- 02 Part-time employment (paid or unpaid, including voluntary work)
- 03 Self-employed
- 04 Full-time further study or training
- 05 Part-time further study or training
- 06 Professional preparation time, e.g. portfolio preparation
- 07 Looking for a job or course
- 09 No other activity

It should be noted that, in compiling the tables in this volume, unless otherwise stated below, the destination of a respondent has been taken to be their main activity.

The definition of **employed/employment** includes main activity codes 01, 02 and 03.

The definition of **assumed to be unemployed** is those students with 05 as their main activity and 07 or 09 as their secondary activity.

The definition of **others** is those students with 05 as their main activity and 01, 02, 03, 04, 05 or 06 as their secondary activity.

The Standard Occupational Classification

The **Standard Occupational Classification** (SOC) was developed as an interdepartmental standard for coding occupational information in official survey and census sources, and to facilitate the job matching/placing activities of the Employment Service. An expanded version of the SOC has been created for the coding of occupational information contained in the survey of first destinations of qualifiers from HE institutions. This classification is termed the SOC(FDS). As far as possible, comparability with other SOC-based data sources is provided at the **major group** level.

C. HESA Non-credit-bearing (NCB) Course Data

Coverage

The figures contained in Table 10 relate to student enrolments on courses with the reporting institution or a subsidiary company (excluding in-house courses for institutional employees) which do not lead to a qualification or institutional credit. These enrolments were reported to HESA during the reporting period **1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998**.

Level of Course

Courses have been allocated to two categories, **HE/advanced** and **FE/non-advanced**. HE/advanced courses are defined as those for which the level of instruction is above that of courses leading to GCE A-levels, SCE Highers, ONC and OND. **All levels** includes, in addition to the above, courses which were classed as mixed HE/FE and courses for which the level could not be determined.

Subject Areas

The subjects of NCB courses have been aggregated to 19 broad **subject areas**. The relationship of the academic content of the course to the 19 areas has been compiled according to the following rules:

- a programme with a single subject is allocated to its area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within one area, the programme is allocated to that area.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with a major/minor split, the programme is allocated to the area relating to the major part of study.
- if a combination of two subjects lies within more than one area, with an equal split, the programme is allocated to the 'Combined' area.
- subject combinations containing education are included in the 'Education' subject area.

D. HESA Staff Data

Coverage

Academic staff are defined as those whose primary employment function is **teaching only, teaching & research or research only**. Staff data relates to individual academic appointments (of at least 25% full-time equivalence) active during the academic year 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998. The population excludes those members of staff who left their employment (but not necessarily the institution) before 1 August 1997.

Mode of Employment

Full-time staff are those whose contracts state that their mode of employment is full-time.

Part-time staff are those whose salaries are regular and calculated as a proportion of the full-time rate. This category also includes casual staff, those paid hourly and any staff whose mode of employment could not be assigned as full-time.

Principal Source of Salary

Wholly institutionally financed staff are those who are paid wholly from general institution funds.

Principally institutionally financed staff are paid mainly from general institution funds and partly from another source.

Other sources of finance include staff paid mainly or wholly from sources other than general institution funds. These other sources include OST research councils, UK charities, UK government bodies health & hospital authorities, UK industry, commerce & public corporations, EU sources, other overseas sources and other sources not listed.

Clinical Status

Non-clinical staff are those not on clinical rates whether medically qualified or not.

Clinical staff are those on clinical rates whether or not holding honorary contracts with the NHS.

Primary Employment Function

Teaching/teaching & research staff are those whose contracts of employment state that they are teaching only or teaching and research.

Research only staff are those whose contracts of employment state that they are research only.

Grade

The grade structure indicates a staff member's grade for their present employment. Groups of grades have been devised with regard to the different grading scales used within different institutions. Grades have not however, been linked to salary information.

Professors includes heads of departments, professors, former UAP scale researchers (grade IV), clinical professors and those appointed professors on a locally determined scale.

Senior lecturers & researchers includes principal lecturers, senior lecturers (former UAP/CSCFC scales), former UAP scale researchers (grade III), clinical senior lecturers and those appointed senior or principal lecturers on a locally determined scale.

Lecturers includes lecturers, senior lecturers (former PCEF scale), clinical lecturers and those appointed lecturers on a locally determined scale.

Researchers includes all research grades not listed above and those researchers appointed on a locally determined scale.

Other grades includes other grades of academic staff not listed above.

Analysis by 'staff grade' is only meaningful where institutions have reported their staff within nationally recognised grade structures or within internal grade structures which facilitate differentiation on a similar basis. Several institutions, including some large post-1992 universities, report their staff on a single grade structure, and therefore, for example, the number of professors is significantly under-counted for these institutions, and for the sector as a whole. The Agency therefore advises caution in analysis of staff by grade.

E. HESA Finance Data

Coverage

Financial data in Tables 17 and 18 relates to the institutions' financial year, i.e. 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1998.

Sources of Income

Funding Council Grants

Funding council grants include those from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), the Teacher Training Agency (TTA) and the Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI).

HE provision includes recurrent grants and capital grants as defined below in respect of higher education provision, except in Scotland where this category also includes grants for FE provision.

Recurrent grants includes the block grant (or main and associated grants) for teaching, research and other recurrent grants as stated in the annual grant letters or additional letters from the funding council.

Capital grants includes all non-recurrent grants from the funding council to support special initiatives and capital grants in respect of buildings and equipment.

FE provision includes all funding council grants for the provision of FE. This category does not apply to SHEFC funded institutions as they do not receive separately identified grants for FE provision.

Academic Fees and Support Grants

This includes all income received in respect of fees for students on courses for which fees are charged.

Full-time HE fees - home rates includes fees for full-time and sandwich degree, diploma and other HE credit-bearing courses for UK domiciled and non-UK domiciled (including EU) students charged at the mandatory home rate.

Full-time HE fees - other rates includes fees for full-time and sandwich degree, diploma and other HE credit-bearing courses for students who are charged overseas, full-cost and other fees regardless of domicile.

Other fees & support grants includes (i) fees for degree, diploma and other HE credit-bearing courses for part-time students, (ii) all fee income received in respect of non-credit-bearing liberal adult education, non-credit-bearing continuing education or extra-mural courses and (iii) fee income received for the provision of FE/non-advanced courses and Department of Health/regional health authorities teaching contract courses (including Project "2000"). Also included in this section is income received from other institutions as payment for the teaching of students principally registered at those institutions and all grants made by research councils and other bodies in support of the training of research students (including bench fees and CASE awards).

Research Grants and Contracts

This includes all income in respect of externally sponsored research carried out by the institution for which directly related expenditure has been incurred.

Other Operating Income

Other services rendered includes all income in respect of services rendered to outside bodies, including the supply of goods and consultancies.

Residences and catering operations includes the gross income from residences, catering and conference operations.

Other general income includes grants from local authorities, income from health and hospital authorities, income released from deferred capital grants, income from intellectual property rights and all other operating income not covered above.

Endowment Income and Interest Receivable

This includes all income from specific endowments, general endowments and interest receivable.

Categories of Expenditure

Staff costs includes costs in respect of academic staff (defined as staff whose primary employment function is teaching &/or research) and all other staff, paid from within the budgets of academic departments and allocated to the appropriate cost centre.

Other costs include **depreciation** (depreciation costs on equipment capitalised according to where the assets being depreciated are located), **other operating expenses** (costs in respect of payments to non-contracted staff or individuals, all other non-staff costs, equipment which has not been depreciated, expenditure on maintenance contracts and telephone costs (calls, rental and non-capitalised equipment) if not charged to departments) and **interest payable** (costs in respect of interest payable on premises, residences and catering operations, and other expenditure).

Expenditure Activities

Academic Departments

This includes all expenditure directly incurred by or on behalf of academic departments which is not reimbursable by research councils or other bodies in respect of work carried out on their behalf.

Academic Services

This includes expenditure incurred on centralised academic services such as the library, learning resource centres, central computers, etc.

Administration and Central Services

This includes expenditure incurred on central administration, general educational expenditure and staff and student facilities and amenities.

Premises

This includes all expenditure incurred on the maintenance of premises and on roads and ground (except residences and catering).

Residences and Catering Operations

This includes expenditure incurred in providing the residence, catering and any conference operations, including the cost of maintenance of residential and catering premises, salaries and any other identifiable costs relating to these operations.

Research Grants and Contracts

This section includes the total of the direct costs attributed to research grants and contracts as detailed for research grants and contracts income.

Other

This section includes the total of the direct costs attributed to other services rendered and any expenditure not covered by other expenditure activities.

F. UCAS Data

Coverage

1997 Entry

The term institution is used to cover the 255 participating members of UCAS (all the UK universities, with the exception of The Open University, most colleges of HE and some colleges of FE offering courses of higher education) for 1997 entry. The list includes 63 new institutions (largely art & design colleges), while 5 colleges merged with other member institutions.

1998 Entry

The term institution is used to cover the 254 participating members of UCAS (all UK universities, with the exception of The Open University, most colleges of HE and some colleges of FE offering courses of HE) for 1998 entry. The list includes 10 new institutions, while 7 colleges merged with either new or existing member institutions.

Whole Population

Applicants are those who send an application form to UCAS containing at least one degree, DipHE or HND course at a university or college in membership of the scheme. The total number of applicants is those whose forms were processed by UCAS, irrespective of when they applied and whether or not they withdrew during the applications cycle. With regard to subject preference, applicants are classified according to the most frequently listed subject amongst their applications.

Accepted applicants are those who have been offered and accepted a place on a degree, DipHE or HND course at a university or college in membership of the scheme, whether or not they subsequently enrol for the course. Those who applied too late for usual procedures and were accepted ('late registrations') are included in the total applicant figure and in the acceptances through 'Clearing'.

Applicants are classed as **home (UK)** or **overseas** based on the area of permanent residence given by them on the application form. There is no direct correlation between the classification used in the UCAS tables and that used as a basis for fees assessment.

Classification of Academic Subjects

The classification used by UCAS is based on that formerly used by the Polytechnics Central Admissions Systems (PCAS) and the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA), which differs to some extent from the HESA classification of subject areas.

More detailed definitions are contained within the **UCAS Annual Report, 1998 Entry**.

Region of Domicile or Region of Institution

The region of domicile for UK applicants and the region of institution which offered them a place (for both degree and HND courses) is identified using Government Office Regions (GORs), which are now employed in government statistics. These GORs replace the former Standard Statistical Regions (SSRs). It should be noted that Greater London is an exception, and is shown separately from the South East. The main changes are:

- East Anglia now includes Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex (previously within the South East) and becomes the Eastern region.
- Merseyside has now attained the status of a separate GOR (previously within the North West).
- Cumbria has transferred from the former North to the redefined North West region.
- Yorkshire & Humberside region is now known as Yorkshire & the Humber.

For the reasons stated above, comparisons of the 1998 regional data with data for earlier years should not be made.

G. The Open University Applications and Admissions Data

General

In 1997 The Open University adopted a new registration process, moving away from programme based registration to course based registration. Students were also invited to provide an award intention but as this was optional Tables 14 and 15 include information for all undergraduate level students. Another change in 1997 was the lifting of entry requirements for post-level 1 entry, and 'new students' now includes all students commencing undergraduate level study with the university. Therefore comparisons with previous years should be regarded with caution. It should also be noted that a student can reserve and register on more than one course in the same or different subject areas.

Students

An **undergraduate student** is registered on an undergraduate level course with the intention of achieving a first degree (i.e. BA, BSc or BA Honours, BSc Honours), undergraduate certificate or diploma and Open University credits.

Regions

In Tables 15a and 15b students are allocated to 1 of 13 regions. The criterion for classification is based on the location of the study centre the student attends.

H. Student Loans Data

The numbers of students taking out loans, and the amounts borrowed, have been obtained from data supplied to the DfEE by the **Students Loans Company**.

Loans are available to most 'home' students on full-time or sandwich undergraduate courses, and to students on full-time and part-time postgraduate courses of initial teacher training (PGCEs). The loans are limited to those who are aged less than 50 years old when they begin their course.

Figures obtained from HESA statistics indicate that the number of students eligible for student loans in UK universities and publicly-funded HE institutions was over 881,000 in the academic year 1997/98. In addition, it is estimated that some 74,000 students on HE courses in FE institutions and a further 9,000 students attending designated courses at National Health Service (NHS) institutions, at overseas and at private institutions are also eligible. These student population figures have been used to calculate the take-up rate in Table 19.

I. International Comparisons Data

The DfEE supplies summary statistics on behalf of the UK, to a joint questionnaire compiled by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Table 21 has been compiled using data supplied by various countries to the international bodies and in particular, data derived from the OECD's own publication, 'Education at a Glance'. There are inevitably a number of problems of comparability and interpretation in using this table, and readers are advised to read the footnotes carefully. The main aspects to be borne in mind are;

- The underlying educational systems need to be understood, and the statistics adjusted to a standardised form as far as possible. As an aid to understanding the differences between the various countries, up to date information about the different educational systems in the EU is available from Epic Europe, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 2DQ.
- HE is defined in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) handbook as 'more specialised study normally undertaken after successful completion of a good basic education lasting at least eleven years'. This definition may be interpreted differently by different countries. Figures for HE in the United States, for instance, may cover some courses akin to FE in the UK; and Japanese HE figures do not include some FE courses which are more akin to HE in the UK.
- Within HE three sub-divisions are recognised, numbered 5, 6 and 7 (sometimes referred to as 'levels' or 'stages'). Level 5 courses are below degree standard and are often more geared to specific occupations. In the UK these include the DipHE, BTEC Higher National (HND/HNC), nursing, and other professional qualifications. Level 6 covers first degree courses (or their equivalent), while level 7 consists of programmes which are usually postgraduate in content. As with the definition of HE itself, the sub-division of statistics into these three levels for each country are reported using the local interpretation of these definitions. Further problems exist in the compilation of each country's figures where institutions cover more than one of the education levels, so that estimates are required to assign the figures between levels.
- Part-time study should be taken into account and numbers of enrolments adjusted to full-time equivalents in certain contents.
- The range of public and private provision and definition of the public/private sectors will vary from country to country.
- Participation rates can be influenced by a number of factors including varying course lengths and drop out rates.
- Qualification rates provide an approximate measure of the proportion of young people obtaining bachelors and masters degrees. In some countries the masters degree is the first degree in HE. The graduation rates for masters degrees in these countries are therefore generally higher than for those in the UK but lower than our graduation rates for bachelors degrees