

# 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 source dataset is the July 1996 Individualised Student Record, which contains up to 150 data items per student enrolment returned from more than 180 institutions. **Students in Higher Education Institutions** contains statistical data about all aspects of students in higher education institutions (HEIs), including their examination results. Tabulations also cover subjects of study at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. 1995/96 was the second cycle of data collection undertaken by HESA. A similar reference volume was published in May 1996 based on the first data collection made in 1994/95. Details of the data definitions used in compiling this volume from this comprehensive database can be found in the Definitions section.

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.).

**First Destinations of Students Leaving Higher Education Institutions** - which includes statistics about the first destinations of graduates, including employment rates, participation in further education and training, etc. A summary tabulation at institution level is included.

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.

## Higher Education Students in United Kingdom Higher Education Institutions 1995/96

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

### Student Population

Table A - All students by Level of Course, Mode of Study and Domicile 1995/96

	UK			Overseas			Total
	Full-time(1)	Part-time(2)	Total	Full-time(1)	Part-time(2)	Total	
Postgraduate Research	29651	35956	<b>65607</b>	17230	11172	<b>28402</b>	<b>94009</b>
Postgraduate Taught	60173	161915	<b>222088</b>	28294	25728	<b>54022</b>	<b>276110</b>
<b>Total Postgraduate</b>	<b>89824</b>	<b>197871</b>	<b>287695</b>	<b>45524</b>	<b>36900</b>	<b>82424</b>	<b>370119</b>
First Degree	782046	180745	<b>962791</b>	77343	8470	<b>85813</b>	<b>1048604</b>
Other Undergraduate	91194	182068	<b>273262</b>	21910	6199	<b>28109</b>	<b>301371</b>
<b>Total Undergraduate</b>	<b>873240</b>	<b>362813</b>	<b>1236053</b>	<b>99253</b>	<b>14669</b>	<b>113922</b>	<b>1349975</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>963064</b>	<b>560684</b>	<b>1523748</b>	<b>144777</b>	<b>51569</b>	<b>196346</b>	<b>1720094</b>

Derived from Tables 1a, 1c, 1e, 1g, 7 and the HESA July Student Record

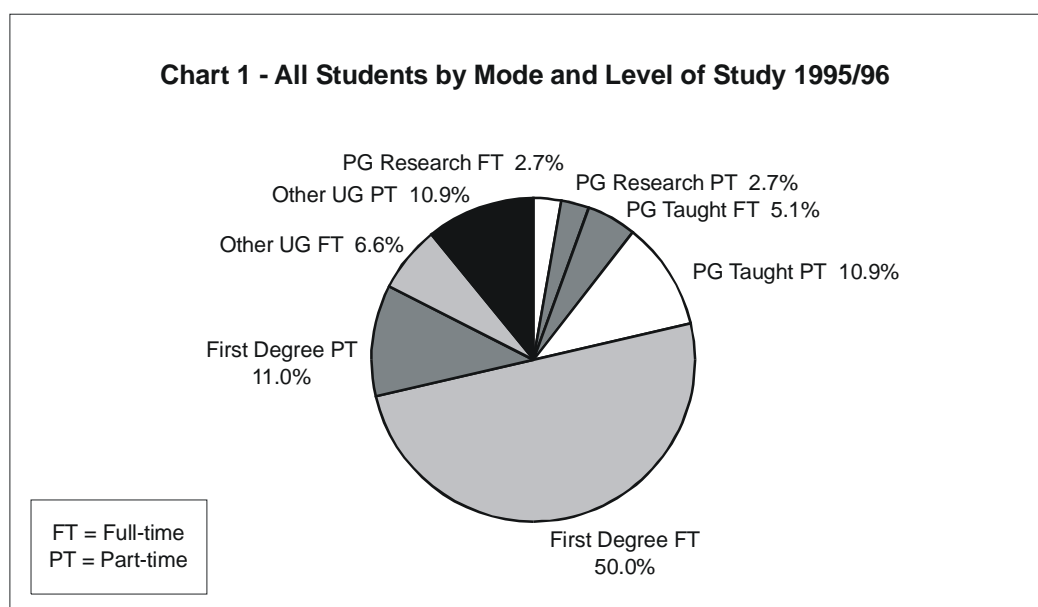
(1) Unless otherwise stated, "Full-time" in the main tables and these summary tables includes Sandwich students.

(2) Unless otherwise stated, "Part-time" in the main tables and these summary tables includes Other modes of study.

As at 1 December 1995 there were 1.72 million students registered at UK HEIs. 21.5% were enrolled at postgraduate level. 64.4% of students were studying on full-time or sandwich programmes of study, and 35.6% were studying on a part-time basis or were writing up theses or dissertations or were on sabbatical.

Of 370,119 postgraduate students, 25.4% were studying for research degrees and 74.6% for a taught higher degree or other postgraduate qualification.

There were 1,349,975 undergraduates (78.5% of all students), of whom 77.7% were studying for a first degree and 22.3% were on other undergraduate programmes of study.



## Location of Institution

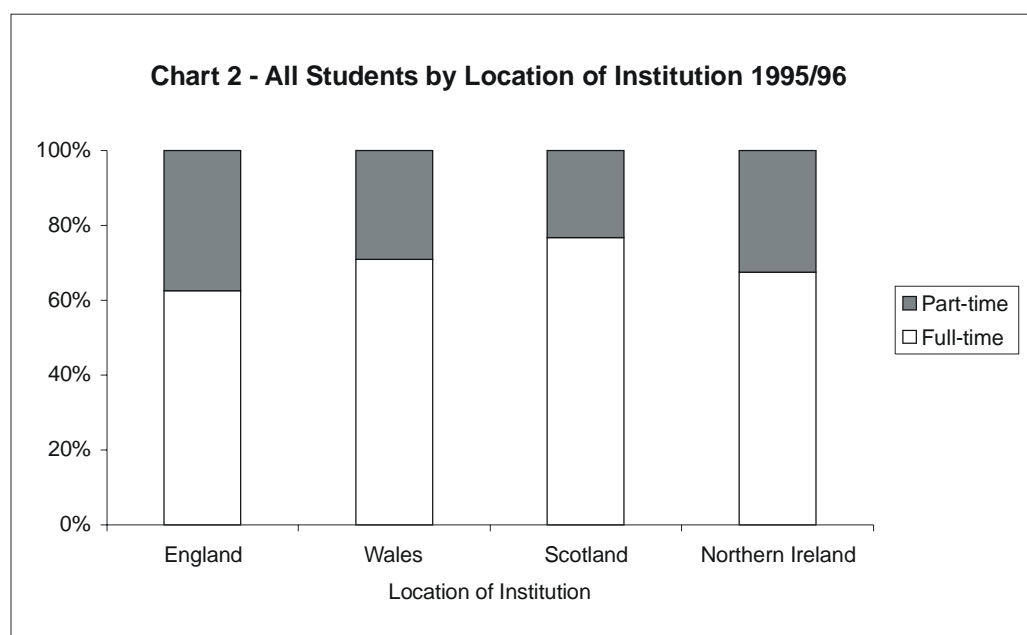
**Table B - All Students by Location of Institution, Level of Course, Year of Course and Mode of Study 1995/96**

		First Years			All years		
		Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
<b>England</b>	Postgraduate	76218	60485	<b>136703</b>	110892	196452	<b>307344</b>
	First Degree	253520	28642	<b>282162</b>	693426	177404	<b>870830</b>
	Other Undergraduate	51109	85380	<b>136489</b>	95713	164078	<b>259791</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>380847</b>	<b>174507</b>	<b>555354</b>	<b>900031</b>	<b>537934</b>	<b>1437965</b>
<b>Wales</b>	Postgraduate	4727	2350	<b>7077</b>	6976	9284	<b>16260</b>
	First Degree	16071	879	<b>16950</b>	46975	2702	<b>49677</b>
	Other Undergraduate	4089	10298	<b>14387</b>	9155	13909	<b>23064</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24887</b>	<b>13527</b>	<b>38414</b>	<b>63106</b>	<b>25895</b>	<b>89001</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	Postgraduate	9866	6259	<b>16125</b>	14465	23160	<b>37625</b>
	First Degree	31570	2042	<b>33612</b>	98082	5873	<b>103955</b>
	Other Undergraduate	4361	4694	<b>9055</b>	6023	6820	<b>12843</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45797</b>	<b>12995</b>	<b>58792</b>	<b>118570</b>	<b>35853</b>	<b>154423</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	Postgraduate	2300	2433	<b>4733</b>	3015	5875	<b>8890</b>
	First Degree	7318	1006	<b>8324</b>	20906	3236	<b>24142</b>
	Other Undergraduate	1083	2436	<b>3519</b>	2213	3460	<b>5673</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10701</b>	<b>5875</b>	<b>16576</b>	<b>26134</b>	<b>12571</b>	<b>38705</b>
<b>Total UK</b>	Postgraduate	93111	71527	<b>164638</b>	135348	234771	<b>370119</b>
	First Degree	308479	32569	<b>341048</b>	859389	189215	<b>1048604</b>
	Other Undergraduate	60642	102808	<b>163450</b>	113104	188267	<b>301371</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>462232</b>	<b>206904</b>	<b>669136</b>	<b>1107841</b>	<b>612253</b>	<b>1720094</b>

Derived from Tables 1a-1h

83.6% of students were studying at HEIs in England (including the Open University), 5.2% in Wales, 9.0% in Scotland and 2.3% in Northern Ireland.

38.9% of all students were in their first year of a programme of study.



## Domicile of Students

Prior to entry to their programme of study, 11.4% of all students were overseas domiciled. (Table A).

22.3% of postgraduates, 8.2% of first degree students and 9.3% of those on other undergraduate programmes were domiciled overseas prior to entry to higher education in the UK. 13.1% of all full-time students were previously overseas domiciled.

32.7% of overseas domiciled postgraduates came from Asia. 47.6% of overseas domiciled first degree students and 64.4% of overseas domiciled other undergraduate students came from the European Union.

**Table C - All Students by Domicile and Level of Course 1995/96**

	Post-graduate	% of UK/ % of Overseas	First Degree	% of UK/ % of Overseas	Other Under-graduate	% of UK/ % of Overseas	Total	% of UK/ % of Overseas
England	235789	82.0%	789854	82.0%	228201	83.5%	1253844	82.3%
Wales	12984	4.5%	43011	4.5%	20712	7.6%	76707	5.0%
Scotland	27363	9.5%	90281	9.4%	11971	4.4%	129615	8.5%
Northern Ireland	9435	3.3%	33595	3.5%	6050	2.2%	49080	3.2%
Channel Islands & Isle of Man	627	0.2%	2846	0.3%	419	0.2%	3892	0.3%
United Kingdom (Country unknown)	1497	0.5%	3204	0.3%	5909	2.2%	10610	0.7%
<b>Total United Kingdom domiciled</b>	<b>287695</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>962791</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>273262</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1523748</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
European Union	25906	31.4%	40870	47.6%	18090	64.4%	84866	43.2%
Other Europe	5770	7.0%	5173	6.0%	1019	3.6%	11962	6.1%
Africa	7446	9.0%	5127	6.0%	1417	5.0%	13990	7.1%
Asia	26940	32.7%	27924	32.5%	2761	9.8%	57625	29.3%
Australasia	1324	1.6%	449	0.5%	193	0.7%	1966	1.0%
Middle East	5389	6.5%	3228	3.8%	320	1.1%	8937	4.6%
North America	7568	9.2%	2521	2.9%	4040	14.4%	14129	7.2%
South America	2014	2.4%	454	0.5%	255	0.9%	2723	1.4%
Other Overseas (Region unknown)	67	0.1%	67	0.1%	14	0.0%	148	0.1%
<b>Total Overseas domiciled</b>	<b>82424</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>85813</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>28109</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>196346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Derived from Tables 5a, 5b, 6.

## Age of Students

Among first year UK domiciled students, 43.5% of those studying full-time for a first degree were aged 18 years and under, 71.6% were aged under 21 years. 56.0% of full-time first year UK domiciled postgraduates were between 21 and 24 years old, whereas 66.9% of those studying part-time were aged 30 or over.

**Table D1 - Age distribution of First Year UK Domiciled Undergraduates(1) by Mode of Study 1995/96**

	<i>Percentages</i>					
	<b>First Degree</b>			<b>Other Undergraduate</b>		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
18 and under	43.5%	1.1%	<b>39.3%</b>	23.8%	1.7%	<b>9.1%</b>
19	20.0%	1.2%	<b>18.1%</b>	20.0%	1.7%	<b>7.9%</b>
20	8.1%	2.4%	<b>7.5%</b>	10.5%	2.0%	<b>4.8%</b>
21-24	13.1%	17.2%	<b>13.5%</b>	18.0%	12.9%	<b>14.6%</b>
25-29	6.3%	22.1%	<b>7.9%</b>	10.1%	17.4%	<b>14.9%</b>
30 and over	9.0%	56.1%	<b>13.7%</b>	17.6%	64.3%	<b>48.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

(1) Those whose age is known

Derived from Tables 1b and 1f

**Table D2 - Age distribution of First Year UK Domiciled Postgraduates(1) by Mode of Study 1995/96**

	<i>Percentages</i>		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Under 21	1.1%	0.4%	<b>0.8%</b>
21-24	56.0%	11.0%	<b>33.5%</b>
25-29	20.9%	21.7%	<b>21.3%</b>
30 and over	22.0%	66.9%	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

(1) Those whose age is known

Derived from Tables 1d and 1h

## Subject Areas

Table E - All Students by Subject Area, Level of Course and Mode of Study 1995/96

	Percentages									All modes/ levels
	Postgraduate			First Degree			Other Undergraduate			
	Full-time	Part- time	Total	Full-time	Part- time	Total	Full-time	Part- time	Total	
Medicine and Dentistry	3.1%	3.0%	<b>3.1%</b>	3.1%	0.1%	<b>2.6%</b>	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	<b>2.2%</b>
Subjects Allied to Medicine	3.0%	5.3%	<b>4.4%</b>	4.5%	9.5%	<b>5.4%</b>	24.6%	10.8%	16.0%	<b>7.1%</b>
Biological Sciences	6.3%	3.3%	<b>4.4%</b>	6.0%	1.4%	<b>5.2%</b>	2.3%	0.7%	1.3%	<b>4.3%</b>
Veterinary Science	0.3%	0.1%	<b>0.2%</b>	0.3%	0.0%	<b>0.2%</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<b>0.2%</b>
Agriculture & Related Subjects	1.5%	0.5%	<b>0.9%</b>	0.9%	0.1%	<b>0.7%</b>	3.6%	0.3%	1.5%	<b>0.9%</b>
Physical Sciences	8.2%	3.1%	<b>5.0%</b>	5.7%	1.4%	<b>5.0%</b>	1.8%	1.1%	1.4%	<b>4.3%</b>
Mathematical Sciences	1.7%	0.8%	<b>1.1%</b>	1.7%	0.1%	<b>1.4%</b>	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	<b>1.2%</b>
Computer Science	4.4%	2.6%	<b>3.3%</b>	4.4%	2.1%	<b>4.0%</b>	8.3%	2.9%	4.9%	<b>4.0%</b>
Engineering & Technology	11.1%	6.0%	<b>7.9%</b>	9.8%	4.2%	<b>8.8%</b>	9.7%	4.1%	6.2%	<b>8.1%</b>
Architecture, Building & Planning	3.4%	2.5%	<b>2.8%</b>	2.9%	3.0%	<b>2.9%</b>	3.2%	1.8%	2.3%	<b>2.8%</b>
Social, Economic & Political Studies	10.2%	8.1%	<b>8.8%</b>	8.2%	3.6%	<b>7.4%</b>	6.4%	5.5%	5.8%	<b>7.4%</b>
Law	5.2%	2.5%	<b>3.5%</b>	3.7%	4.0%	<b>3.7%</b>	1.4%	0.8%	1.0%	<b>3.2%</b>
Business & Administrative Studies	10.1%	20.9%	<b>17.0%</b>	11.0%	5.8%	<b>10.0%</b>	19.2%	16.6%	17.6%	<b>12.9%</b>
Librarianship & Information Science	1.8%	1.0%	<b>1.3%</b>	1.3%	0.4%	<b>1.1%</b>	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%	<b>1.1%</b>
Languages	4.3%	3.1%	<b>3.5%</b>	6.9%	1.9%	<b>6.0%</b>	2.1%	6.5%	4.8%	<b>5.3%</b>
Humanities	3.6%	3.3%	<b>3.4%</b>	3.8%	1.4%	<b>3.4%</b>	0.5%	4.3%	2.9%	<b>3.3%</b>
Creative Arts & Design	3.3%	1.6%	<b>2.2%</b>	7.2%	1.5%	<b>6.2%</b>	5.9%	1.9%	3.4%	<b>4.8%</b>
Education	17.0%	18.7%	<b>18.1%</b>	6.4%	2.8%	<b>5.7%</b>	0.9%	7.9%	5.3%	<b>8.3%</b>
Combined	1.7%	13.6%	<b>9.2%</b>	12.2%	56.7%	<b>20.2%</b>	9.0%	34.1%	24.7%	<b>18.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Derived from Tables 2a-2d

12.2% of full-time first degree students were studying Combined subjects and 11.0% were taking Business & Administrative Studies courses.

56.7% of part-time first degree students were studying in the Combined subject area. It should be noted that the Open University contributed significantly to the number of part-time first degree students, being the single largest provider of part-time HE in the UK. The majority of Open University part-time first degree students study in the Combined subject area. 34.1% of part-time other undergraduate students were studying Combined subjects.

19.2% of full-time other undergraduates were taking courses in Business & Administrative Studies. Subjects Allied to Medicine, including nursing education, accounted for 24.6% of full-time other undergraduate students.

Table F - Students on First Degree Courses by Subject Area 1995/96

	<i>Percentages</i>			
	% Female Students(1)	% Overseas Students(1)	% Part-time Students(1)	% Mature Students(2)
Medicine & Dentistry	50.4%	10.0%	0.4%	24.0%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	79.0%	6.6%	31.8%	60.0%
Biological Sciences	60.7%	5.9%	4.9%	26.2%
Veterinary Science	61.9%	9.6%	1.1%	19.7%
Agriculture & Related Subjects	48.7%	6.5%	1.9%	34.9%
Physical Sciences	36.0%	4.5%	5.0%	21.2%
Mathematical Sciences	38.3%	6.8%	1.8%	13.9%
Computer Science	19.3%	7.6%	9.4%	42.3%
Engineering & Technology	14.0%	18.0%	8.7%	39.0%
Architecture, Building & Planning	21.1%	10.6%	18.3%	46.5%
Social, Economic & Political Studies	56.3%	7.0%	8.9%	37.6%
Law	52.7%	17.7%	19.3%	42.1%
Business & Administrative Studies	49.7%	13.5%	10.4%	38.1%
Librarianship & Information Science	61.0%	6.1%	6.5%	35.0%
Languages	70.5%	5.5%	5.8%	27.8%
Humanities	53.8%	2.7%	7.3%	30.0%
Creative Arts & Design	57.7%	6.9%	4.3%	36.8%
Education	76.4%	3.8%	8.8%	43.2%
Combined	53.5%	5.0%	50.5%	34.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Derived from Tables 1a &amp; 1e and the HESA July Student Record.

(1) Percentage of all students on first degree courses.

(2) Percentage of first year students (excluding those with unknown ages) aged 21 years and over.

Overall, female students made up 50.7% of the first degree population.

The highest proportion of female students seeking first degree qualifications (79.0% female) was in Subjects Allied to Medicine, which includes nursing education, and the lowest proportion was in Engineering & Technology disciplines (14.0% female).

The subject areas that attracted the most overseas first degree students were Engineering & Technology (18.0% overseas) and Law (17.7%). Courses in the Humanities, Education and the Physical Sciences drew less than 5% of their first degree students from overseas.

Nearly a third (31.8%) of first degree students studying Subjects Allied to Medicine were studying on a part-time basis. 19.3% of Law students and 18.3% of Architecture, Building & Planning students studying for a first degree were part-time. Low proportions of part-time students were recorded in Agricultural Subjects and in Mathematical Sciences, as well as the clinical subjects.

### ***Highest Qualification on Entry***

77% of first year UK domiciled full-time first degree students had A-levels or equivalent as their highest academic qualifications on entry to their programme of study, as compared with 17.9% of part-time first degree entrants.

It should be noted that the highest qualification reported on entry is not necessarily that required for entry to the institution.

**Table G - First Year UK domiciled Undergraduate Students by Highest Qualification on Entry, Level of Course and Mode of Study 1995/96**

Percentages							All first year under- graduates
	First Degree			Other UG			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
Postgraduate (exc PGCE)	0.1%	1.1%	0.2%	0.5%	4.4%	2.9%	1.0%
PGCE	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%
First degree of UK institution	0.9%	5.0%	1.2%	3.7%	15.3%	11.0%	4.0%
Other graduate & equivalent qualifications	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%
HE credits	0.7%	1.4%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%
Other HE & professional qualifications	7.7%	47.0%	11.3%	10.1%	28.2%	21.5%	14.2%
GCE A-level, SCE Highers and equivalent	77.0%	17.9%	71.6%	57.1%	15.5%	30.8%	60.1%
A-level equivalent vocational qualifications	1.0%	0.3%	0.9%	3.8%	0.6%	1.7%	1.2%
ACCESS courses	4.9%	2.3%	4.7%	3.5%	0.4%	1.5%	3.8%
GCSE/O-level qualifications only; SCE O grades and Standard grades	1.1%	3.4%	1.3%	7.5%	5.7%	6.4%	2.7%
Other qualifications	5.0%	11.1%	5.6%	9.7%	14.1%	12.4%	7.5%
No formal qualification required/held	1.5%	9.5%	2.2%	3.3%	13.8%	9.9%	4.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Derived from Tables 4a - 4d

1.7% of first year UK domiciled first degree students already held graduate qualifications on subsequent entry to (full-time and part-time) higher education. Of these, 8.0% were Veterinary Science and 6.6% were Medicine & Dentistry students.

**Table H - First year UK Domiciled Students on First Degree Courses by Highest Qualification on Entry and Subject Area 1995/96**

	Percentages					
	% Students with graduate quals(1)	% Students with A-levels(1)	% Students with vocational quals(1)(2)	% Students with ACCESS quals(1)	% Students with no formal qual required/held(1)	% Students with Other Qualifications (1)(3)
Medicine & Dentistry	6.6%	92.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	3.8%	47.5%	37.5%	4.3%	0.8%	6.0%
Biological Sciences	1.1%	81.7%	5.3%	5.7%	1.4%	4.7%
Veterinary Science	8.0%	92.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Agriculture & Related Subjects	0.6%	73.7%	15.9%	2.5%	2.1%	5.2%
Physical Sciences	0.9%	86.8%	4.2%	2.7%	1.1%	4.3%
Mathematical Sciences	1.1%	91.4%	2.9%	1.5%	0.3%	2.7%
Computer Science	0.9%	65.9%	16.0%	3.8%	3.8%	9.5%
Engineering & Technology	1.1%	69.6%	17.2%	1.8%	1.4%	8.8%
Architecture, Building & Planning	2.8%	63.3%	21.9%	1.8%	3.3%	6.9%
Social, Economic & Political Studies	1.2%	72.9%	7.4%	8.7%	2.7%	7.0%
Law	4.5%	74.2%	6.3%	5.1%	2.4%	7.5%
Business & Administrative Studies	0.9%	63.9%	24.2%	2.0%	2.2%	6.8%
Librarianship & Information Science	0.7%	78.0%	7.1%	5.0%	2.3%	6.8%
Languages	1.3%	84.0%	1.3%	4.0%	5.4%	4.0%
Humanities	2.1%	82.6%	2.2%	7.0%	1.4%	4.8%
Creative Arts & Design	1.5%	58.4%	11.1%	3.3%	1.8%	23.9%
Education	3.2%	69.2%	12.6%	8.3%	1.7%	4.9%
Combined	0.8%	75.8%	5.9%	7.5%	2.7%	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>71.6%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

Derived from Tables 4a &amp; 4c and the HESA July Student Record

(1) Excludes those with unknown highest qualification on entry.

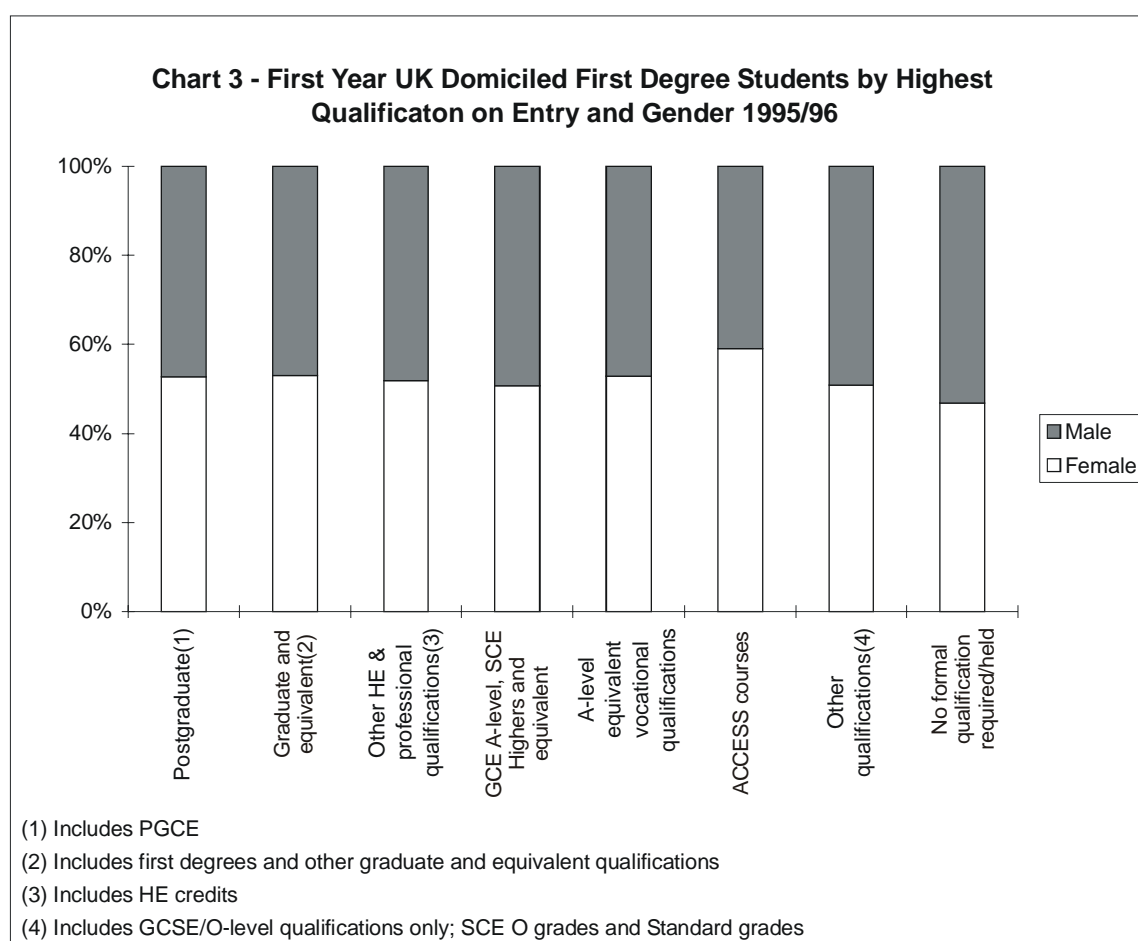
(2) Includes A-level equivalent vocational qualifications and Other HE and professional qualifications.

(3) Includes HE credits, GCSE/O-level qualifications only, SCE O grades, Standard Grades and Other Qualifications.

4.7% of first year UK domiciled (full-time and part-time) first degree students entered higher education with ACCESS qualifications. 8.7% of Social, Economic & Political Studies students and 8.3% of those studying in the Education field entered with ACCESS qualifications.

2.2% of UK domiciled students entering the first year of (full-time and part-time) first degree programmes had no formal qualifications. 5.4% of those studying Languages had no formal qualifications on entry.

Although there was little difference in the balance between males and females holding most of the range of qualifications on entering higher education, the proportion of females entering with ACCESS courses was 5.4%, whereas that of males was 3.9%.

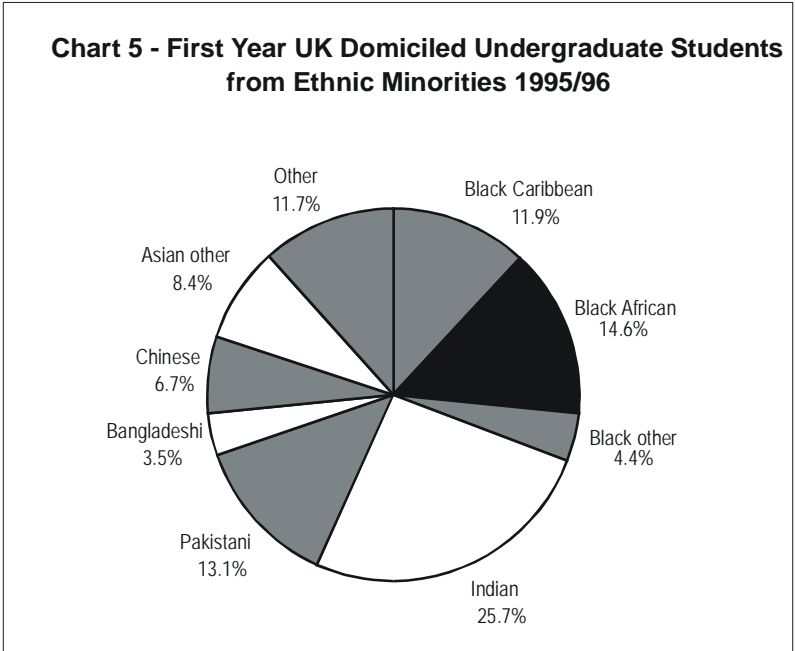
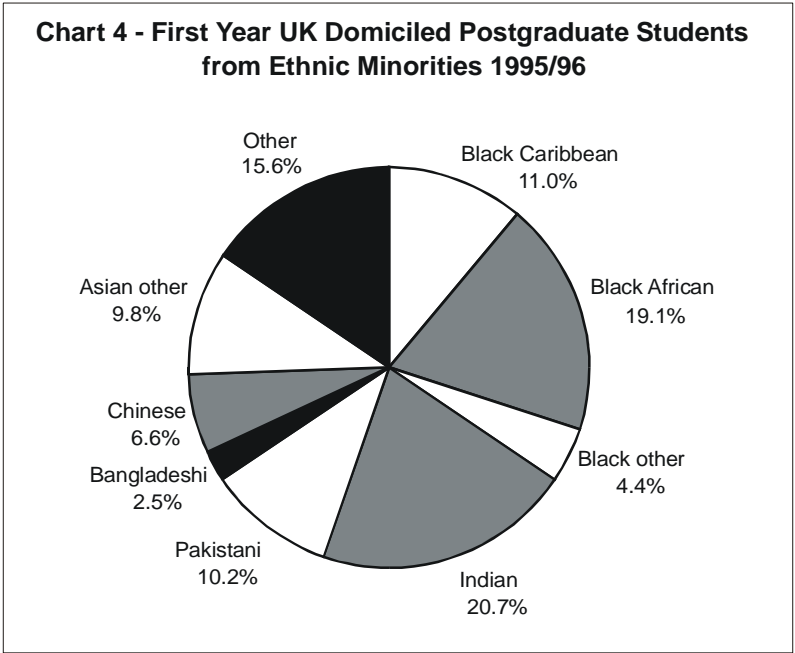


## Ethnicity

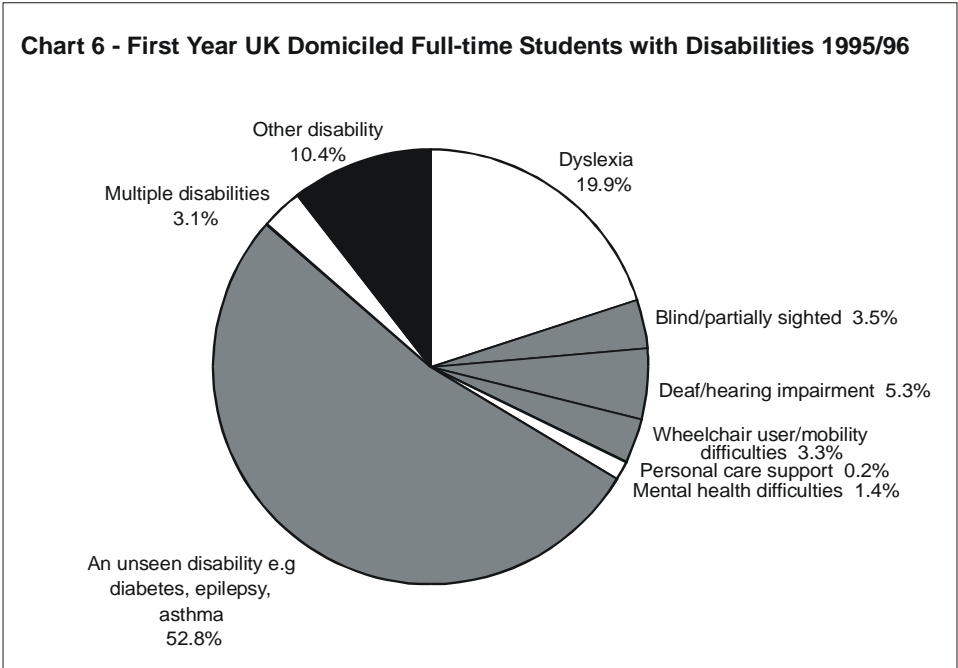
Information about ethnicity was available for 80.7% of all first year UK domiciled students and for 87% of UK domiciled first degree students. (Table 10).

13.5% of first year UK domiciled undergraduate students, whose ethnicity was known, were from ethnic minorities as compared with 11.7% of postgraduates. Among these students, Black students made up 30.9% of undergraduates but 34.5% of postgraduates. Indian and Pakistani students on the other hand were more highly represented at undergraduate level (25.7% and 13.1% respectively) than at postgraduate level (20.7% and 10.2% respectively).





Disability

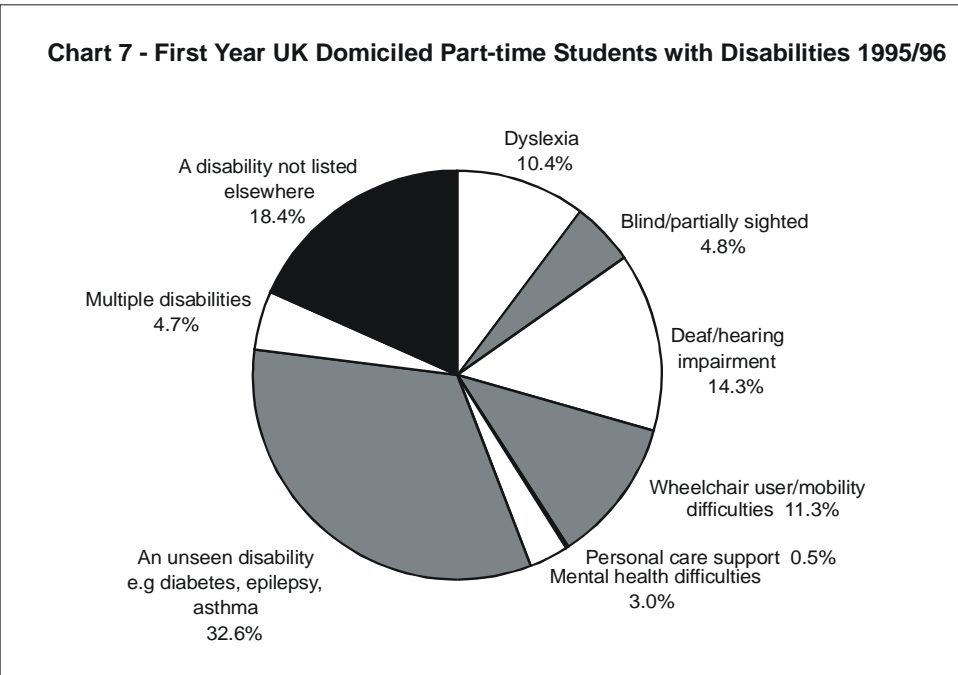


Information about whether students possessed a disability was available for 86.1% of first year UK domiciled students. Of these, 96.4% were reported as having no known disability. (Table 11). Of the 17,885 disabilities reported, 76.7% were among full-time students.

Nearly half (8,596) of the disabilities reported consisted of unseen disabilities (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy or asthma).

5.1% of known disabilities were students reporting that they were wheelchair users or had mobility difficulties, and of these there were approximately equal numbers of full-time (451) and part-time (469) students.

3.8% of reported disabilities were accounted for by blind or partially sighted students, and half as many of these were part-time (200) as full-time (400).



## Qualifications Obtained

416,297 HE level qualifications were obtained at UK HEIs during the 1995/96 academic year. (Table 12.)

Of these awards, 251,248 (60.4%) were first degrees, 59,575 (14.3%) were other undergraduate qualifications, 44,262 (10.6%) were taught postgraduate degrees, 11,990 (2.9%) were postgraduate degrees obtained mainly by research and 49,222 (11.8%) were other postgraduate qualifications.

**Table I - Qualifications Obtained at United Kingdom HEIs by Subject Area and Level of Course 1995/96**

	<i>Percentages</i>					
	Higher Degree Research	Higher Degree Taught	Other PG	First Degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & Dentistry	7.2%	1.8%	0.8%	2.2%	0.1%	1.9%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	4.3%	3.5%	3.1%	5.0%	14.5%	6.0%
Biological Sciences	13.5%	2.9%	0.6%	5.5%	1.9%	4.3%
Veterinary Science	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Agriculture & Related Subjects	2.6%	1.4%	0.2%	0.8%	2.2%	1.1%
Physical Sciences	17.6%	4.0%	0.7%	5.5%	2.0%	4.6%
Mathematical Sciences	2.8%	1.3%	0.4%	1.6%	0.5%	1.3%
Computer Science	2.7%	4.7%	1.3%	3.7%	6.6%	3.9%
Engineering & Technology	15.2%	10.6%	1.8%	9.3%	9.0%	8.7%
Architecture, Building & Planning	1.1%	2.0%	3.2%	3.3%	3.9%	3.2%
Social, Economic & Political Studies	7.6%	12.3%	4.3%	8.4%	7.8%	8.2%
Law	1.7%	3.9%	7.0%	4.0%	1.9%	4.0%
Business & Administrative Studies	3.5%	24.8%	13.6%	11.3%	23.4%	14.5%
Librarianship & Information Science	0.3%	1.8%	2.0%	1.1%	0.3%	1.2%
Languages	5.6%	4.5%	0.7%	6.5%	2.4%	5.0%
Humanities	7.1%	3.3%	0.7%	4.1%	1.0%	3.3%
Creative Arts & Design	1.1%	3.6%	2.1%	6.7%	5.3%	5.4%
Education	2.4%	6.9%	47.2%	5.9%	6.1%	10.8%
Combined	3.1%	6.3%	10.3%	14.8%	11.3%	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Derived from Table 13 and the HESA July Student Record

**Table J - Students Obtaining First Degree Qualifications by Subject Area and Class of Degree 1995/96**

	<i>Percentages</i>					
	% Obtaining First Class	% Obtaining Upper Second	% Obtaining Lower second	% Obtaining Third Class	% Obtaining Pass/Un-classified	
Medicine & Dentistry	4.4%	12.4%	2.3%	0.1%	80.9%	
Subjects Allied to Medicine	7.0%	45.9%	33.4%	4.2%	9.5%	
Biological Sciences	8.1%	49.1%	33.6%	4.5%	4.6%	
Veterinary Science	3.9%	7.8%	2.8%	0.4%	85.1%	
Agriculture & Related Subjects	5.3%	41.0%	38.0%	3.6%	12.1%	
Physical Sciences	10.4%	36.4%	36.5%	9.8%	6.9%	
Mathematical Sciences	18.2%	29.8%	29.7%	14.1%	8.3%	
Computer Science	8.7%	33.7%	37.6%	8.4%	11.5%	
Engineering & Technology	11.0%	31.3%	35.0%	10.0%	12.7%	
Architecture, Building & Planning	5.3%	35.5%	41.1%	6.3%	11.7%	
Social, Economic & Political Studies	4.4%	47.4%	40.1%	3.7%	4.4%	
Law	3.9%	45.1%	40.8%	5.5%	4.7%	
Business & Administrative Studies	3.5%	39.8%	42.7%	5.7%	8.3%	
Librarianship & Information Science	4.4%	47.8%	37.7%	3.6%	6.5%	
Languages	8.5%	55.0%	32.4%	2.3%	1.7%	
Humanities	7.4%	56.4%	31.3%	2.3%	2.6%	
Creative Arts & Design	9.0%	44.5%	37.3%	6.2%	3.1%	
Education	4.6%	41.2%	41.3%	3.3%	9.6%	
Combined	5.8%	35.9%	30.5%	4.1%	23.7%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	

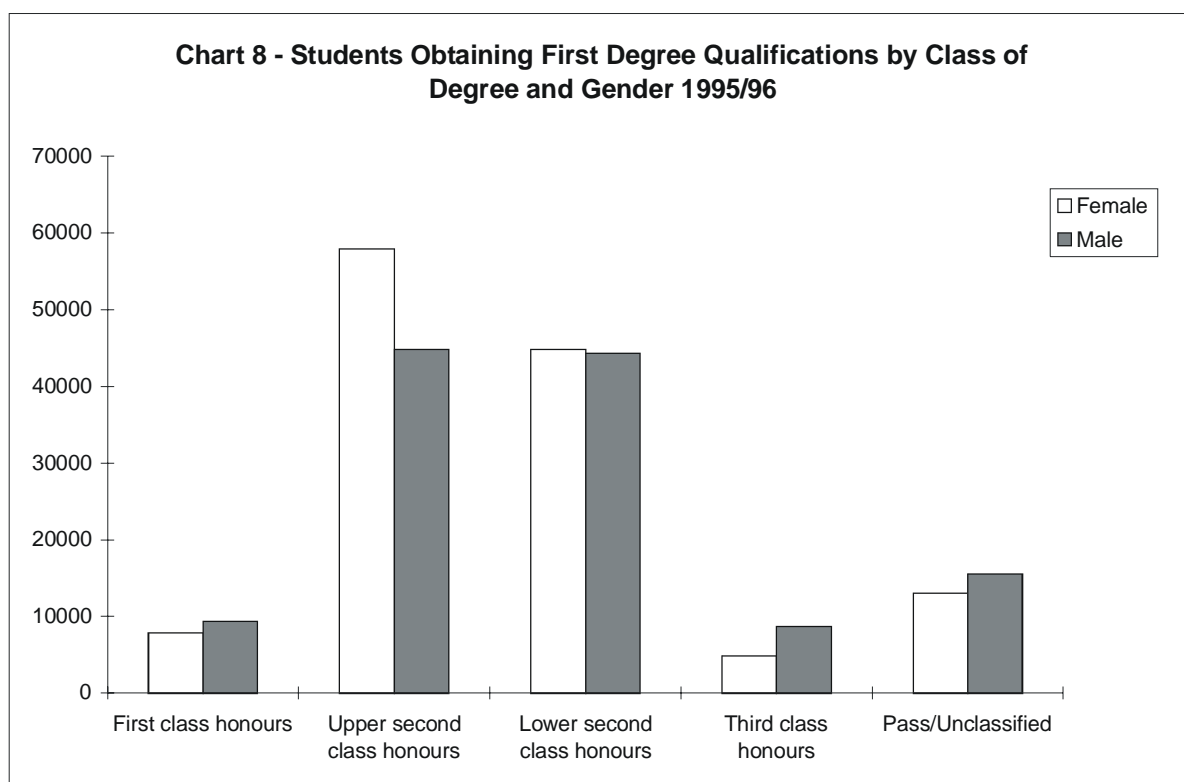
Derived from Table 13

The largest proportion of postgraduate research degrees obtained were in the Physical Sciences disciplines (17.6%). 47.2% of postgraduate awards other than degrees were in Education (including PGCEs).

14.8% of first degrees awarded were in the Combined subjects area and 14.5% of other undergraduate awards were in Subjects Allied to Medicine.

Of the 251,248 awards made at first degree level, 6.9% were of first class honours classification. The highest proportion of both first class honours (18.2%) and third class honours (14.1%) were awarded in the Mathematical Sciences area. More upper second class honours degrees (40.9%) were awarded than lower second class honours degrees (35.5%).

Apart from clinical subject areas, where typically awards are not classified, the greatest proportion of pass/unclassified degrees was obtained in the Combined Studies area.



There was a difference in the proportions of males and females awarded particular classes of first degrees; the proportion of females (45.1%) awarded upper second class honours was higher than that for males (36.5%), the proportion of males awarded third class honours (7.1%) was nearly twice that of females (3.8%). 7.7% of males and 6.1% of females were awarded first class honours. It should be noted that the levels of participation by men and women in the different subject areas are relevant in any analysis of degree classification by gender.