Introduction

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

This volume draws on HESA's collection of data about students in HEIs in the academic year ending 31 July 2000, and it covers data supplied by 169 institutions.

The other reference volumes published by HESA are:

Resources of Higher Education Institutions - which draws on HESA's collection of data about finance and staff of HEIs. Tabulations are included which record and analyse the income and expenditure of universities and colleges (with data shown at institution level) and the characteristics of academic staff.

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

Higher Education Statistics for the United Kingdom - which is published in conjunction with the Government Statistical Service and which presents an overview of higher education (HE) from a statistical perspective, including statistics about applications, participation, institutional finance, staffing, student awards and loans.

The Agency also makes available a number of other related products. More information about these is set out at the end of this volume.

While HESA publishes 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 enquiries about the data collected, for which a charge will normally be levied.

Due to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998, HESA now implements a strategy designed to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. This strategy involves the suppression of small numbers in tables, together with the rounding of larger numbers to the nearest ten. A summary of this strategy is as follows:

1. 0 in cells remains as 0
2. Numbers 1-9 are represented as '~' (tilde)
3. Numbers 10 and above are rounded to the nearest 10

So for example 3 is represented as '~', 22 is represented as 20, 3286 is represented as 3290 while 0, 20, 50, 3510 remain unchanged.

Total figures are also subject to this rounding methodology; the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column will rarely match the total shown precisely. Average values, proportions and FTE values prepared by HESA are not subject to the above strategy, and will be calculated on precise raw numbers.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Students in UK Higher Education Institutions, 1999/2000

In 2000 HESA collected student data from all publicly-funded UK HEIs for the academic year 1999/2000 (i.e. the period 1 August 1999 to 31 July 2000). This information was collected uniformly from all of the universities and HE colleges in the UK.

This commentary summarises and analyses the data contained within the main tables and presents summary statistics and key points.

Summary of Key Points

- 1,856,330 students were recorded as following HE programmes on 1 December 1999.
- A further 62,640 students were following courses at further education (FE) level.
- Of the 1,856,330 HE students recorded, 63.5% were following full-time or sandwich programmes and 78.0% were studying at undergraduate level.
- Full-time first degree students made up 48.8% of the recorded HE student population.
- Women made up 54.6% of the student population and 56.5% of UK domiciled undergraduates.
- Students from countries other than the UK numbered 224,660 and represented 12.1% of the total student body.
- Overseas students made up 39.1% of all full-time postgraduates.
- Women constituted 82.9% of students in subjects allied to medicine, and were also very strongly represented in education (72.0%), languages (69.3%), veterinary science (68.1%), librarianship & information science (62.3%), biological sciences (60.8%) and social, economic & political studies (60.6%).
- Men constituted 85.2% of engineering & technology students, 76.9% of computer science students, 72.2% of architecture, building & planning students and were strongly represented in physical (62.8%) and mathematical sciences (63.1%).
- Students from outside the UK were well-represented in engineering & technology, law, business & administrative studies, architecture, building & planning, languages, agriculture & related studies and social, economic & political studies.
- Ethnic minorities constituted 13.0% of all first year UK domiciled students of known ethnicity.
- 55.1% of students who obtained a classified first degree were awarded first or upper second class honours, with 8.9% being awarded a first.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Student Population

Table A - All Students by Level and Mode of Study 1999/2000

	Full-time	% of FT HE students	Part-time	% of PT HE students	**Total**	% of HE students
Higher degree (research)	**49490**	***4.2%***	**51530**	***7.6%***	**101020**	***5.4%***
Doctorate mainly by research	38320	*3.3%*	39990	*5.9%*	**78320**	*4.2%*
Masters mainly by research	11170	*0.9%*	11510	*1.7%*	**22680**	*1.2%*
Other postgraduate mainly by research	~	*0.0%*	20	*0.0%*	**30**	*0.0%*
Higher degree (taught)	**65790**	***5.6%***	**109940**	***16.2%***	**175730**	***9.5%***
Doctorate not mainly by research	610	*0.1%*	720	*0.1%*	**1320**	*0.1%*
Masters not mainly by research	64970	*5.5%*	108820	*16.1%*	**173790**	*9.4%*
Other postgraduate not mainly by research	220	*0.0%*	400	*0.1%*	**620**	*0.0%*
Other postgraduate	**36040**	***3.1%***	**95830**	***14.1%***	**131870**	***7.1%***
PGCE	20450	*1.7%*	3380	*0.5%*	**23830**	*1.3%*
All other postgraduates	15590	*1.3%*	92460	*13.6%*	**108050**	*5.8%*
Total postgraduate	**151330**	***12.8%***	**257290**	***38.0%***	**408620**	***22.0%***
First degree	**906480**	***76.9%***	**93920**	***13.9%***	**1000410**	***53.9%***
Other undergraduate	**120920**	***10.3%***	**326390**	***48.2%***	**447310**	***24.1%***
HND	41220	*3.5%*	4870	*0.7%*	**46090**	*2.5%*
DipHE	44900	*3.8%*	13370	*2.0%*	**58270**	*3.1%*
HNC	240	*0.0%*	15210	*2.2%*	**15450**	*0.8%*
All other undergraduates	34560	*2.9%*	292950	*43.2%*	**327510**	*17.6%*
Total undergraduate	**1027400**	***87.2%***	**420310**	***62.0%***	**1447720**	***78.0%***
Total HE students	**1178730**	***100.0%***	**677610**	***100.0%***	**1856330**	***100.0%***
Total FE students	**14540**		**48100**		**62640**	
Total	**1193260**		**725710**		**1918970**	

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

On 1 December 1999 there were more than 1.9 million students who were studying for qualifications or credit in the 169 HEIs of the UK.

Of these, 62,640 (3.3%) were studying at FE level; these students are included for completeness in Table A and in the first two of the main tables in this volume, but are not routinely included within the more specific analyses.

Of the 1,856,330 HE students recorded, 63.5% were studying full-time or sandwich programmes (1998/99: 63.9%) and 78.0% were studying at undergraduate level (1998/99: 78.1%).

Of the 408,620 postgraduate students, 101,020 (24.7%) were enrolled on higher research degrees (1998/99: 25.1%), 175,730 (43.0%) on higher taught degrees and the remaining 32.3% on other postgraduate programmes.

Of the 1,447,720 undergraduates, 69.1% of students were studying for a first degree, (1998/99: 69.5%) with the remaining 30.9% (1998/99: 30.5%) following other undergraduate programmes (e.g. DipHE, HND, and other undergraduate diplomas and certificates).

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

As in 1998/99, full-time first degree students made up almost half of the recorded HE student population (48.8%).

Domicile and Gender

Table B provides a summary of students by domicile and gender.

Table B - All Students by Gender, Mode and Domicile 1999/2000

	Full-time			Part-time			All Students			
	Total	Female	Male	**Total**	Female	Male	**Total**	% by domicile	Female	Male
United Kingdom	**1001580**	541780	459790	**630100**	364840	265260	**1631680**	*87.9%*	906620	725060
Other European Union	**86020**	43050	42970	**16490**	7850	8640	**102510**	*5.5%*	50910	51600
Other overseas	**91130**	42450	48680	**31020**	12840	18170	**122150**	*6.6%*	55290	66860
Non-UK sub-total	**177150**	**85500**	**91650**	**47500**	**20700**	**26810**	**224660**	***12.1%***	**106200**	**118460**
Total	**1178730**	**627290**	**551440**	**677610**	**385530**	**292070**	**1856330**	***100.0%***	**1012820**	**843510**

Part-time overseas domiciled students may include overseas based distance learners who visit the UK for part of their programme.

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

Students from countries other than the UK numbered 224,660 and represented 12.1% of the total student body.

Overall, women made up 54.6% of the student population. They were in a majority among both full-time and part-time students, although they were slightly more predominant among part-time students. The proportion of female students did however vary according to domicile, with 47.3% of overseas students being female, compared with 55.6% of UK domiciled students.

Some 42.5% of all overseas students were following postgraduate level programmes. Table C provides a more detailed breakdown:

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Table C - Postgraduates by Gender, Mode and Domicile 1999/2000

	Full-time			Part-time			All Students			
	Total	Female	Male	**Total**	Female	Male	**Total**	% by domicile	Female	Male
Research for a higher degree										
United Kingdom	**29010**	12750	16260	**38070**	16290	21790	**67080**	*66.4%*	29040	38040
Other European Union	**6610**	2850	3770	**4270**	1830	2450	**10880**	*10.8%*	4670	6210
Other overseas	**13870**	4900	8980	**9180**	3250	5930	**23050**	*22.8%*	8150	14910
Taught course for a higher degree										
United Kingdom	**32020**	15610	16410	**91410**	47270	44130	**123430**	*70.2%*	62880	60550
Other European Union	**12910**	5840	7070	**5660**	2430	3230	**18560**	*10.6%*	8270	10290
Other overseas	**20860**	9640	11220	**12870**	5150	7720	**33740**	*19.2%*	14800	18940
Other postgraduate										
United Kingdom	**31110**	19800	11320	**91520**	50380	41140	**122630**	*93.0%*	70180	52460
Other European Union	**2480**	1420	1060	**1360**	700	660	**3840**	*2.9%*	2120	1710
Other overseas	**2450**	1230	1230	**2950**	1280	1680	**5410**	*4.1%*	2500	2910
All postgraduates										
United Kingdom	**92150**	48160	43990	**221000**	113940	107060	**313140**	*76.6%*	162100	151040
Other European Union	**21990**	10100	11890	**11290**	4960	6330	**33280**	*8.1%*	15060	18220
Other overseas	**37190**	15760	21430	**25010**	9680	15330	**62200**	*15.2%*	25440	36750
Non-UK sub-total	**59180**	**25870**	**33310**	**36300**	**14640**	**21660**	**95480**	***23.4%***	**40510**	**54970**
Total	**151330**	**74030**	**77300**	**257290**	**128580**	**128710**	**408620**	**-**	**202610**	**206010**

Part-time overseas domiciled students may include overseas based distance learners who visit the UK for part of their programme.

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

Overseas students made up over a fifth (23.4%) of the postgraduate student population in the UK and 39.1% of all full-time postgraduates. 65.1% of all postgraduate overseas students came from outside the European Union (EU). Non-UK students were particularly prominent on higher degree programmes, making up 41.4% of full-time research higher degree students and 51.3% of students on full-time taught higher degree courses.

Overall, 49.6% of all postgraduates and 51.8% of those domiciled in the UK were female, but there were considerable differences between the different types of programme and different areas of domicile. Female students constituted the majority of non-degree level postgraduates (programmes which are dominated by Postgraduate Certificates in Education (PGCEs)), but made up just under half of the students on taught higher degree courses, and only 41.4% of all research students. Whereas 43.2% of higher degree research students from the UK and the EU were women, only 35.3% of research students from other overseas countries were female.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Chart 2 illustrates these differences.

A different pattern may be observed at undergraduate level, as is shown in Table D:

Table D - Undergraduates by Gender, Mode and Domicile 1999/2000

	Full-time			Part-time			All Students			
	Total	Female	Male	**Total**	Female	Male	**Total**	% by domicile	Female	Male
First degree										
United Kingdom	**814550**	433630	380920	**89230**	53980	35250	**903770**	*90.3%*	487610	416170
Other European Union	**49160**	23910	25250	**1980**	910	1070	**51140**	*5.1%*	24820	26320
Other overseas	**42780**	20230	22550	**2720**	1240	1480	**45500**	*4.5%*	21470	24030
Other undergraduate										
United Kingdom	**94880**	59990	34890	**319880**	196930	122960	**414760**	*92.7%*	256920	157850
Other European Union	**14870**	9040	5830	**3220**	1980	1240	**18090**	*4.0%*	11020	7070
Other overseas	**11170**	6460	4710	**3290**	1920	1370	**14460**	*3.2%*	8380	6080
All undergraduates										
United Kingdom	**909430**	493620	415810	**409110**	250900	158210	**1318530**	*91.1%*	744520	574010
Other European Union	**64030**	32950	31080	**5200**	2890	2310	**69230**	*4.8%*	35840	33390
Other overseas	**53950**	26690	27260	**6010**	3160	2850	**59950**	*4.1%*	29850	30100
Total	**1027400**	**553260**	**474140**	**420310**	**256960**	**163360**	**1447720**	**-**	**810210**	**637500**

Part-time overseas domiciled students may include overseas based distance learners who visit the UK for part of their programme.

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Overseas students made up 8.9% of the total undergraduate population, with students from the EU being more likely to undertake non-degree level study than students from other overseas countries.

Overall, the gender balance shows women in a majority: 56.5% of UK domiciled undergraduates were women, compared with 51.8% of other EU students and 49.8% of students from other countries. Women were particularly prominent among students of non-degree courses, on which they represented 61.8% of the total: subject considerations are influential here - as shown in the following section.

Subject of Study

Table E shows the percentage of students at different levels who were following programmes of study in each subject area.

Table E - All Students by Subject Area, Level and Mode 1999/2000

Percentages

	First Degree			Other UG			Higher Degree (Research)			Higher Degree (Taught)			Other PG		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	**Total**	Full-time	Part-time	**Total**	Full-time	Part-time	**Total**	Full-time	Part-time	**Total**	Full-time	Part-time
Medicine & dentistry	***2.9***	*3.2*	*0.1*	***0.0***	*0.1*	*0.0*	***7.9***	*6.5*	*9.2*	***2.3***	*2.1*	*2.4*	***1.3***	*0.8*	*1.5*
Subjects allied to medicine	***7.6***	*5.7*	*25.4*	***21.4***	*41.6*	*13.9*	***5.0***	*4.7*	*5.3*	***6.0***	*2.1*	*8.4*	***5.1***	*2.1*	*6.2*
Biological sciences	***6.8***	*7.1*	*3.3*	***0.9***	*2.0*	*0.5*	***11.5***	*13.8*	*9.4*	***3.8***	*4.2*	*3.5*	***0.7***	*0.7*	*0.7*
Veterinary science	***0.3***	*0.3*	*0.0*	***0.0***	*0.0*	*0.0*	***0.4***	*0.5*	*0.3*	***0.0***	*0.1*	*0.0*	***0.1***	*0.2*	*0.1*
Agriculture & related subjects	***0.8***	*0.8*	*0.3*	***1.0***	*2.7*	*0.3*	***1.6***	*1.8*	*1.4*	***0.6***	*1.0*	*0.4*	***0.2***	*0.2*	*0.2*
Physical sciences	***4.9***	*5.2*	*2.2*	***0.7***	*0.9*	*0.6*	***11.9***	*15.8*	*8.2*	***2.6***	*3.8*	*1.9*	***0.5***	*0.6*	*0.4*
Mathematical sciences	***1.6***	*1.7*	*0.3*	***0.2***	*0.4*	*0.1*	***2.1***	*2.8*	*1.4*	***0.8***	*0.9*	*0.7*	***0.2***	*0.3*	*0.2*
Computer science	***5.6***	*5.7*	*5.0*	***4.1***	*7.8*	*2.7*	***3.1***	*3.2*	*2.9*	***6.8***	*9.2*	*5.4*	***1.8***	*3.7*	*1.1*
Engineering & technology	***8.1***	*8.2*	*7.9*	***3.3***	*5.1*	*2.6*	***13.5***	*15.2*	*11.8*	***7.1***	*9.4*	*5.6*	***1.3***	*1.3*	*1.3*
Architecture, building & planning	***2.7***	*2.3*	*5.9*	***1.1***	*1.9*	*0.9*	***1.6***	*1.5*	*1.8*	***3.0***	*2.7*	*3.2*	***3.0***	*5.7*	*2.0*
Social, economic & political studies	***8.2***	*8.4*	*6.1*	***3.6***	*3.5*	*3.7*	***10.2***	*9.6*	*10.7*	***11.3***	*13.9*	*9.7*	***4.2***	*4.3*	*4.2*
Law	***3.9***	*3.8*	*5.7*	***0.6***	*1.4*	*0.4*	***1.8***	*1.8*	*1.9*	***3.6***	*5.3*	*2.6*	***5.6***	*10.8*	*3.6*
Business & administrative studies	***11.7***	*11.7*	*12.4*	***8.9***	*13.4*	*7.3*	***4.6***	*3.5*	*5.6*	***25.6***	*23.5*	*26.9*	***15.3***	*4.0*	*19.5*
Librarianship & information science	***1.7***	*1.8*	*0.8*	***0.3***	*0.6*	*0.2*	***0.6***	*0.5*	*0.7*	***2.6***	*3.0*	*2.3*	***1.0***	*2.0*	*0.5*
Languages	***6.2***	*6.4*	*3.9*	***3.3***	*2.4*	*3.6*	***6.7***	*6.2*	*7.3*	***3.6***	*4.6*	*3.0*	***0.5***	*0.8*	*0.3*
Humanities	***3.5***	*3.5*	*2.7*	***2.5***	*0.5*	*3.2*	***7.6***	*6.8*	*8.3*	***3.6***	*3.3*	*3.8*	***0.5***	*0.6*	*0.4*
Creative arts & design	***7.9***	*8.4*	*3.3*	***2.3***	*4.7*	*1.4*	***2.2***	*1.8*	*2.7*	***4.1***	*6.0*	*3.0*	***1.0***	*2.7*	*0.4*
Education	***4.7***	*4.7*	*4.5*	***3.3***	*1.7*	*4.0*	***5.9***	*2.3*	*9.3*	***10.8***	*2.5*	*15.7*	***33.7***	*58.0*	*24.6*
Combined	***11.1***	*11.2*	*10.3*	***42.4***	*9.2*	*54.7*	***1.7***	*1.6*	*1.8*	***1.8***	*2.3*	*1.5*	***24.1***	*1.2*	*32.8*

A significant proportion of students were following other undergraduate and part-time first degree programmes in subjects allied to medicine (which include nursing). Other subject areas which were popular at other undergraduate level (i.e. mostly diplomas and certificates) were social, economic & political studies, computer science, engineering & technology and languages. However, at this level and also among first degree students, the most popular specific subject area was business & administrative studies. The large proportion following part-time programmes in combined studies is significantly influenced by The Open University, whose students are enrolled on a combined programme of study. The sciences and engineering & technology had significant numbers of research students, but taught postgraduate courses were dominated by students of business & administrative studies, social, economic & political studies and education. The different patterns of subject participation according to gender and domicile are shown in Table F.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Table F - Distribution by Subject Area, Gender and non-UK Domicile 1999/2000

Percentages

	% female	% non-UK	% non-EU
Medicine & dentistry	*52.7*	*12.8*	*9.6*
Subjects allied to medicine	*82.9*	*5.6*	*2.9*
Biological sciences	*60.8*	*10.0*	*4.2*
Veterinary science	*68.1*	*14.2*	*11.0*
Agriculture & related subjects	*51.7*	*15.2*	*6.9*
Physical sciences	*37.2*	*11.2*	*4.7*
Mathematical sciences	*36.9*	*13.2*	*7.2*
Computer science	*23.1*	*10.7*	*6.3*
Engineering & technology	*14.8*	*25.0*	*13.3*
Architecture, building & planning	*27.8*	*16.0*	*8.6*
Social, economic & political studies	*60.6*	*15.1*	*8.5*
Law	*57.2*	*16.8*	*9.8*
Business & administrative studies	*50.0*	*18.1*	*11.0*
Librarianship & information science	*62.3*	*13.1*	*6.4*
Languages	*69.3*	*16.0*	*7.0*
Humanities	*54.7*	*9.6*	*5.6*
Creative arts & design	*59.1*	*11.3*	*5.9*
Education	*72.0*	*7.3*	*4.9*
Combined	*55.5*	*6.8*	*3.3*
Total - All subject areas	***54.6***	***12.1***	***6.6***

The table shows that women were a significant majority in subjects allied to medicine, and were also very strongly represented among students of biological sciences, veterinary science, social, economic & political studies, librarianship & information science, languages and education. Men were a significant majority in engineering & technology, computer science, architecture, building & planning, and strongly represented in physical and mathematical sciences. Students from outside the UK were well-represented in engineering & technology, law, business & administrative studies, architecture, building & planning, languages, agriculture & related studies, social, economic & political studies and veterinary science.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Expected Length of Study

Table G shows the expected length of the study programme reported for full-time students who commenced studying on programmes leading to first degrees in the academic year 1999/2000.

Table G - First Year Full-time First Degree Students by Subject Area and Expected Length of Programme 1999/2000

	Expected Length of Programme							
	<=3 years		>3 years & <= 4 years		>4 years & <= 5 years		>5 years	
Medicine & dentistry	960	*14.9%*	20	*0.3%*	4810	*74.9%*	640	*9.9%*
Subjects allied to medicine	13100	*70.1%*	5290	*28.3%*	240	*1.3%*	70	*0.4%*
Biological sciences	16790	*77.6%*	4800	*22.2%*	50	*0.2%*	0	*0.0%*
Veterinary science	90	*13.7%*	40	*5.7%*	550	*79.7%*	~	*0.9%*
Agriculture & related subjects	1380	*55.5%*	1090	*43.9%*	10	*0.6%*	0	*0.0%*
Physical sciences	8910	*60.1%*	5670	*38.2%*	250	*1.7%*	0	*0.0%*
Mathematical sciences	3030	*59.9%*	1990	*39.3%*	40	*0.8%*	~	*0.0%*
Computer science	9980	*50.1%*	9550	*47.9%*	390	*2.0%*	~	*0.0%*
Engineering & technology	10250	*40.7%*	12660	*50.2%*	2210	*8.8%*	80	*0.3%*
Architecture, building & planning	3760	*54.2%*	2670	*38.5%*	330	*4.8%*	170	*2.5%*
Social, economic & political studies	23200	*88.0%*	3060	*11.6%*	30	*0.1%*	80	*0.3%*
Law	10370	*88.7%*	1300	*11.1%*	20	*0.2%*	~	*0.0%*
Business & administrative studies	21700	*55.3%*	17130	*43.7%*	340	*0.9%*	40	*0.1%*
Librarianship & information science	5380	*85.4%*	920	*14.6%*	~	*0.0%*	0	*0.0%*
Languages	10050	*58.1%*	7130	*41.2%*	90	*0.5%*	30	*0.2%*
Humanities	9510	*91.0%*	900	*8.6%*	~	*0.1%*	40	*0.4%*
Creative arts & design	23960	*85.9%*	3900	*14.0%*	20	*0.1%*	20	*0.1%*
Education	6850	*49.1%*	6970	*50.0%*	120	*0.9%*	~	*0.0%*
Combined	27700	*75.9%*	8460	*23.2%*	160	*0.4%*	160	*0.4%*
Total - All subject areas	**206960**	***66.4%***	**93550**	***30.0%***	**9680**	***3.1%***	**1330**	***0.4%***

Note: Percentages were calculated against the total number of students whose expected length of programme was known.

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

Overall, 66.4% of first year students were following programmes of up to three years duration; 30.0% were on programmes expected to last between three and four years; and 3.5% were following programmes expected to last over four years. There were, predictably, significant differences by subject area. Over 50% of engineering & technology and education students were expected to study for four years, as well as over 40% of students in computer science, agriculture & related subjects, business & administrative studies and languages. Programmes of five or more years were the norm for students of clinical subjects, and also for some students of engineering & technology and architecture, building & planning. It is relevant to consider these figures alongside information about work placements, and therefore the following section looks at sandwich study.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Sandwich Students

In most of the tables of this volume, sandwich students are included within the full-time category. It is however of interest to note that students on sandwich programmes constitute 8.6% of all undergraduates, and they are considerably more prominent within some disciplines.

Table H - Undergraduate Sandwich Students 1999/2000

	First degree	Other UG	Sandwich students as a percentage of all undergraduates
Medicine & dentistry	0	0	*0.0%*
Subjects allied to medicine	5250	760	*3.5%*
Biological sciences	6270	~	*8.8%*
Veterinary science	50	~	*1.7%*
Agriculture & related subjects	2400	1290	*31.3%*
Physical sciences	4130	40	*8.0%*
Mathematical sciences	1600	~	*9.7%*
Computer science	21250	990	*30.0%*
Engineering & technology	17230	740	*18.7%*
Architecture, building & planning	6910	340	*22.9%*
Social, economic & political studies	2830	160	*3.1%*
Law	830	0	*2.0%*
Business & administrative studies	36520	1560	*24.2%*
Librarianship & information science	830	~	*4.5%*
Languages	2570	40	*3.4%*
Humanities	~	0	*0.0%*
Creative arts & design	3580	20	*4.0%*
Education	660	180	*1.4%*
Combined	5610	20	*1.9%*
Total - All subject areas	**118510**	**6150**	***8.6%***

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

The following table provides a breakdown by qualification aim and subject area:

As the table indicates, sandwich study is particularly common in the areas of computer science, agriculture & related subjects, architecture, building & planning and business & administrative studies.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Age of Students

Table Ii shows the percentage of students within age groups among first year UK domiciled undergraduates.

Table Ii - Age Distribution of First Year UK Domiciled Undergraduates(1) by Mode of Study 1999/2000

Percentages

	First Degree			Other Undergraduate		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	**Total**	Full-time	Part-time
18 & under	***43.8***	*48.6*	*1.2*	***6.5***	*23.6*	*1.5*
19	***20.5***	*22.5*	*1.5*	***5.2***	*18.0*	*1.5*
20	***7.2***	*7.6*	*2.9*	***3.5***	*9.8*	*1.7*
21-24	***10.4***	*9.9*	*14.6*	***11.4***	*17.6*	*9.6*
25-29	***5.8***	*4.3*	*19.1*	***14.7***	*10.7*	*15.8*
30 & over	***12.4***	*7.0*	*60.6*	***58.7***	*20.3*	*69.8*
Total	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***

(1) Those whose age is known.

21.2% of UK domiciled new students on full-time degree courses were aged 21 and over (1998/99: 22.6%); 48.7% of new students on full-time other undergraduate courses were also 21 or over (1998/99: 50.2%). 60.6% of part-time first degree entrants were 30 or over (1998/99: 59.8%).

Table Iii presents equivalent information for postgraduates.

Table Iii - Age Distribution of First Year UK Domiciled Postgraduates(1) by Mode of Study 1999/2000

Percentages

	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Under 21	***0.3***	*0.5*	*0.2*
21-24	***28.3***	*53.8*	*9.5*
25-29	***20.2***	*20.6*	*20.0*
30 & over	***51.1***	*25.1*	*70.3*
Total	***100.0***	***100.0***	***100.0***

(1) Those whose age is known.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Ethnicity

HESA receives from institutions information about the ethnicity of students where this is known. The collection process began in 1994/95 and is therefore now in its sixth year. Ethnicity is known for 89.7% of UK domiciled first year undergraduates and 80.9% of UK domiciled first year postgraduates. In respect of all UK domiciled students (including continuing students), the information is available for 91.0% of undergraduates and 77.7% of postgraduates. Although HESA presents in Table 10b ethnicity information for the student population as a whole, the Agency advises caution in analysis at postgraduate level.

In any case, the latest trend in relation to ethnic minority participation is best judged by considering first year students only: Table J shows the participation rate of ethnic minority students among new undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Table J - Ethnic Minority Students as a Percentage of UK Domiciled First Year Students of Known Ethnicity 1999/2000

	Percentages
Research for a higher degree	***10.2***
Full-time	*10.0*
Part-time	*10.6*
Taught course for a higher degree	***14.9***
Full-time	*19.0*
Part-time	*11.9*
Other postgraduate	***8.7***
Full-time	*9.3*
Part-time	*8.3*
First degree	***15.2***
Full-time	*15.5*
Part-time	*12.3*
Other undergraduate	***10.4***
Full-time	*18.6*
Part-time	*7.8*

Overall, ethnic minorities constituted 13.0% of all first year UK domiciled students whose ethnicity was known, and were more strongly represented among full-time undergraduates and taught postgraduates. They were less strongly represented among research students, and among part-time students generally.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Within the ethnic minority student population there are significant differences in gender participation. The following chart shows, for ethnic minorities among all undergraduates, the gender balance by ethnic group.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Qualifications Obtained

In the 1999/2000 academic year, a total of 460,260 qualifications were awarded at HE level (compared with 446,940 in the previous year). Of these awards, 57.6% were first degrees, with other undergraduate qualifications (including HND/DipHE) making up 15.8%. Postgraduate level qualifications accounted for just under 27% of the total.

Table K gives more detail.

Table K - Qualifications Obtained by Level of Qualification, Mode and Domicile 1999/2000

	All qualifications	First degree	HND/DipHE	Other UG quals	Doctorates	Other higher degrees	PGCE	Other PG quals
Full-time								
All students	**336200**	**239760**	**25090**	**8770**	**2450**	**32560**	**17270**	**10300**
UK domiciled	**282920**	212340	23230	6800	1490	14490	16590	7980
Overseas domiciled	**53290**	27420	1860	1970	960	18080	680	2320
Part-time								
All students	**124060**	**25510**	**5240**	**33420**	**9100**	**27800**	**1350**	**21640**
UK domiciled	**111330**	24190	5100	32640	6090	21490	1330	20490
Overseas domiciled	**12730**	1320	140	770	3010	6310	20	1160
All students	**460260**	**265270**	**30330**	**42180**	**11540**	**60370**	**18630**	**31950**
Percentage of all qualifications	*100.0%*	*57.6%*	*6.6%*	*9.2%*	*2.5%*	*13.1%*	*4.0%*	*6.9%*
UK domiciled	**394240**	236530	28330	39440	7580	35980	17920	28470
Overseas domiciled	**66020**	28740	2000	2740	3960	24390	700	3480

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

Table L presents a summary of the classification of first degrees awarded and shows the percentage awarded in each classification, by mode of study, domicile and gender.

Table L - First Degree Classifications by Mode, Domicile and Gender 1999/2000

	Total first degree	First class	Upper second class	Lower second	Third class/ Pass	Unclassified
Total full-time	**239760**	**19750**	**105490**	**83140**	**17610**	**13780**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*8.7%*	*46.7%*	*36.8%*	*7.8%*	-
UK domiciled	**212340**	**17170**	**95810**	**73070**	**14110**	**12180**
Female	**116560**	8830	57370	38760	5500	6100
Male	**95780**	8340	38440	34320	8610	6080
Overseas domiciled	**27420**	**2580**	**9680**	**10070**	**3500**	**1600**
Female	**13150**	1100	5260	4890	1220	680
Male	**14270**	1480	4420	5180	2270	920
Total part-time	**25510**	**2020**	**8250**	**7160**	**2500**	**5570**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*10.1%*	*41.4%*	*35.9%*	*12.5%*	-
UK domiciled	**24190**	**1980**	**7900**	**6690**	**2170**	**5440**
Female	**13870**	1050	4780	3800	1080	3160
Male	**10320**	930	3120	2890	1100	2290
Overseas domiciled	**1320**	**40**	**350**	**480**	**330**	**130**
Female	**510**	10	120	190	120	70
Male	**820**	30	240	290	210	60
All students	**265270**	**21770**	**113740**	**90300**	**20110**	**19350**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*8.9%*	*46.2%*	*36.7%*	*8.2%*	-
UK domiciled	**236530**	**19150**	**103710**	**79760**	**16280**	**17620**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*8.7%*	*47.4%*	*36.4%*	*7.4%*	-
Female	**130430**	9890	62150	42560	6580	9260
Male	**106100**	9270	41550	37200	9710	8370
Overseas domiciled	**28740**	**2620**	**10030**	**10550**	**3820**	**1730**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*9.7%*	*37.1%*	*39.0%*	*14.2%*	-
Female	**13660**	1110	5370	5080	1340	750
Male	**15080**	1510	4660	5460	2480	970
All domiciles	**265270**	**21770**	**113740**	**90300**	**20110**	**19350**
Female	**144090**	**11000**	**67520**	**47640**	**7920**	**10010**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*8.2%*	*50.4%*	*35.5%*	*5.9%*	-
Male	**121180**	**10780**	**46210**	**42670**	**12190**	**9340**
Percentage of classified degrees	**-**	*9.6%*	*41.3%*	*38.1%*	*10.9%*	-

In this table, all numbers between one and nine have been expressed as ~. Other numbers have been rounded up or down to the nearest ten. Zero represents zero.

Overall, 55.1% of students of known classification who obtained a classified first degree were awarded first or upper second class honours, with 8.9% being awarded a first. A slightly higher percentage of part-time students than full-time students obtained a first class degree while 5.3% more full-time students obtained an upper second classification. Overseas students obtained a higher proportion of first class degrees but a markedly lower proportion of upper seconds.

Meanwhile fewer female students obtained first class degrees than their male counterparts but a markedly greater proportion obtained upper seconds, as is shown in the following chart.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)

All of these observations should however be considered in the context of the subject of study. The following table shows the percentage of students obtaining a first or upper second class award in each of the non-clinical subject areas (degrees in clinical subjects are predominantly awarded without classification).

Table M - First Degree Graduates in Non-clinical Subjects Awarded First or Upper Second Class Honours as a Percentage of Classified Degrees 1999/2000

Percentages

	First class	Upper second	First or upper second
Subjects allied to medicine	*9.5*	*49.7*	*59.2*
Biological sciences	*8.9*	*50.2*	*59.1*
Agriculture & related subjects	*6.9*	*43.9*	*50.8*
Physical sciences	*13.3*	*40.1*	*53.3*
Mathematical sciences	*22.0*	*32.8*	*54.7*
Computer science	*10.9*	*35.7*	*46.6*
Engineering & technology	*14.5*	*36.1*	*50.5*
Architecture, building & planning	*7.6*	*41.7*	*49.3*
Social, economic & political studies	*5.9*	*48.6*	*54.5*
Law	*4.1*	*47.9*	*52.0*
Business & administrative studies	*4.8*	*42.1*	*46.9*
Librarianship & information science	*5.3*	*51.3*	*56.7*
Languages	*9.5*	*57.6*	*67.1*
Humanities	*8.7*	*59.7*	*68.4*
Creative arts & design	*9.5*	*47.3*	*56.8*
Education	*6.1*	*46.0*	*52.2*
Combined	*9.1*	*47.4*	*56.5*
Total - Non-clinical subjects	***8.8***	***46.3***	***55.1***

Table M reveals that a considerably greater proportion of first class degrees was awarded in mathematical sciences, engineering & technology and physical sciences - subjects in which we have noted a significant majority of male students (see Table F).

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (2001)