



Access to Higher Education: Students in Higher Education 2017-18

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Executive summary

Key findings from the year's report concerning Access to HE Diploma students in higher education are as follows:





Students at higher education institutions in England and Wales with Access to HE entry qualifications

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Introduction

This report by QAA summarises data about student registrations on undergraduate higher education (HE) programmes at higher education providers (HEPs) in England and Wales and uses data from the HESA Student Record 2016-17 and the HESA Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2015-16.

A range of student characteristics are analysed, including age, gender, ethnicity and disability. Consideration is also given to the higher education providers to which Access to HE students registered, as well as the subjects studied.

Data received by QAA from Access Validating Agencies, the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) concerning Access to HE Diploma courses and students, and Access to HE students applying to higher education, is published in two separate reports.

HESA data identifies Access to HE courses using a student's 'highest qualification on entry' to higher education or by looking at their individual entry qualifications. If a student is recorded as having either their highest entry qualification as an Access to HE Diploma, or they hold an Access to HE Diploma as one of their entry qualifications¹, they are counted within the 'Access to HE' category in the tables and figures of this report. In contrast, for the 2013 report, if a student held an Access entry qualification alongside a higher education level qualification, the higher education qualification would supersede the Access qualification and the student would not appear in the 'Access' category.

All figures relating to students have been rounded to the nearest five. Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100 per cent. Totals may also vary between sections.

¹ Detailed entry qualification information was only available in HESA data from 2010-11.

1 Study profiles of entrants with an Access to HE Diploma

In the academic year 2016-17, there were 24,895 entrants registered on undergraduate programmes with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications at HEPs in England and Wales. These students represented 3.7% of the undergraduate entrant population. Table 1 provides a breakdown by mode of study and level of qualification and figure 1 illustrates the number of QAA-recognised Access to HE entrants across the last ten academic years.

Table 1: Undergraduate entrants with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications by level and mode of study, 2016-17

	Full-time	% of all full-time undergraduates	Part-time	% of all part-time undergraduates	Total	% of undergraduates
First degree	22,450	4.5%	530	1.2%	22,980	4.2%
Other undergraduate	1,030	3.3%	880	1.0%	1,915	1.6%
Total	23,480	4.4%	1,415	1.2%	24,895	3.7%

Percentages exclude unknown qualification on entry.

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Figure 1: Undergraduate entrants with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications by level of study and academic year



Table 2 provides a breakdown of QAA Access entrants on undergraduate courses by subject area, level and mode of study. Since a high proportion of QAA entrants were studying in subject area (2) subjects allied to medicine, and the majority of these students were studying (B7) nursing, these subjects are shown separately in the following analyses. Subject (L5) social work has also been shown separately from subject area (B) social studies.

Table 2: Undergraduate entrants with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications by mode, level and subject area of study, 2016-17

	First degree				Other undergraduate				Total	
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	% of first degree	Full-time	Part-time	Total	% of other UG		
(1) Medicine and dentistry	75	0	75	0.3%	15	0	15	<1%	85	0.3%
(2) Subjects allied to medicine (excluding Nursing)	2,725	65	2,785	12.1%	275	155	430	22.4%	3,215	12.9%
(B7) Nursing	8,035	55	8,090	35.2%	300	380	680	35.4%	8,765	35.2%
(3) Biological sciences	2,385	95	2,485	10.8%	50	35	85	4.4%	2,565	10.3%
(4) Veterinary science	15	0	15	<1%	0	0	0	<1%	15	<1%
(5) Agriculture and related subjects	75	0	75	0.3%	20	0	20	<1%	95	0.4%
(6) Physical sciences	405	15	420	1.8%	15	5	20	<1%	440	1.8%
(7) Mathematical sciences	60	5	65	0.3%	0	0	0	<1%	65	0.3%
(8) Computer science	540	15	555	2.4%	10	10	20	<1%	575	2.3%
(9) Engineering and technology	620	15	635	2.8%	25	10	35	1.8%	670	2.7%
(A) Architecture, building and planning	140	5	145	0.6%	0	5	5	<1%	150	0.6%
(B) Social studies (excluding social work)	1,425	30	1,455	6.3%	20	55	75	3.9%	1,530	6.1%
(L5) Social work	1,450	35	1,485	6.5%	155	40	195	10.2%	1,680	6.7%
(C) Law	720	40	760	3.3%	5	10	15	<1%	770	3.1%
(D) Business and administrative studies	1,225	40	1,260	5.5%	40	20	55	2.9%	1,315	5.13%
(E) Mass communications and documentation	195	5	200	0.9%	5	0	5	<1%	200	0.8%
(F) Languages	470	25	495	2.2%	5	35	35	1.8%	530	2.1%
(G) Historical and philosophical studies	475	25	495	2.1%	5	35	35	0.5%	495	2.0%
(H) Creative arts and design	530	15	545	2.4%	20	5	25	1.3%	570	2.3%
(I) Education	880	40	920	4.0%	85	75	160	8.4%	1,080	4.3%
(J) Combined	10	20	30	0.1%	0	35	35	1.8%	70	0.3%
Total	22,450	530	22,980		1,030	880	1,915		24,895	

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '.'.

Table 3 shows higher education institutions that recruited more than 180 students with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications.

Table 3: Undergraduate entrants with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications by mode of study and higher education provider, 2016-17

Higher education provider	Full-time	% of all full-time UG	Part-time	% of all part-time UG	Total	% of UG
0052 Birmingham City University	800	3.4%	80	5.7%	880	3.5%
0079 Teesside University	650	2.8%	65	4.4%	710	2.9%
0085 The University of Wolverhampton	615	2.6%	60	4.2%	675	2.7%
0047 Anglia Ruskin University	620	2.6%	20	1.3%	640	2.6%
0073 University of Plymouth	595	2.5%	45	3.0%	640	2.6%
0069 University of Northumbria at Newcastle	495	2.1%	90	6.3%	585	2.3%
0075 Sheffield Hallam University	500	2.1%	25	1.8%	525	2.1%
0076 London South Bank University	440	1.9%	50	3.5%	490	2.0%
0081 University of the West of England, Bristol	485	2.1%	<20	<1%	490	2.0%
0066 The Manchester Metropolitan University	475	2.0%	<20	<1%	485	2.0%
0158 The University of Salford	450	1.9%	<20	<1%	460	1.8%
0059 The University of Greenwich	415	1.8%	40	2.7%	455	1.8%
0068 De Montfort University	425	1.8%	<20	<1%	430	1.7%
0056 Coventry University	420	1.8%	<20	<1%	425	1.7%
0051 The University of Brighton	410	1.7%	<20	<1%	420	1.7%
0012 Canterbury Christ Church University	360	1.5%	35	2.6%	395	1.6%
0050 Bournemouth University	395	1.7%	<20	<1%	395	1.6%
0057 University of Derby	380	1.6%	10	0.7%	390	1.6%
0065 Liverpool John Moores University	380	1.6%	<20	<1%	385	1.6%
0067 Middlesex University	375	1.6%	<20	<1%	375	1.5%
0072 Oxford Brookes University	335	1.4%	40	2.7%	375	1.5%
0026 University of Bedfordshire	350	1.5%	<20	<1%	365	1.5%
0058 The University of East London	350	1.5%	<20	<1%	365	1.5%
0078 The University of Sunderland	315	1.3%	50	3.4%	365	1.5%
0063 Kingston University	355	1.5%	<20	<1%	355	1.4%
0060 University of Hertfordshire	335	1.4%	<20	<1%	350	1.4%
0027 The University of Northampton	340	1.4%	<20	<1%	350	1.4%
0053 The University of Central Lancashire	330	1.4%	<20	<1%	345	1.4%
0074 The University of Portsmouth	335	1.4%	<20	<1%	345	1.4%
0016 Edge Hill University	325	1.4%	<20	<1%	330	1.3%
0090 University of South Wales	290	1.2%	<20	1.4%	310	1.3%
0001 The Open University	0	0.0%	310	21.9%	310	1.2%
0155 University of Nottingham	305	1.3%	<20	<1%	305	1.2%
0011 University of Chester	300	1.3%	<20	<1%	305	1.2%

Higher education provider	Full-time	% of all full-time UG	Part-time	% of all part-time UG	Total	% of UG
0111 The University of Bradford	305	1.3%	<20	<1%	305	1.2%
0061 The University of Huddersfield	285	1.2%	<20	1.2%	305	1.2%
0184 The Queen's University of Belfast	265	1.1%	<20	<1%	280	1.1%
0077 Staffordshire University	260	1.1%	<20	1.1%	275	1.1%
0179 Cardiff University	265	1.1%	<20	<1%	265	1.1%
0120 The University of Hull	260	1.1%	<20	<1%	265	1.1%
0172 The University of Dundee	260	1.1%	<20	<1%	265	1.1%
0178 Bangor University	255	1.1%	<20	<1%	255	1.0%
0080 The University of West London	245	1.0%	<20	<1%	250	1.0%
0046 University of Worcester	250	1.1%	<20	<1%	250	1.0%
0071 The Nottingham Trent University	240	1.0%	<20	<1%	240	1.0%
0134 King's College London	235	1.0%	<20	<1%	240	1.0%
0117 The University of East Anglia	235	1.0%	<20	<1%	240	1.0%
0180 Swansea University	220	0.9%	<20	1.3%	235	0.9%
0210 University of Suffolk	225	1.0%	<20	<1%	235	0.9%
0049 The University of Bolton	210	0.9%	<20	<1%	230	0.9%
0160 The University of Southampton	210	0.9%	<20	<1%	210	0.8%
0204 The University of Manchester	210	0.9%	<20	<1%	210	0.8%
0064 Leeds Beckett University	185	0.8%	<20	<1%	195	0.8%
0202 London Metropolitan University	175	0.8%	<20	<1%	180	0.7%

These 54 institutions registered 19,960 (79.9%) of all Access to HE Diploma students entering higher education programmes in 2016-17.

2 Student characteristics of Access to HE entrants

Table 4: The gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes at higher education institutions in England and Wales in 2016-17

	First degree			Other undergraduate			Total
	QAA-recognised Access Diploma	Other qualification	% QAA-recognised Access Diploma	QAA-recognised Access Diploma	Other qualification	% QAA-recognised Access to HE course	
Female	16,735	289,715	5.5%	1,505	73,115	2.0%	381,070
Male	6,245	233,375	2.6%	405	38,880	1.0%	278,900
Total	22,980	523,250	4.2%	1,915	112,065	1.7%	660,210

Figures and percentages exclude entrants with unknown qualification on entry. Total include indeterminate gender.

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

The table shows twice as many female students entered undergraduate programmes in 2016-17 than males with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications. The difference is significant at both the first degree and other undergraduate levels. 73% of female students with an Access to HE Diploma entered undergraduate programmes in 2016-17 compared with 57% of female students with other qualifications.

Figure 2 shows significantly higher proportions of female Access to HE Diploma students entered nursing than those with other qualifications. Nursing and social work programmes accounted for 41.2% of all undergraduate Access to HE Diploma entrants in 2016-17; 90.6% of these were female.

Figure 2: First degree entrants to nursing and social work by gender and entrance qualification

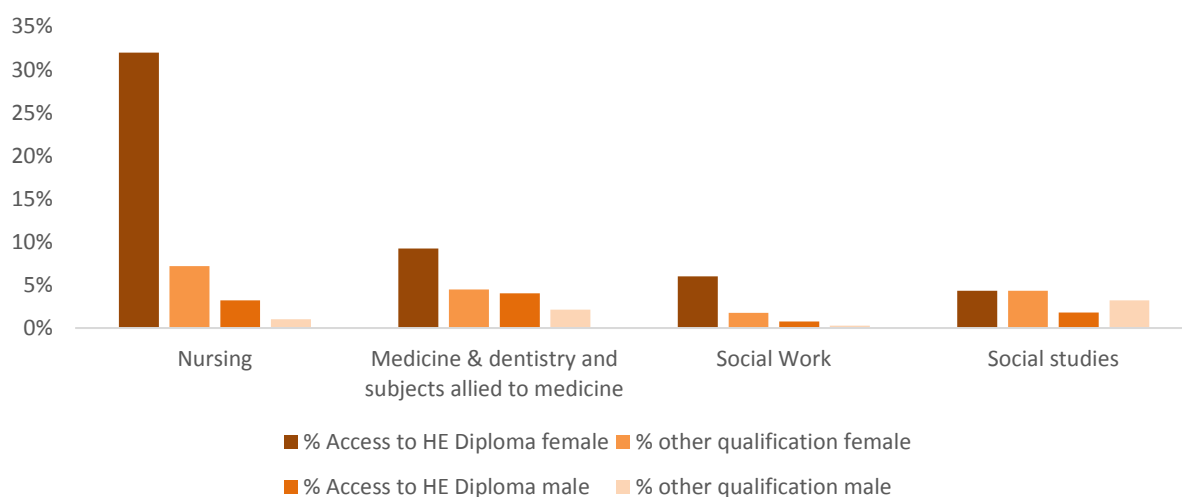


Table 5 provides a breakdown of the age of entrants on undergraduate programmes. Around two thirds (61.5%) of Access to HE Diploma entrants on part-time courses and just over a third (34.3%) of Access to HE Diploma entrants on full-time courses were aged 30 and over. By comparison, the other entry qualifications show a more 'traditional' profile of ages, with 79.7% of those on full-time undergraduate programmes being under 21. (13.8% of Access to HE Diploma entrants fit this 'traditional' profile). This is also shown in figure 3.

Table 5: Undergraduate entrants by entry qualification, mode of study and age group, 2016-17

	QAA-recognised Access Diploma			%	Other qualification		Total	%
	Full-time	Part-time	FE		Full-time	Part-time		
Under 18 years	50	0	0	0.2%	12,770	3,815	16,640	2.6%
18 to 20 years	3,190	20	0	12.9%	392,400	12,770	408,380	63.2%
21 to 24 years	6,740	190	0	27.8%	57,415	21,030	85,370	12.2%
25 to 29 years	5,450	340	0	23.2%	18,430	23,160	47,370	6.5%
30 years and over	8,060	875	10	35.9%	27,535	71,205	107,670	15.4%
Unknown					0	120	120	
Total	23,480	1,420	20		508,550	132,090	665,545	

Figures exclude entrants with unknown qualification on entry.

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

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Figure 3: proportion of first degree entrants by age group and entry qualification

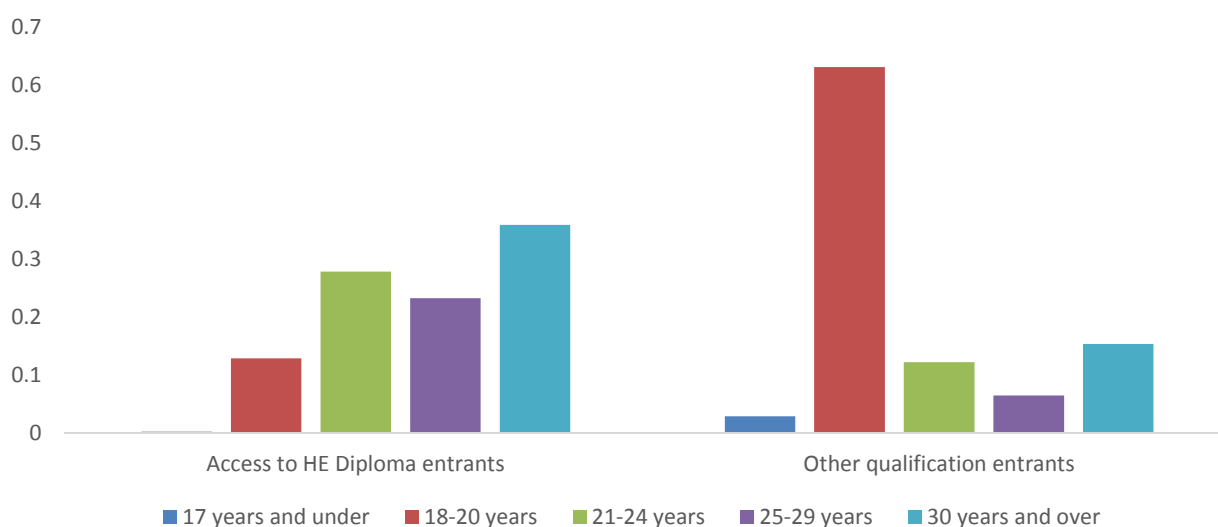


Table 6 and figure 4 show that entrants with Access to HE Diploma qualifications have a higher representation from ethnic minority groups than entrants with other qualifications, though there are interesting differences between the various ethnic categories. Students of black ethnicity showed higher proportions within Access to HE qualifications and students of Asian ethnicity generally showed higher proportions within 'Other' qualifications. Ethnicity data in the HESA student record is only collected for UK-domiciled students.

Table 6: UK domiciled undergraduate entrants by level of study, entry qualification and ethnicity, 2016-17

	First degree				Other undergraduate				Total	
	QAA-recognised Access Diploma		Other qualification		QAA-recognised Access Diploma		Other qualification			
White	15,605	67.9%	323,455	61.8%	1,425	74.4%	79,090	70.9%	419,575	63.6%
Black Caribbean	645	2.8%	7,020	1.3%	60	3.1%	1,435	1.4%	9,160	1.4%
Black African	2,820	12.3%	24,280	4.6%	190	9.9%	3,815	3.4%	31,105	4.7%
Black other	170	0.7%	1,695	0.3%	15	0.8%	320	0.3%	2,200	0.3%
Indian	300	1.3%	15,110	2.9%	30	1.6%	2,060	1.8%	17,500	2.7%
Pakistani	565	2.5%	15,440	3.0%	30	1.6%	1,330	1.2%	17,365	2.6%
Bangladeshi	195	0.8%	7,785	1.5%	5	0.3%	525	0.5%	8,510	1.3%
Chinese	75	0.3%	3,320	0.6%	0	0.0%	380	0.3%	3,775	0.6%
Asian other	590	2.6%	9,730	1.9%	35	1.8%	2,150	1.9%	12,505	1.9%
Other	1,795	7.8%	111,015	21.2%	115	6.0%	17,235	15.4%	130,160	19.7%
Not known	225	1.0%	4,400	0.8%	15	0.8%	3,725	3.3%	8,365	1.3%
Total	22,980		523,250		1,915		112,065		660,210	

Figure 4: proportion of black and minority ethnic (BME) entrants by qualification on entry

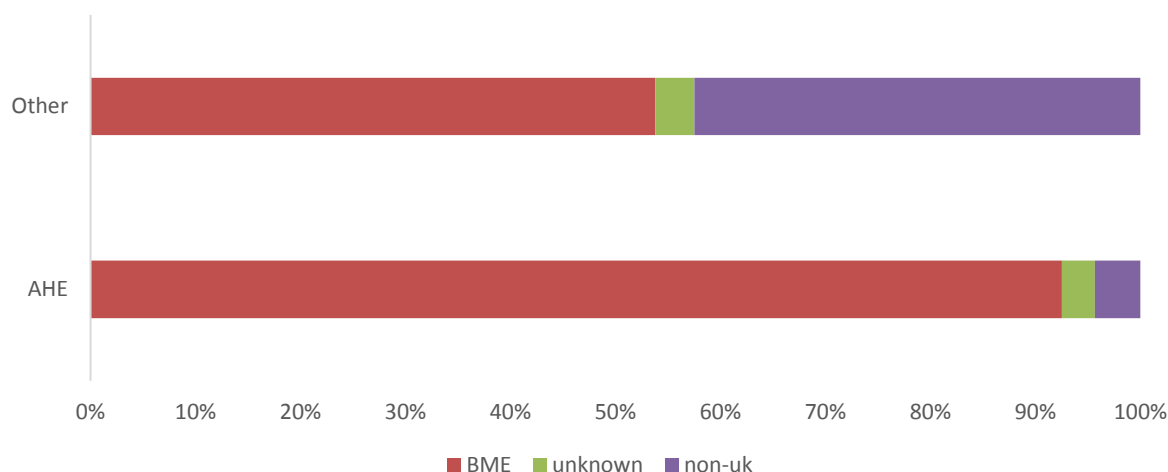


Table 7 below shows disability for undergraduate entrants in 2016-17. It should be noted that students are no longer permitted to have an 'unknown' disability. Students with no known disability include those who have been coded 'no known disability', 'information refused', 'information not sought', or 'not known'. Percentages are therefore calculated excluding those with 'no known disability'.

Table 7: Undergraduate entrants by entry qualification and disability, 2016-17

	QAA-recognised Access Diploma		Other qualification		Total	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
No known disability	20,470		571,980		592,450	
Blind or a serious visual impairment	45	1.0%	865	1.2%	910	1.2%
Deaf or a serious hearing impairment	65	1.5%	1,595	2.2%	1,660	2.1%
A physical impairment or mobility issues	160	3.6%	2,240	3.0%	2,405	3.1%
Mental health condition	1,075	24.2%	15,640	21.1%	16,715	21.3%
A long-standing illness or health condition	435	9.8%	6,985	9.4%	7,420	9.4%
Two or more conditions	435	9.8%	6,975	9.4%	7,415	9.4%
Social communication/Autistic spectrum disorder	110	2.5%	3,375	4.6%	3,485	4.4%
Specific learning difficulty	1,830	41.1%	29,955	40.4%	31,780	40.4%
Another disability, impairment or medical condition	290	6.5%	6,540	8.8%	6,830	8.7%
Total	24,920		646,150		671,070	

Percentages exclude entrants with unknown ethnicity. Figures exclude entrants with unknown qualification on entry.

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Figure 5: Undergraduate entrants by entry qualification and low participation marker (POLAR3), 2016-17

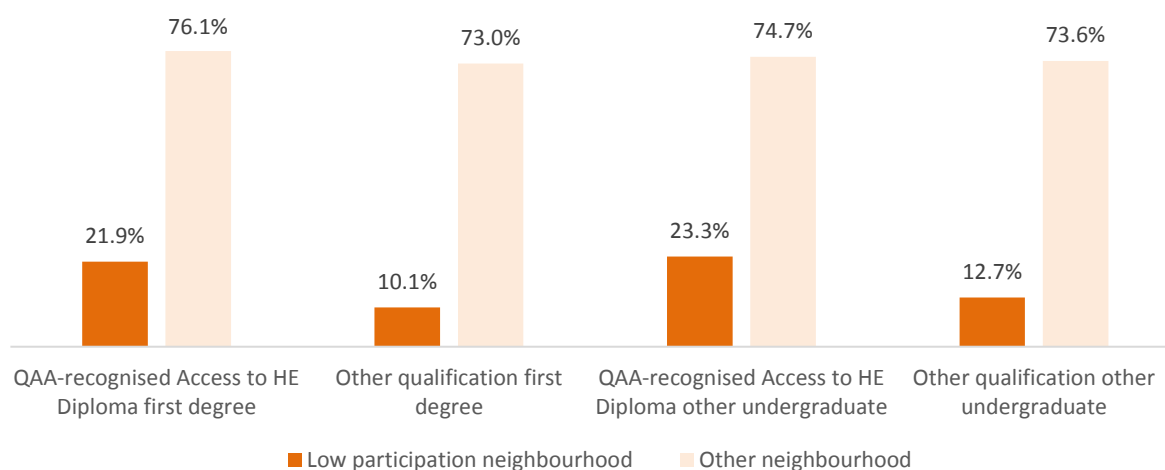


Figure 5 above shows the proportion of QAA-recognised undergraduate entrants by the type of neighbourhood they were living in before they entered higher education, with comparisons against all other types of qualification held.

The low participation indicator has been produced using POLAR3. POLAR3 is based on the higher education participation rates of people who were aged 18 between 2005 and 2009 and entered a higher education course in a UK higher education institution or English or Scottish further education college, aged 18 or 19, between academic years 2005-06 and 2010-11. The POLAR3 classification is formed by ranking 2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards by their young participation rates for the combined 2005 to 2009 cohorts; this gives five quintile groups of areas. Those students whose postcode falls within wards with the lowest participation (Quintile 1) are denoted as being from a low participation neighbourhood.

3 Qualifications awarded to Access to HE students

In 2016-17, there were 19,275 undergraduate qualifications awarded to QAA-recognised Access to HE students at higher education institutions in England and Wales. This compares to 467,540 undergraduate qualifications awarded to students with other qualifications. Table 8 provides a breakdown of these students by subject area and level of study for Access to HE students.

Table 8: Undergraduate qualifiers with QAA-recognised Access qualifications by level of study and subject area, 2016-17

Subject area	First degree	%	Other under graduate	%	Total	%
(1) Medicine and dentistry	30	0.2%	25	0.8%	55	0.3%
(2) Subjects allied to medicine	1,735	10.6%	425	14.5%	2,160	11.2%
(B7) Nursing	5,950	36.4%	695	23.8%	6,645	34.5%
(3) Biological sciences	1,505	9.2%	360	12.4%	1,865	9.7%
(4) Veterinary science	10	0.1%	-	0.0%	10	0.0%
(5) Agriculture and related subjects	60	0.4%	30	0.9%	85	0.4%
(6) Physical sciences	235	1.4%	50	1.6%	285	1.5%
(7) Mathematical sciences	35	0.2%	5	0.2%	40	0.2%
(8) Computer science	275	1.7%	95	3.2%	365	1.9%
(9) Engineering and technology	290	1.8%	75	2.5%	365	1.9%
(A) Architecture, building & planning	70	0.4%	15	0.5%	85	0.4%
(B) Social studies	1,065	6.5%	160	5.6%	1,230	6.4%
(L5) Social work	1,330	8.1%	290	9.9%	1,615	8.4%
(C) Law	415	2.5%	85	2.9%	495	2.6%
(D) Business and administrative studies	935	5.7%	170	5.8%	1,105	5.7%
(E) Mass communications & documentation	165	1.0%	40	1.4%	210	1.1%
(F) Languages	420	2.6%	55	1.9%	475	2.5%
(G) Historical and philosophical studies	365	2.2%	55	1.8%	415	2.2%
(H) Creative arts & design	460	2.8%	85	2.9%	545	2.8%
(I) Education	970	5.9%	210	7.2%	1,185	6.1%
(J) Combined	30	0.2%	5	0.1%	35	0.2%
Total	16,355	100.0%	2,920	100.0%	19,275	100.0%

Figures exclude entrants with 'Other Access' and unknown qualification on entry.

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Table 9 and figure 6 show the number of first degrees awarded by classification and highest qualification held. It shows that proportionately fewer first and upper second class degrees were awarded to students who entered with an Access to HE qualification.

Table 9: Classification of first degree qualifiers by entry qualification, 2016-17

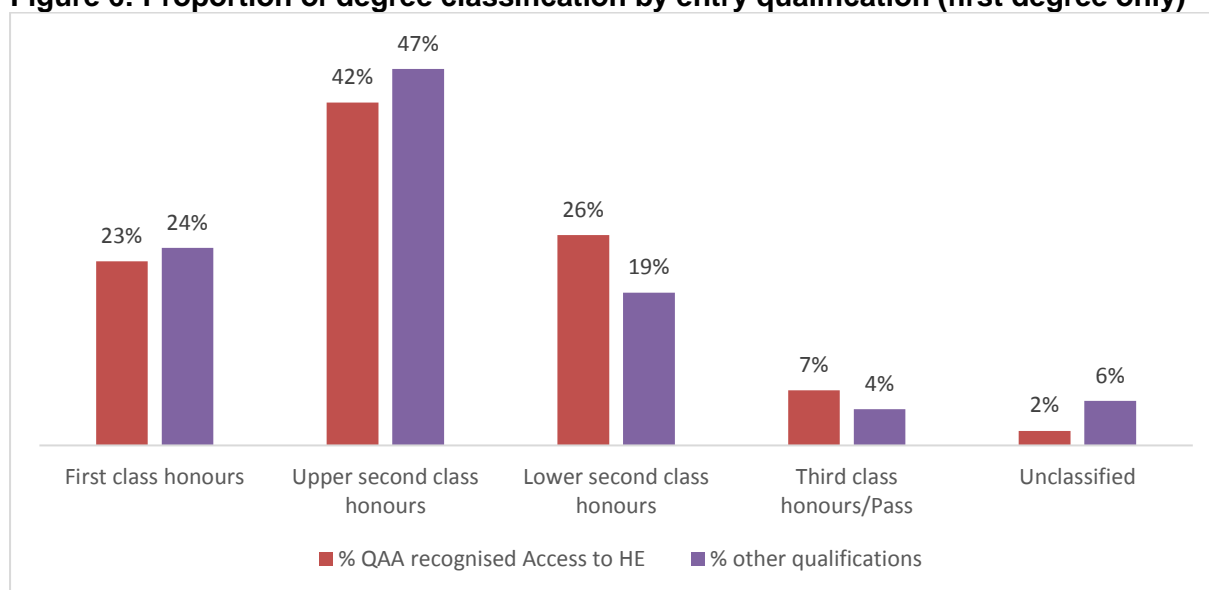
Classification of first degree	QAA-recognised Access to HE	%	Other qualification	%
First class honours	3,730	22.4%	96,900	24.1%
Upper second class honours	6,950	41.8%	184,720	46.0%
Lower second class honours	4,265	25.6%	74,895	18.6%
Third class honours/Pass	1,120	6.7%	17,815	4.4%
Unclassified	575	3.5%	27,630	6.9%
Total	16,635	100.0%	401,955	100.0%

Figures exclude students with unknown qualification on entry and class of degree

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Figure 6: Proportion of degree classification by entry qualification (first degree only)



4 Progression rates of Access to HE students

The non-continuation rate is the proportion of UK domiciled students who entered a full-time first-degree programme in a particular year who are no longer studying in higher education the following year and have not obtained a qualification. Table 10 below shows the numbers of mature and young entrants on full-time, first-degree programmes at HEPs in the UK in 2015-16 and the proportion of those not continuing as a percentage of the total age group cohort for each qualification. Comparisons can be seen between those entering with QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas and those entering with other types of qualifications.

Among mature students, QAA Access to HE entrants have the lowest non-continuation rate of other qualifications. However, in young students, QAA Access to HE entrants showed higher non-continuation rates when compared with more traditional entry qualifications.

Table 10: Non-continuation rates of full-time first-degree entrants by entry qualification and age marker, 2015-16

Entry qualifications	Mature		Young	
	Number of entrants	Non-continuation rates	Number of entrants	Non-continuation rates
QAA-recognised Access Diploma	13,645	10.2%	1,835	12.4%
Other access course	1,645	10.4%	410	10.3%
Foundation course	535	11.9%	1,075	6.8%
A-Level and equivalent level 3 qualifications	19,000	11.1%	223,280	4.2%
Baccalaureate	145	11.0%	3,540	4.3%
ONC, OND, BTEC, GNVQ/GSVQ, NVQ/SVQ level 3	9,485	15.8%	76,665	12.3%
Higher education qualification	30,670	10.4%	11,130	8.8%
Other or unknown qualification	7,400	15.7%	1,710	16.5%
All entry qualifications total	82,535	11.6%	322,730	6.4%

In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Figures exclude students with unknown age

Table 11 shows non-continuation rates for all full-time first-degree entrants at UK HEPs by subject area of study for 2015-16. Comparisons can be seen between the sector and those entering with QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas. Subject areas have been shown separately where there were more than 100 QAA-recognised Access to HE Diploma entrants; all other subjects have been grouped.

Table 11: Non-continuation rates of full-time first-degree entrants by subject of study, 2015-16

Subject of study	All entrants		Access Diploma (QAA-recognised) entrants	
	Number of entrants	Non-continuation rates	Number of entrants	Non-continuation rates
(2) Subjects allied to medicine	18,440	5.3%	1,645	9.2%
(3) Biological sciences	47,150	7.8%	1,770	13.3%
(6) Physical sciences	19,175	4.7%	270	19.9%
(8) Computer science	20,025	11.9%	405	15.2%
(9) Engineering & technology	23,140	8.3%	500	12.4%
(B) Social studies	33,995	6.4%	1,040	13.7%
(B7) Nursing	22,245	7.3%	5,190	7.0%
(C) Law	14,970	7.2%	495	12.8%
(D) Business & administrative studies	48,450	9.2%	890	13.4%
(E) Mass communications & documentation	11,595	8.9%	165	18.6%
(F) Languages	20,535	4.7%	375	11.3%
(G) Historical & philosophical studies	16,980	4.9%	325	14.0%
(H) Creative arts & design	42,515	8.1%	360	11.6%
(I) Education	16,270	6.8%	750	8.3%
(L5) Social work	6,455	11.3%	1,050	9.5%
all other subjects grouped	27,840	4.9%	240	15.3%
Total	389,785	15.0%	15,480	10.4%

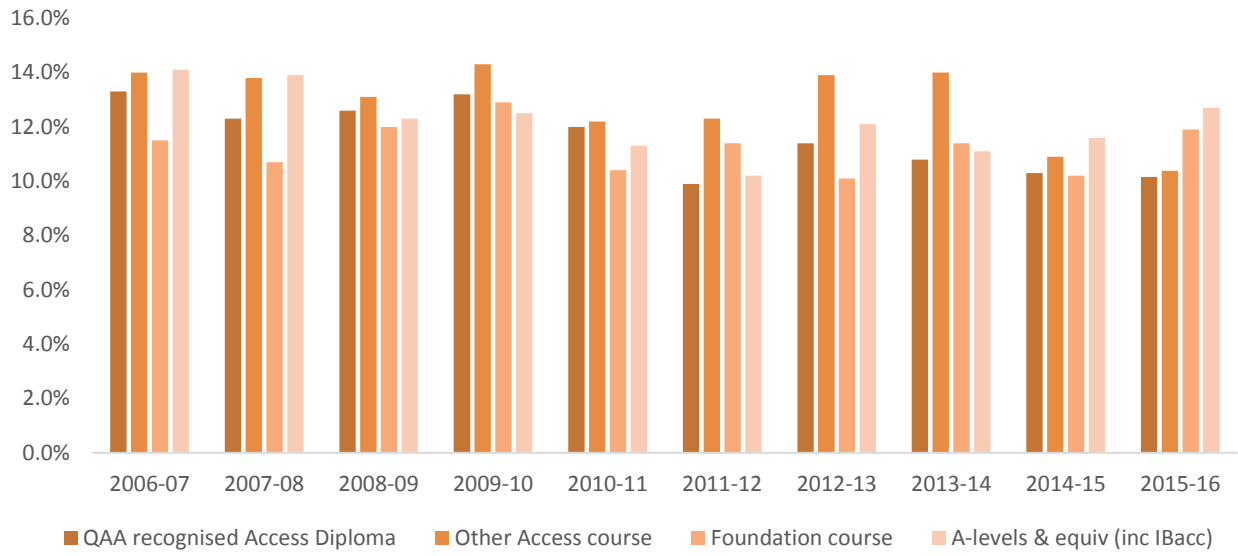
In this table 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0. All other numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations that contain 22.5 or fewer individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'

Figure 7 shows, for the last 10 years, the proportion of mature, full-time, first degree QAA-recognised Access to HE entrants no longer studying in higher education the year after they enter with comparisons against entrants holding A-Levels/Highers, Baccalaureate or equivalent level 3 qualifications and foundation courses. It should be noted that from 2009-10 onwards the entry qualification groups for entrants have changed. See the [Performance Indicator Definitions](#)² for further details.

² Available at: www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators/definitions.

Figure 7: Non-continuation rates of mature full-time entrants by entry qualification and academic year



5 Employment rates of Access to HE Students

Approximately six months after graduation from a full-time first degree programme, students are asked to complete a Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. This gathers information, where applicable, about employment, further study or training and other outcomes after graduation.

The following tables are restricted to 2015-16 UK-domiciled leavers from UK HEPs who were working, studying, unemployed or seeking work. The employment rate is the proportion of these students who were working and/or studying. See the [Performance Indicators for employment of leavers](#)³ for further details and definitions of how the data has been constructed.

Figure 8 shows the employment status of Access to HE Diploma leavers in 2015-16; 90.1% of Access to HE Diploma leavers were in employment or full-time study compared with 82.4% of their peers with other qualifications.

Figure 8: Employment status of Access to HE Diploma leavers in 2015-16

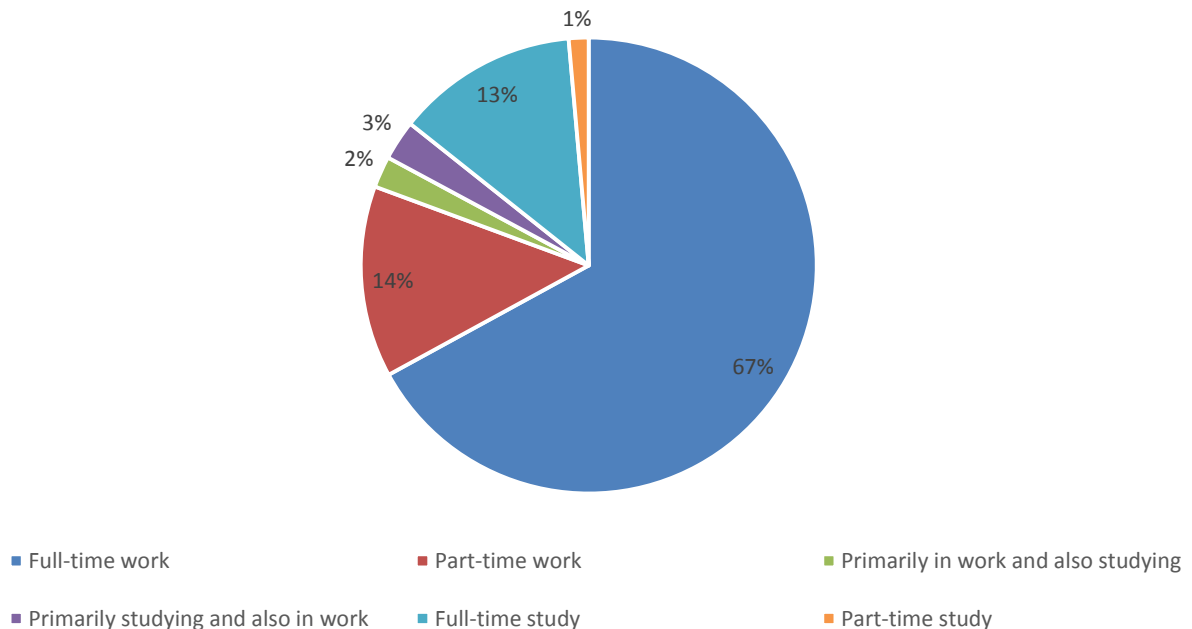


Table 12 focuses on employment rates of leavers with QAA-recognised Access to HE qualifications, by subject of study. Subject areas have been shown separately where there were more than 22.5 QAA-recognised Access to HE entrants; all other subjects have been grouped.

³ Available at: www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators/employment.

Table 12: Employment rates (including further study) of full-time first-degree leavers by subject of study, 2015-16

Subject of study	All leavers		Leavers with QAA-recognised Access Diploma entry qualifications	
	Number in base population	Employment rates (including further study)	Number in base population	Employment rates (including further study)
(2) Subjects allied to medicine	12,704	81.0%	625	80.7%
(B7) Nursing	16,282	87.2%	2,540	93.0%
(3) Biological sciences	26,576	92.6%	606	93.3%
(5) Agriculture and related subjects	1,829	65.1%	20	69.3%
(6) Physical sciences	11,021	94.9%	86	87.6%
(8) Computer science	8,819	87.6%	110	84.7%
(9) Engineering and technology	12,719	82.4%	95	88.4%
(A) Architecture, building and planning	4,510	81.2%	35	83.5%
(B) Social studies	18,557	94.7%	409	93.8%
(L5) Social work	4,507	68.8%	583	86.7%
(C) Law	9,162	92.4%	203	94.2%
(D) Business and administrative studies	26,334	87.8%	359	91.1%
(E) Mass communications and documentation	6,003	95.4%	72	94.8%
(F) Languages	13,318	94.6%	171	94.0%
(G) Historical and philosophical studies	10,743	95.6%	146	93.9%
(H) Creative arts and design	23,696	91.5%	197	92.5%
(I) Education	12,531	66.4%	454	90.8%
Total	219,311	82.7%	6,711	90.1%

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QAA manages the national framework for the recognition and regulation of Access to HE Diplomas. www.qaa.ac.uk