



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba



Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2019-20

SFC Statistics

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Summary: This release contains information on HE provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland from 2010-11 to 2019-20

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland's colleges and universities, students, parents, guardians and the general public.

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The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.



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Adverse Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 by the World Health Organisation, part way through the 2019-20 academic year. The pandemic did not have any notable impact on student enrolment figures for 2019-20, however it did impact on students who were studying at the time and their ability to complete their qualification as planned. Numerous issues impacted students' ability to complete their qualification, such as:

- Students may have been medically affected by the pandemic either directly or via their families and/or dependants.
- Students who have childcare or caring responsibilities were also impacted by the pandemic, and this may have made it more difficult for these students to complete their course as originally intended.
- Colleges and HEIs did act quickly to move provision online where possible, however, students on courses containing a practical element or a work placement may not have been able to complete their course as intended, and therefore had to defer receiving their qualification to the following academic year.
- The entire student population was also affected by the 'softer' impacts of the pandemic on their education, such as losing access to peer support and in-person lecturer support. While institutions took steps to address digital poverty, supported by additional funding, in the immediate aftermath of lockdown some students did not have readily-available access to the necessary equipment to immediately start learning online.

In spite of the challenges faced by the two sectors and their students, 101,090 students successfully achieved a Higher Education (HE) qualification in 2019-20 from Scotland's colleges and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Other students who may initially have expected to graduate in 2019-20 but were impacted by the pandemic are instead expected to obtain their awards in future years.

For the reasons outlined above, this publication does not make direct comparisons between 2019-20 qualifier figures and previous years due to the vastly different circumstances these students were faced with.

In this report, qualifier data for 2019-20 is separated in tables by a grey row indicating a break in the time series and is represented in charts by a dashed line.

The data on HE qualifiers and deferrals in the college sector is the latest we have available at the time of publication. SFC will release the [College Performance Indicators](#) 2019-20 report in 2021 which will provide further information on qualifiers from Scotland's colleges.

Executive Summary

- There were 307,215 students in higher education in Scotland in 2019-20, the highest number on record. This is an increase of 4,555 (1.5%) from 2018-19 and is primarily as a result of an increase in students at HEIs. The largest increase in students was at Taught Postgraduate level, which grew 9.7% between 2018-19 and 2019-20. See Table A.
- In 2019-20, females made up 58.1% of all HE students. This gap between females and males has been increasing since 2010-11, when females made up 55.6% of all HE students. At HEIs females account for 59.2% of students, whilst at colleges, females account for 51.9% of students. See Table B.
- In 2019-20, entrants to HE programmes at colleges accounted for 24.0% of all HE entrants in Scotland (as opposed to HEIs). See Table D.
- In 2019-20, there were 111,845 new entrants to HEIs, an increase of 5,075 (4.8%) since 2018-19. Meanwhile, there were 35,315 new entrants to colleges, 1,830 fewer (-4.9%) compared to 2018-19. See Table D.
- The number of Scottish-domiciled HE entrants at colleges and HEIs is almost unchanged from the previous year, with 35 fewer entrants (0.0% change) compared to 2018-19. See Table F.
- There were 75,705 qualifiers from HEIs and 25,385 from colleges, making a total of 101,090 HE qualifiers for 2019-20, despite the direct impact the Coronavirus pandemic had on the higher education sector in Scotland and the inability for students to successfully complete the practical element of their courses. See Table G.
- Of all HE qualifiers, 69.1% achieved graduate-level qualifications (First Degree or above) in 2019-20, up 1.3 percentage points (pp) from the previous cycle. See Table G.

Higher Education Students and Qualifiers 2019-20



69.1%
of all qualifiers
achieved graduate
level* qualifications in
2019-20

307,215*
total HE students



+1.5% since 2018-19

147,160*
entrants to HE courses



+2.3% since 2018-19

* first degree level and above

* the highest number on record

Introduction

1. This report contains information relating to higher education (HE) provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland. Student data from Scottish HEIs and colleges have been combined to allow reporting on all HE provision delivered in Scotland.
2. This report includes information on a number of different HE student populations, including the total number of students; the number of entrants and the number of qualifiers from HE courses. These populations are considered by multiple breakdowns including level of study, mode of study, domicile and protected characteristics, such as age and gender. Prior to the 2017-18 edition of this report, it contained information relating to access and inclusion measures, however, these are now covered in the [Report on Widening Access](#) (RoWA). The RoWA contains more coverage of the wider access measures for Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher and further education in Scotland.
3. This report follows on [HESA's Higher Education Student Data](#) release for 2019-20, with focus on Scottish institutions and Scottish-domiciled students. Scottish Funding Council (SFC) also publishes an annual report on [College Statistics](#) detailing further and higher education students at colleges in Scotland.
4. This report covers a ten year time period – 2010-11 to 2019-20 – and is accompanied by background tables which include additional tables and further breakdowns that are not included within the main body of the report. For the reasons outlined in the introduction to this report, this publication does not make direct comparisons between 2019-20 qualifier figures and previous years due to the vastly different circumstances these students were faced with. Qualifier data for 2019-20 is separated in tables by a grey row indicating a break in the time series and is represented in charts by a dashed line.

Section 1 – Student Numbers and Characteristics

Key Findings

- There were 307,215 HE students in Scotland in 2019-20, the highest number on record and 4,555 more students than in 2018-19; an increase of 1.5%.
- The number of students studying at HEIs has increased for the sixth year running, growing by 7,015 students (2.8%) since 2018-19 to a record high of 260,490. Over the last ten years there has been an increase of 21,845 students at Scottish HEIs, a growth of 9.2%.
- The number of HE students at colleges decreased by 5.0% (-2,460 students) between 2018-19 and 2019-20. In 2019-20 there were 46,725 HE students studying at college, 9.0% fewer than a decade ago (-4,630 students).
- In 2019-20 there were 3,045 (1.8%) more students undertaking First Degrees than the previous year, and 4,950 (9.7%) more students undertaking Taught Postgraduate courses, the highest number on record for both levels of study. The number of students undertaking Research Postgraduate courses has reduced by 310 (-2.3%) since 2018-19.
- The number of HE students on Sub-degree courses – which comprises HNC/HND and Other Sub-degree courses – has been declining over the last decade, and is now 21.7% lower than a decade ago, at 65,580. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20 the number studying at HNC/HND level decreased by 1,240 (-3.1%), the lowest for this level of study in any of the last ten academic years. Provision of Sub-degree courses has gradually shifted further towards delivery at colleges as opposed to both colleges and HEIs.
- Overall, females accounted for 58.1% of students studying HE in 2019-20. This has widened since 2018-19 when 57.5% of students were female and since 2010-11 when 55.6% of HE students were female.

1. This section addresses the number of students studying HE in all years and at all levels of study, across HEIs and colleges. The term ‘student numbers’ specifically refers here to student enrolments, or instances of study. A small number of students may enrol more than once, particularly to part-time courses. Student enrolments are considered in relation to student characteristics such as age, gender and mode of study across the last ten years (2010-11 to 2019-20). This report discusses trends occurring over this timeframe.

Total Student Numbers

2. Table A, below, details the number of students studying HE courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by institution type and level of study over the last ten years.
3. In 2019-20, there were 307,215 HE students in Scotland, the highest number on record and 4,555 more students than in 2018-19; an increase of 1.5%. Across Scottish institutions, there were 3,045 (1.8%) more students undertaking First Degrees in 2019-20 than the previous year, and 4,950 (9.7%) more students undertaking Taught Postgraduate courses, the highest number on record for both levels of study. Meanwhile the number of students undertaking Research Postgraduate courses has reduced by 310 (-2.3%) since 2018-19.
4. The number of HE students on Sub-degree courses – which comprises of HNC/HND and Other Sub-degree courses – has been declining over the last decade. In 2010-11, there were 83,705 HE students studying at Sub-degree level at colleges or HEIs, however in 2019-20 this figure stands at 65,580, a reduction of 21.7% (-18,125) from a decade ago.
5. Looking specifically at Other Sub-degree courses, over the last decade the provision of Other Sub-degree courses has shifted towards delivery at colleges rather than HEIs. The number of Other Sub-degree students at HEIs decreased by 46.9% (-13,735) between 2010-11 and 2019-20, to 15,540. The number of Other Sub-degree students at colleges decreased by comparatively less over the decade, decreasing 9.6% to 10,955. Other Sub-degree courses comprise of HE-level modules or other professional qualifications.
6. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of students studying at HNC/HND level at colleges and universities decreased by 1,240 (-3.1%), the lowest for this level of study in any of the last ten academic years. For context, the majority of HNC/HND students (88.7%) study at colleges (as opposed to HEIs). Meanwhile the number of HE students on Other Sub-degree courses has also decreased since 2018-19, with 1,890 fewer students (-6.7%) at this level of study. These were the key factors behind the overall reduction in HE students in the college sector as a whole, which decreased by 5.0% (-2,460 students) between 2018-19 and 2019-20. There were 46,725 HE students studying at college in 2019-20, 9.0% less than a decade ago (-4,630 students). As reported in the SFC [Report on Widening Access 2018-19](#), Scotland's universities have been enrolling more students from the most deprived areas in recent academic years, which may previously have gone to college to study at HN-level. This in part contributed to this shift in qualification type and reduction in number of students at HE level in the college sector.
7. The total number of students studying at HEIs has increased for the sixth year running, growing by 7,015 students (2.8%) since 2018-19 to a record high of

260,490. Over the last ten years there has been an increase of 21,845 students at Scottish HEIs, a growth of 9.2%. The largest increase in 2019-20 was for students studying Taught Postgraduate courses, up 9.7% – an additional 4,950 students – since 2018-19. As of 2019-20, the number of Taught Postgraduates stands at 55,850, almost a quarter more (23.7%) than a decade ago, or 10,695 additional students. The number of First Degree students at HEIs has grown comparatively less, increasing by 2,995 (1.8%) year-on-year to 171,565 as of 2019-20. This is 22,795 more First Degree students at HEIs compared to a decade ago, an increase of 15.3%.

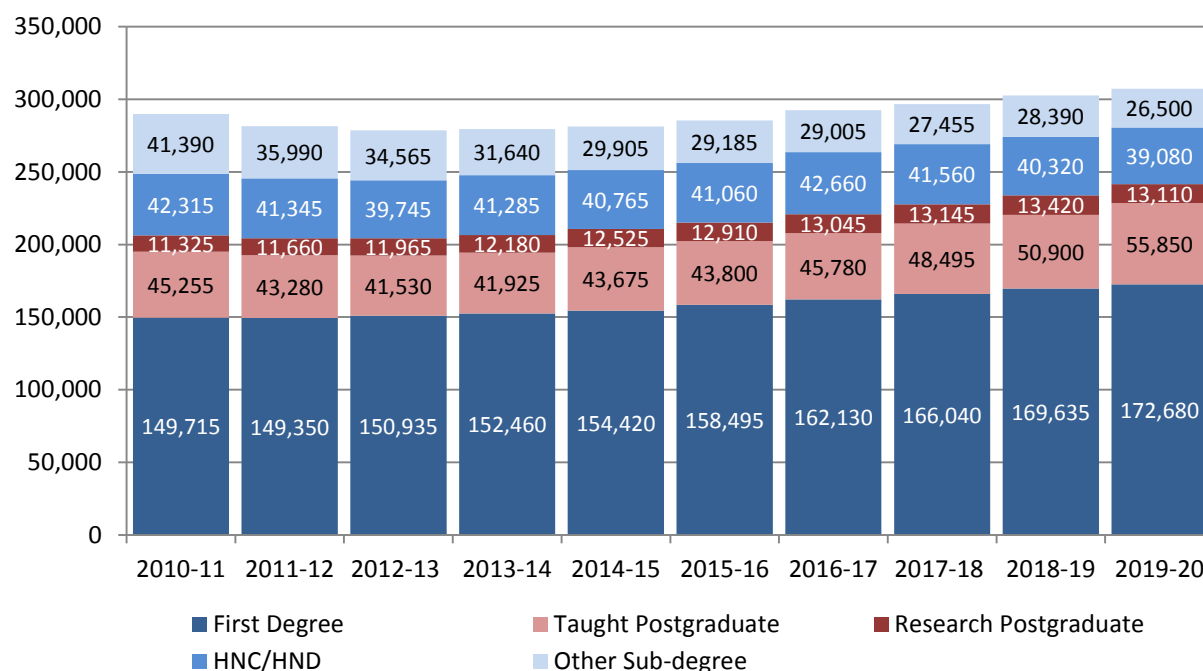
8. Since 2018-19, there was an increase of 4,640 postgraduate students (Research and Taught). This increase comes solely from the 4,950 (9.7%) increase in Taught Postgraduate students, with Research Postgraduates decreasing by 310 students (-2.3%). Research Postgraduates have increased 1,785 (15.8%) over the decade to reach 13,110 as of 2019-20. Compared to a decade ago, the number of postgraduate students collectively has increased by 12,380 (21.9%) to a figure of 68,960 for 2019-20.

Table A: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Institution Type/ Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
Total						
2010-11	290,000	11,325	45,255	149,715	42,315	41,390
2011-12	281,630	11,660	43,280	149,350	41,345	35,990
2012-13 (2)	278,745	11,965	41,530	150,935	39,745	34,565
2013-14 (2)	279,495	12,180	41,925	152,460	41,285	31,640
2014-15 (2)	281,285	12,525	43,675	154,420	40,765	29,905
2015-16	285,450	12,910	43,800	158,495	41,060	29,185
2016-17	292,620	13,045	45,780	162,130	42,660	29,005
2017-18	296,695	13,145	48,495	166,040	41,560	27,455
2018-19	302,660	13,420	50,900	169,635	40,320	28,390
2019-20	307,215	13,110	55,850	172,680	39,080	26,500
All students at HEIs						
2010-11	238,645	11,325	45,155	148,770	4,120	29,275
2011-12	233,010	11,660	43,245	148,425	3,875	25,800
2012-13 (2)	230,950	11,965	41,515	149,860	3,605	24,005
2013-14 (2)	230,805	12,180	41,925	151,325	4,905	20,470
2014-15 (2)	232,570	12,525	43,675	153,325	4,955	18,090
2015-16	235,565	12,910	43,800	157,440	4,930	16,480
2016-17	241,935	13,045	45,780	161,125	5,135	16,850
2017-18	247,110	13,145	48,495	165,060	5,030	15,385
2018-19	253,475	13,420	50,900	168,570	4,485	16,105
2019-20	260,490	13,110	55,850	171,565	4,420	15,540
All students at colleges						
2010-11	51,355	-	100	945	38,195	12,115
2011-12	48,620	-	35	925	37,465	10,190
2012-13 (2)	47,795	-	15	1,075	36,140	10,560
2013-14 (2)	48,690	-	-	1,135	36,380	11,175
2014-15 (2)	48,715	-	-	1,095	35,810	11,810
2015-16	49,890	-	-	1,055	36,130	12,705
2016-17	50,685	-	-	1,005	37,525	12,155
2017-18	49,585	-	-	980	36,535	12,070
2018-19	49,185	-	-	1,065	35,835	12,285
2019-20	46,725	-	-	1,110	34,660	10,955

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Refer to notes to tables.

Figure 1: Students in Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2010-11 to 2019-20



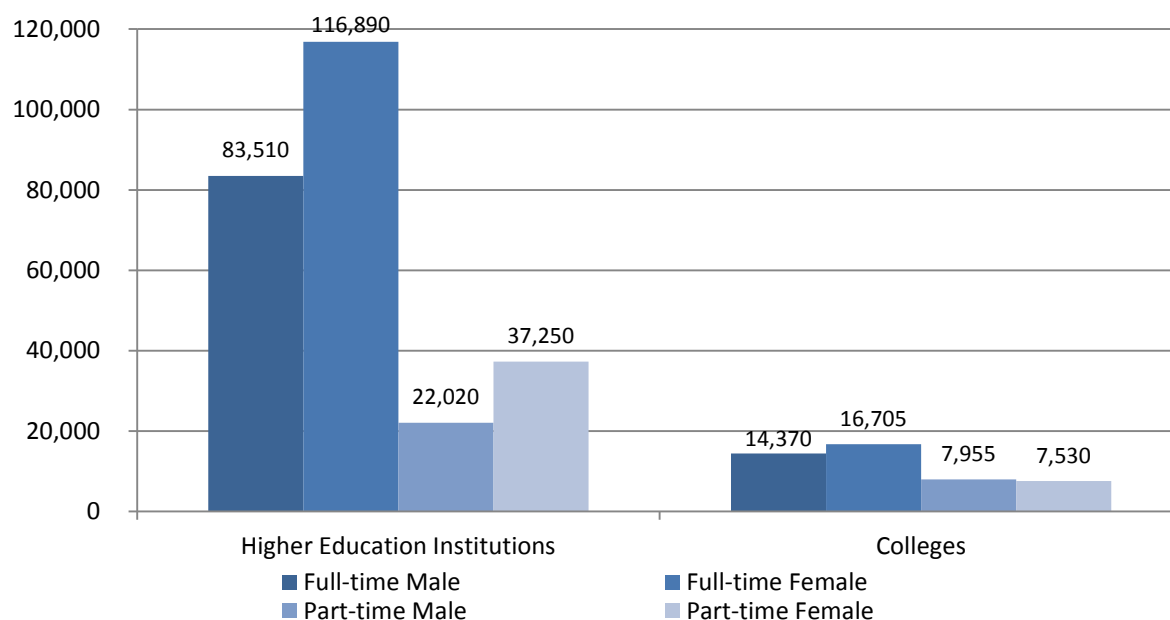
10. Figure 1, above, shows the proportional split of students in HE by level of study in 2019-20. The majority of students, 56.2%, were studying First Degree programmes whilst Research Postgraduate students accounted for the smallest proportion, 4.3%.

Mode of Study and Gender

11. Table B, below, shows students at HEIs and colleges by mode of study, detailing student numbers on part-time and full-time courses. Three quarters (75.5%) of HE students studied full-time in 2019-20, equivalent to 232,010 students. Full-time students accounted for 4,430 of the overall increase of 4,555 students from 2018-19 to 2019-20. At HEIs, 77.1% of students studied on a full-time basis, whilst in the college sector 66.8% of students did so.
12. The overall proportion of HE students studying full-time courses has increased by 7.4pp over the decade, from 68.1% in 2010-11 to 75.5% in 2019-20.
13. In 2019-20 there were 232,010 full-time and 75,205 part-time students studying HE at Scottish institutions. The number of part-time HE students did increase by 0.2% between 2018-19 and 2019-20, equivalent to 125 students. This resulted from an increase of 1,915 part-time students in HEIs and a decrease of 1,790 part-time students in colleges. There has been an 18.7% decline over the last ten years in the number of part-time HE students at Scottish institutions, from the 2010-11 figure of 92,505.

14. Of the 232,010 students who studied full-time in 2019-20, 86.6% were at HEIs. Meanwhile, 79.4% of the part-time students studied at HEIs.

Figure 2: Higher Education Student Numbers at Scottish Institutions by Mode of Study, Gender and Sector 2019-20



15. Table B also details the breakdown of students by gender across modes of study. Overall, females accounted for 58.1% of students studying HE in 2019-20, 16.4pp more than males at 41.6%. This gap is 5.3pp larger than in 2010-11 when 55.6% of HE students were female (44.4% were male) and the gap between female and male students was 11.1pp, although there have been fluctuations throughout the decade. The gap has widened since 2018-19 when 57.5% of students were female.
16. The gender balance of HE students varies depending on institution type. As has been seen throughout the last ten years, males constitute a smaller proportion of students in HEIs than in colleges. In 2019-20, females accounted for 59.2% of students in HEIs compared to 56.7% in 2010-11. Meanwhile in colleges, females accounted for 51.9% of HE students, up 1.3pp from 2018-19 and the highest for the last ten academic years. This figure has also seen fluctuations over the last decade. In 2010-11 females accounted for 50.1% of HE students in college, and significantly, 2015-16 saw male HE students at college outweigh female HE students for the first and only time in the last decade, where 49.8% of HE students were female.
17. Although females account for a higher proportion of HE students regardless of mode of study, the gender imbalance for part-time HE students is more pronounced (19.7pp difference, 59.5% female) in comparison to full-time students (15.4pp difference, 57.6% female).

18. Females account for 58.2% of full-time HE students in HEIs and 53.5% in colleges. Meanwhile they account for 62.4% of the part-time student population in HEIs. However, part-time HE activity at college has a higher proportion of males (51.3%) compared to females.
19. Overall, 76.6% of males and 74.9% of females were on a full-time basis in 2019-20. At HEIs, 79.1% of males and 75.8% of females studied full-time whereas at colleges, 64.4% of males and 68.9% of females studied full-time.

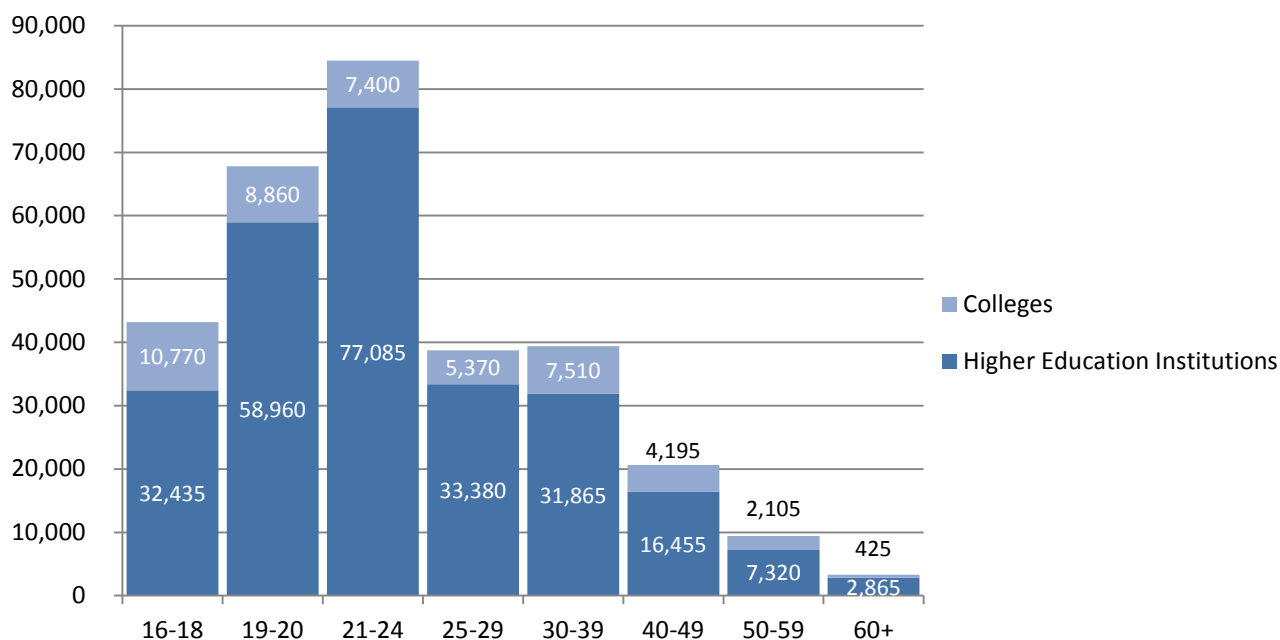
Table B: Students in Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Mode of Study and Gender, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total									
2010-11	290,000	128,900	161,100	197,490	89,165	108,325	92,505	39,735	52,770
2011-12	281,630	124,100	157,525	199,430	89,150	110,280	82,200	34,950	47,245
2012-13 (2,7)	278,745	122,465	156,050	198,405	88,245	110,160	80,340	34,220	45,890
2013-14 (2,7)	279,495	121,970	157,485	202,700	89,490	113,180	76,795	32,480	44,305
2014-15 (2,7)	281,285	122,910	158,270	207,305	90,745	116,500	73,980	32,165	41,770
2015-16 (2,7)	285,450	123,905	161,410	212,215	92,095	120,000	73,235	31,805	41,410
2016-17 (2,7)	292,620	125,615	166,755	216,595	92,975	123,470	76,025	32,640	43,285
2017-18 (2,7)	296,695	125,980	170,265	222,580	94,640	127,690	74,115	31,340	42,575
2018-19 (2,7)	302,660	127,665	174,100	227,580	96,440	130,725	75,080	31,225	43,375
2019-20 (2,7)	307,215	127,855	178,375	232,010	97,880	133,595	75,205	29,975	44,780
All students at HEIs									
2010-11	238,645	103,250	135,395	166,350	73,870	92,480	72,295	29,380	42,910
2011-12	233,010	99,995	133,010	167,365	73,545	93,820	65,640	26,450	39,190
2012-13 (2,7)	230,950	98,640	132,080	167,065	73,190	93,880	63,885	25,450	38,205
2013-14 (2,7)	230,805	97,830	132,935	170,800	74,380	96,390	60,000	23,450	36,545
2014-15 (2,7)	232,570	98,775	133,690	174,840	75,790	98,990	57,730	22,985	34,700
2015-16 (2,7)	235,565	98,905	136,545	179,460	76,925	102,445	56,105	21,980	34,105
2016-17 (2,7)	241,935	100,515	141,205	183,795	77,980	105,685	58,140	22,535	35,520
2017-18 (2,7)	247,110	101,940	144,810	189,960	79,920	109,870	57,150	22,020	34,940
2018-19 (2,7)	253,475	103,495	149,255	195,705	81,835	113,585	57,770	21,660	35,670
2019-20 (2,7)	260,490	105,530	154,140	200,805	83,510	116,890	59,685	22,020	37,250
All students at colleges									
2010-11	51,355	25,650	25,705	31,140	15,295	15,845	20,215	10,355	9,860
2011-12	48,620	24,105	24,515	32,065	15,605	16,460	16,555	8,500	8,055
2012-13 (2,7)	47,795	23,825	23,970	31,340	15,055	16,280	16,455	8,770	7,690
2013-14 (2,7)	48,690	24,140	24,550	31,900	15,110	16,790	16,795	9,035	7,760
2014-15 (2,7)	48,715	24,135	24,580	32,465	14,955	17,510	16,250	9,180	7,070
2015-16 (2,7)	49,890	25,000	24,865	32,755	15,175	17,555	17,135	9,825	7,310
2016-17 (2,7)	50,685	25,100	25,550	32,800	14,995	17,785	17,885	10,105	7,765
2017-18 (2,7)	49,585	24,040	25,455	32,620	14,720	17,820	16,965	9,320	7,635
2018-19 (2,7)	49,185	24,170	24,850	31,875	14,605	17,145	17,310	9,565	7,705
2019-20 (2,7)	46,725	22,325	24,235	31,210	14,370	16,705	15,520	7,955	7,530

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Age

Figure 3: HE Student Numbers at Scottish Institutions by Age Group and Sector, 2019-20



20. Table C below details the number of HE students at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age group.
21. Overall, students aged 21-24 accounted for the largest proportion of students studying HE in Scotland's HEIs and colleges in 2019-20 (27.5%), an increase of 3.4pp on the 2010-11 proportion and a 0.5pp increase on the 2018-19 figure.
22. In 2019-20, students under 25 accounted for 63.6% of the HE student population in Scotland. However since 2018-19, the number of students aged 25 and over has increased more, by 3,010 students (2.8%), compared to 1,455 (0.7%) for under 25s.
23. In 2019-20, 29.6% of students at Scottish HEIs were aged between 21-24, compared with 25.5% in 2010-11. Collectively, there were 168,480 students under 25 at Scottish HEIs in 2019-20. This is an increase of 1.9% on the previous year. The number of students aged 25 and over increased by 4.3% year-on-year to 91,885. At Scottish HEIs, there has been a 20.7% reduction in students aged 40 or over since 2010-11.
24. A slightly different picture is seen in colleges. Those aged 16-18 remained the most prominent age group in 2019-20, accounting for 23.0% of the student population.

25. In 2019-20, there were 27,030 students in colleges aged under 25, a 5.8% reduction from the 2018-19 total of 28,700. The number of students aged 25 and over in colleges has decreased by 3.9% from 20,405 in 2018-19 to 19,605 in 2019-20.
26. Similar to HEIs, the proportional split of age groups in Scotland's colleges has remained relatively stable over the last ten years. Those aged between 16 and 18 comprised around a quarter of the student population and those aged over 60 made up the smallest proportion with less than 1% in each year.

Table C: Students in Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Age, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Institution Type/ Academic Session	Total (10)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Total									
2010-11	290,000	41,925	62,415	69,885	36,630	38,560	25,740	10,100	4,655
2011-12	281,630	41,735	62,835	69,725	34,735	35,705	23,010	9,225	4,565
2012-13	278,745	42,370	62,440	70,985	33,715	34,250	21,355	8,995	4,545
2013-14	279,495	42,985	64,605	71,620	33,295	33,625	20,440	8,710	4,105
2014-15	281,285	44,070	66,610	72,765	33,755	33,265	19,125	8,175	3,305
2015-16	285,450	44,680	66,295	75,555	34,445	33,805	18,985	8,245	3,205
2016-17	292,620	45,330	67,785	77,030	35,425	35,170	19,350	8,605	3,705
2017-18	296,695	44,955	68,585	78,505	36,530	36,565	19,420	8,765	3,170
2018-19	302,660	43,360	68,885	81,815	37,595	38,445	19,770	9,290	3,385
2019-20	307,215	43,205	67,825	84,485	38,750	39,375	20,650	9,425	3,295
All students at HEIs (2)									
2010-11	238,645	29,955	52,180	60,935	30,475	31,430	20,730	8,425	4,440
2011-12	233,010	29,515	52,605	61,630	29,030	29,280	18,705	7,780	4,395
2012-13 (2)	230,950	30,370	51,905	62,970	28,060	28,115	17,500	7,625	4,350
2013-14 (2)	230,805	30,755	53,690	63,375	27,675	27,550	16,695	7,120	3,860
2014-15 (2)	232,570	31,590	55,435	64,470	28,225	27,365	15,675	6,660	3,055
2015-16	235,565	32,140	55,650	67,050	28,855	27,315	15,130	6,445	2,835
2016-17	241,935	32,630	56,900	68,650	29,615	28,400	15,570	6,775	3,320
2017-18	247,110	32,910	58,235	70,710	30,750	29,335	15,445	6,820	2,800
2018-19	253,475	32,530	58,875	73,960	31,865	30,560	15,570	7,100	2,985
2019-20	260,490	32,435	58,960	77,085	33,380	31,865	16,455	7,320	2,865
All students at colleges (2)									
2010-11	51,355	11,970	10,240	8,945	6,155	7,130	5,010	1,675	215
2011-12	48,620	12,220	10,230	8,095	5,705	6,430	4,305	1,445	170
2012-13 (2)	47,795	12,000	10,535	8,015	5,655	6,135	3,855	1,370	200
2013-14 (2)	48,690	12,225	10,915	8,245	5,620	6,075	3,745	1,590	245
2014-15 (2)	48,715	12,480	11,175	8,295	5,530	5,900	3,450	1,515	250
2015-16	49,890	12,540	10,645	8,505	5,590	6,490	3,850	1,800	370
2016-17	50,685	12,700	10,885	8,380	5,810	6,770	3,780	1,830	385
2017-18	49,585	12,045	10,350	7,795	5,780	7,230	3,975	1,945	370
2018-19	49,185	10,830	10,010	7,860	5,730	7,885	4,200	2,190	400
2019-20	46,725	10,770	8,860	7,400	5,370	7,510	4,195	2,105	425

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Section 2 – Entrant Numbers and Characteristics

27. This section concerns students beginning a higher education course in a given academic year (i.e. entrants in that academic year), rather than the total student population as is shown in the previous section.

Key Findings

- In 2019-20 there were 147,160 entrants to HE courses, 3,245 (2.3%) more than in 2018-19 and the highest in the last decade. This comes from an increase of 5,075 entrants to HEIs (up 4.8%), offset by a reduction of 1,830 entrants to colleges (down 4.9%).
- Over the last ten years the number of entrants to HE courses in Scotland has increased by 4.7% with 6,570 more entrants in 2019-20 than in 2010-11. Colleges have witnessed a 10.6% reduction (-4,195) in the number of entrants, whereas HEIs have experienced the inverse: a 10.6% increase (10,765) in entrants over the decade.
- Over the last decade, there have been increases in entrant numbers for all levels of study with the exception of Sub-degrees (HNC/HND and Other Sub-degrees), which have seen a reduction of 13,330 entrants (-21.2%). Over the last decade, the number of entrants to Taught Postgraduate courses has increased by 49.8%, to Research Postgraduate by 9.7% and to First Degrees by 13.2%.
- In 2019-20, 102,285 Scottish-domiciled students entered a HE course at either a college or HEI in Scotland, 3.9% fewer than in 2010-11.
- The total number of EU entrants decreased by 610 students (-6.8%) between 2018-19 and 2019-20, decreasing across all levels of study. Despite this, the number of EU entrants is 5.9% higher than a decade ago.
- There were 24,250 non-European entrants to HE in 2019-20, an increase of 18.4% (3,775 entrants) since 2018-19. This number has increased by 53.6% since 2010-11, equivalent to 8,460 entrants.

Total Entrants

28. Table D below displays the total number of HE entrants to Scottish Institutions over the last ten academic years, detailed by level of study and type of institution. Table D shows that in 2019-20 there were 147,160 entrants to HE courses in Scottish institutions, 3,245 (2.3%) more than in 2018-19 and the highest over the last decade. This comes from an increase of 5,075 entrants to

HEIs (up 4.8%), offset by a reduction of 1,830 entrants to colleges (down 4.9%) since 2018-19.

29. Over the last ten years, the number of entrants to HE courses at Scottish institutions has fluctuated, yet overall there has been an increase of 4.7% with 6,570 more entrants in 2019-20 than in 2010-11. Colleges have witnessed a 10.6% reduction (-4,195) in the number of entrants, whereas HEIs have experienced the inverse: a 10.6% (10,765) increase in entrants over the same period.
30. In earlier years, students studying at a Sub-degree level, particularly Other Sub-degrees, made up a greater share of student numbers than they do now. In 2010-11 there were 32,775 entrants to Other Sub-degrees; however this number has reduced by 31.2% since then to 22,555 – a decrease of 10,220 entrants. Entrants to HEIs accounted for the vast majority of this reduction in Other Sub-degrees (9,105 students).
31. In 2019-20, 46.7% of entrants at HEIs were on First Degree programmes compared to 2.2% in colleges. When considering the Sub-degree population, colleges accounted for 69.5% of entrants to this level of study in 2019-20. Of these Sub-degree entrants to college, 70.6% entered HNC/HND programmes. Only 13.5% of HEI entrants take up Sub-degree courses.
32. In 2019-20, just under a quarter (24.0%) of HE entrants in Scotland entered colleges (as opposed to HEIs), a reduction of 1.8pp since 2018-19. The proportion of all HE entrants entering colleges has decreased 4.1pp since 2010-11.
33. When comparing entrants in 2019-20 to 2010-11, there have been increases in entrant numbers for all levels of study with the exception of Sub-degrees, with 13,330 fewer entrants (-21.2%) over the last ten years. Entrants to all other levels of HE study saw a 19,905 increase (25.7%) over the last ten years. Over this timeframe, the number of entrants to Taught Postgraduate courses increased by 49.8%, to Research Postgraduate by 9.7% and to First Degrees by 13.2%.

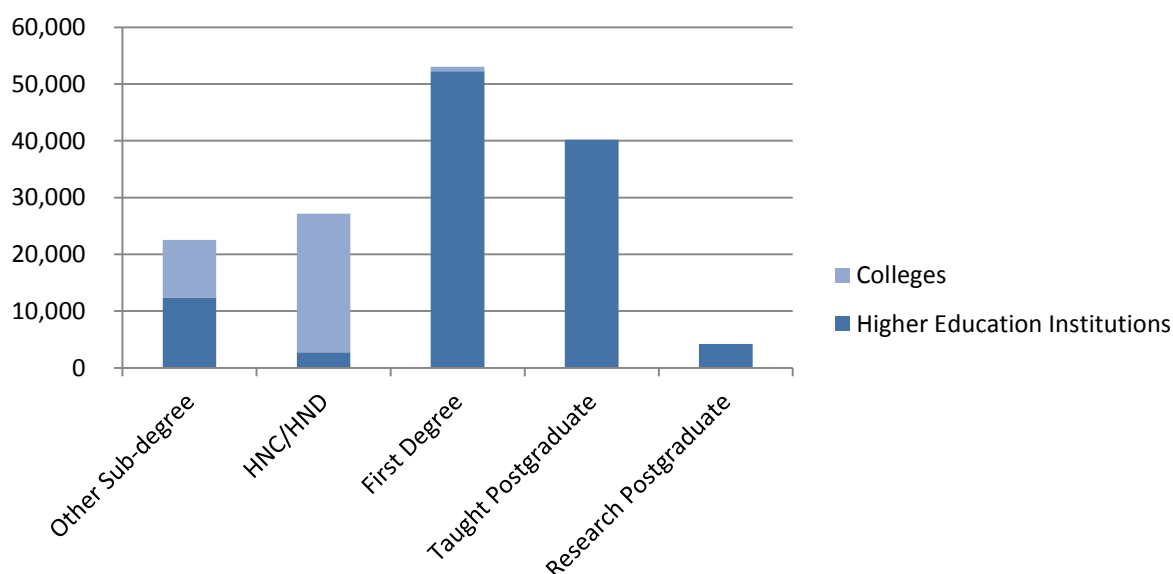
Table D: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Institution Type/ Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
Total						
2010-11	140,590	3,865	26,840	46,860	30,250	32,775
2011-12	132,365	3,800	25,915	44,945	29,275	28,430
2012-13	133,415	3,940	25,870	46,870	27,945	28,790
2013-14	135,365	4,090	27,290	47,855	29,485	26,650
2014-15	133,660	4,175	27,935	48,075	28,215	25,255
2015-16	135,090	4,175	28,630	49,095	28,215	24,975
2016-17	139,785	4,165	31,200	50,245	29,700	24,480
2017-18	141,820	4,365	33,610	51,690	28,855	23,310
2018-19	143,915	4,510	35,345	52,565	27,860	23,630
2019-20	147,160	4,240	40,195	53,035	27,140	22,555
All students at HEIs						
2010-11	101,080	3,865	26,765	46,070	2,885	21,500
2011-12	95,350	3,800	25,905	44,140	2,465	19,040
2012-13 (2)	96,970	3,940	25,870	45,970	2,410	18,780
2013-14 (2)	97,900	4,090	27,290	46,920	3,465	16,135
2014-15	96,875	4,175	27,935	47,230	3,410	14,125
2015-16	97,135	4,175	28,630	48,300	3,285	12,745
2016-17	101,295	4,165	31,200	49,575	3,420	12,940
2017-18	104,520	4,365	33,610	51,020	3,340	12,190
2018-19	106,770	4,510	35,345	51,850	2,895	12,170
2019-20	111,845	4,240	40,195	52,260	2,755	12,395
All students at colleges						
2010-11	39,510	-	75	790	27,370	11,275
2011-12	37,015	-	10	805	26,810	9,385
2012-13 (2)	36,445	-	-	900	25,535	10,010
2013-14 (2)	37,465	-	-	935	26,020	10,510
2014-15 (2)	36,780	-	-	845	24,805	11,135
2015-16	37,955	-	-	795	24,930	12,230
2016-17	38,495	-	-	670	26,280	11,540
2017-18	37,300	-	-	665	25,515	11,115
2018-19	37,145	-	-	715	24,965	11,465
2019-20	35,315	-	-	775	24,385	10,155

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Figure 4: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2019-20



34. Figure 4 above shows the proportional distribution of entrants across level of study in 2019-20. The distribution of entrants is more evenly spread than is the case for students in all years (Figure 1). It is important to recognise course duration will vary depending on the level of study. For example, First Degrees last typically up to four years whilst Sub-degrees and postgraduate courses tend to span one or two years, and therefore the cohorts are not comparable. Of all entrants in 2019-20, 36.0% were to First Degree courses, just over a quarter (27.3%) entered Taught Postgraduate courses, whilst 18.4% entered HNC/HND courses.

Subject Area and Gender

35. Table E below shows entrants to higher education in HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender. Some HE subject areas at HEIs have tightly controlled student intakes which influence the profile of subjects delivered. Our controlled subjects sector communication outlines the intake targets for these subject areas, which can be found on the [SFC website](#).

36. For the 2019-20 academic year onwards, HESA implemented a new subject coding system; the [Higher Education Classification of Subjects \(HECoS\)](#). This replaces the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) that was used to classify subjects in previous editions of this publication. Because the HECoS coding system is being used in this publication for the first time, we do not compare HECoS classified subjects in 2019-20 against JACS classified subjects used for previous years.

37. The HE courses with the largest overall number of entrants in 2019-20 were as follows. Business and Management saw the largest intake with 24,660 entrants,

followed by Social Sciences with 15,980 entrants, Subjects Allied to Medicine with 15,865 entrants and Engineering and Technology with 12,075 entrants.

38. The subjects with the highest proportions of female entrants were:
- Subjects allied to Medicine (84.0%).
 - Veterinary Science (83.8%).
 - Social Sciences (74.3%).
 - Education and Teaching (74.3%).
39. Meanwhile, males accounted for more than half of entrants to:
- Engineering and Technology (82.0%).
 - Computing (77.3%).
 - Architecture, Building and Planning (65.6%).
 - Physical Sciences (54.6%).
 - Mathematical Sciences (53.5%).
40. Gender imbalances of 2019-20 entrants were greater at First Degree and Sub-degree level for every subject, compared to those subjects at postgraduate level. Those subjects with a particularly high gender imbalance at First Degree and Sub-degree level are being targeted through SFC's [Gender Action Plan](#).

Table E: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, Subject and Gender, 2019-20

Subject Area	All levels			Postgraduate			First degree			Sub-degree		
	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Total (7)	147,160	41.0%	58.5%	44,435	39.2%	60.2%	53,035	40.4%	59.5%	49,695	43.3%	55.9%
Medical Studies												
Medicine and Dentistry	2,675	33.5%	65.0%	1,125	33.5%	63.1%	1,520	33.8%	66.2%	35	23.5%	76.5%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	15,865	15.8%	84.0%	4,570	20.1%	79.6%	7,210	15.1%	84.9%	4,085	12.4%	87.6%
Total	18,540	18.4%	81.3%	5,695	22.7%	76.3%	8,730	18.3%	81.6%	4,120	12.5%	87.5%
Science and Engineering												
Biological and Sport Sciences	5,250	42.2%	57.5%	1,580	37.5%	61.8%	2,820	45.0%	54.8%	850	41.3%	58.3%
Psychology	4,480	20.7%	78.0%	1,470	20.7%	78.8%	2,440	19.0%	80.8%	570	27.7%	63.6%
Veterinary Sciences	580	16.0%	83.8%	145	31.3%	67.8%	440	11.0%	89.0%	-		
Agriculture, Food and Related Studies	1,420	39.4%	60.3%	345	41.8%	58.2%	240	32.6%	67.4%	835	40.3%	59.2%
Physical Sciences	2,870	54.6%	45.2%	990	57.4%	42.2%	1,660	53.4%	46.5%	220	50.4%	48.7%
General and Others in Sciences	790	42.1%	57.7%	5	*	*	115	51.8%	48.2%	670	40.4%	59.3%
Mathematical Sciences	2,065	53.5%	46.2%	880	48.6%	50.7%	1,125	56.7%	43.3%	60	64.5%	35.5%
Engineering and Technology	12,075	82.0%	17.8%	2,800	72.4%	27.4%	4,135	79.5%	20.4%	5,140	89.3%	10.6%
Computing	9,055	77.3%	22.2%	2,455	67.6%	31.6%	3,835	80.2%	19.6%	2,765	82.0%	17.3%
Geographical and Environmental Studies	1,530	40.0%	59.7%	660	38.3%	61.0%	790	40.0%	60.0%	85	54.2%	45.8%
Architecture, Building and Planning	3,565	65.6%	34.2%	1,105	52.4%	47.5%	1,225	62.3%	37.7%	1,235	80.7%	19.0%
Total	43,675	61.0%	38.6%	12,430	53.1%	46.4%	18,820	57.8%	42.1%	12,425	73.7%	25.5%
Business and Social Studies												
Social Sciences	15,980	25.4%	74.3%	3,365	32.4%	67.0%	5,115	29.9%	70.1%	7,505	19.3%	80.3%
Law	5,500	34.1%	65.4%	2,095	35.9%	63.0%	1,925	34.6%	65.4%	1,480	30.8%	69.0%
Business and Management	24,660	44.5%	55.3%	8,430	46.4%	53.3%	7,455	45.1%	54.8%	8,775	42.3%	57.5%
Communications and Media	2,320	42.1%	57.4%	825	29.3%	70.2%	800	39.3%	60.4%	700	60.5%	38.9%
Total	48,460	36.9%	62.8%	14,705	40.7%	58.8%	15,295	38.4%	61.6%	18,460	32.7%	67.0%

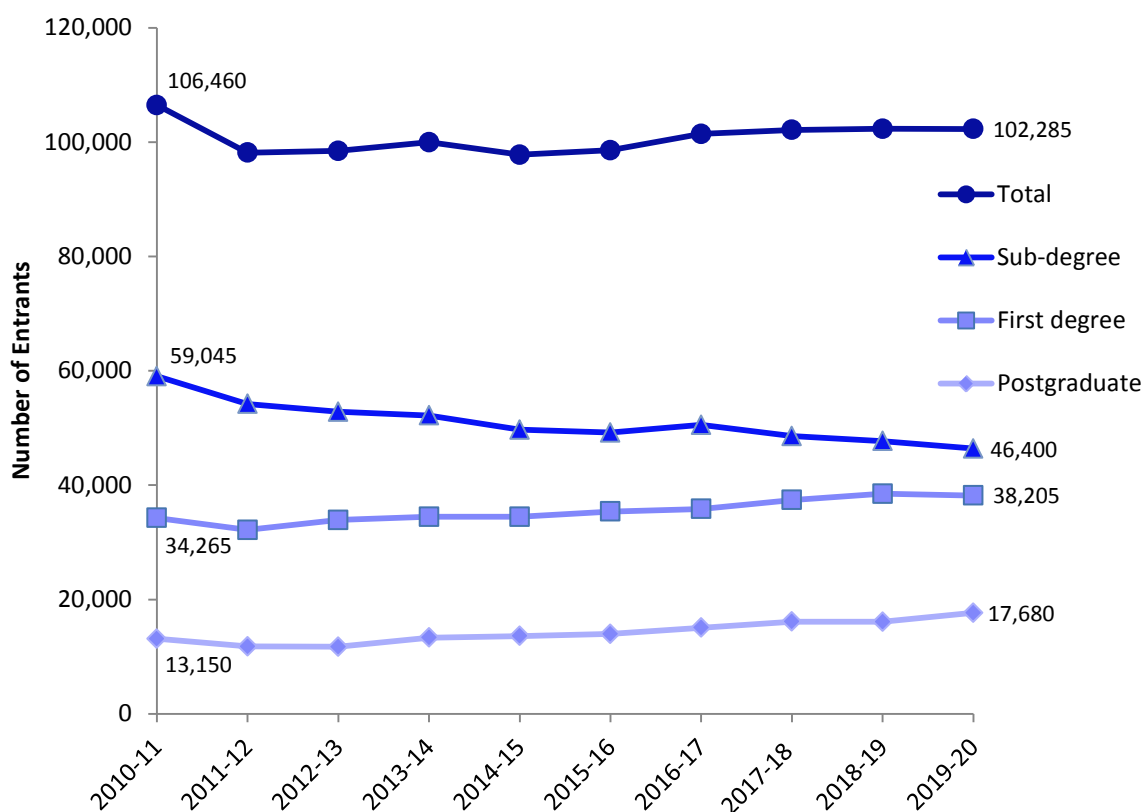
Education and the Arts												
Language and Area Studies	6,145	32.2%	65.8%	1,365	33.2%	65.3%	2,385	24.6%	75.2%	2,400	39.1%	56.7%
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	3,815	40.0%	57.8%	1,320	39.9%	59.2%	1,980	41.4%	58.1%	520	35.0%	53.0%
Humanities and Liberal Arts (non-specific)	815	32.5%	67.4%	75	33.7%	66.3%	180	39.9%	60.1%	560	29.9%	69.9%
Creative Arts and Design	9,905	34.7%	64.1%	1,170	35.3%	63.8%	3,070	34.6%	65.0%	5,670	34.6%	63.7%
Education and Teaching	9,795	25.3%	74.3%	6,525	24.7%	75.0%	2,045	15.4%	84.1%	1,230	44.6%	54.2%
Total	30,480	31.8%	67.0%	10,450	29.0%	70.5%	9,655	29.6%	70.1%	10,375	36.6%	60.7%
Combined and General Studies (11)	6,005	45.4%	54.6%	1,155	43.2%	56.6%	540	41.0%	59.0%	4,315	46.5%	53.5%

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Domicile of Entrants

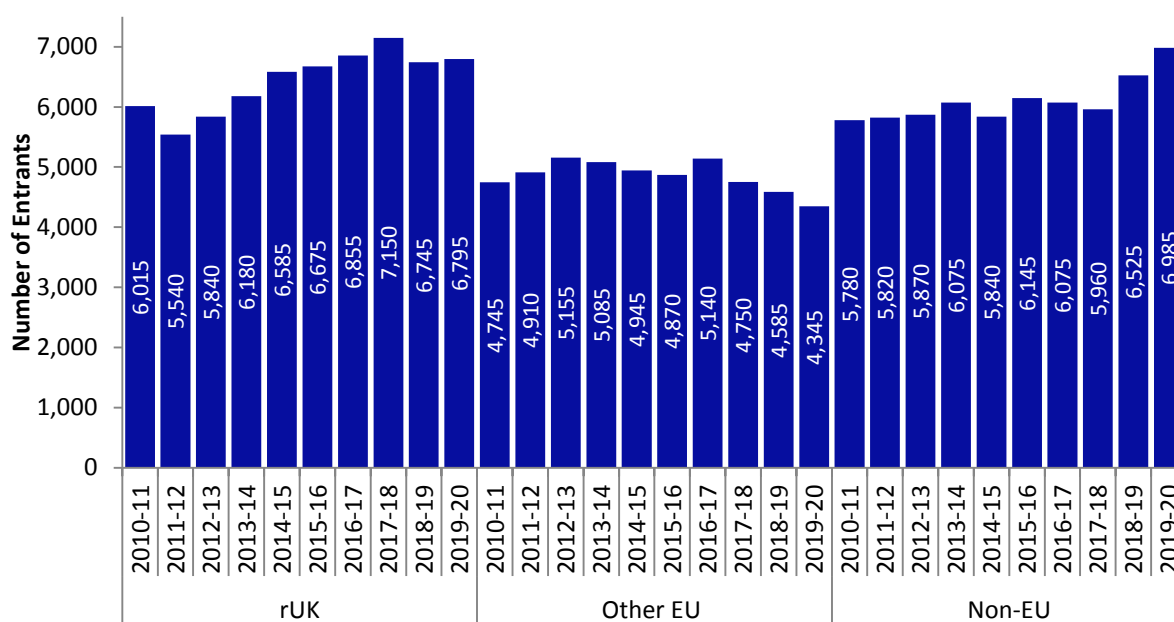
Figure 5: Scottish-Domiciled Entrants to Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2010-11 to 2019-20



41. Figure 5 above details the number of Scottish-domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish institutions by level of study over the last ten years. In 2019-20, 102,285 Scottish-domiciled students entered HE in Scotland, 3.9% fewer than in 2010-11 when there were 106,460 Scottish-domiciled entrants to Scottish institutions. This reduction was driven by 21.4% fewer students entering Sub-degree courses in 2019-20 compared to 2010-11, which mirrors the trend of the overall number of students on Sub-degree courses reducing, as reported earlier in this publication. It should be noted that the 18 to 19 year old population in Scotland has decreased by 13.6% in the last decade, which is another contributing factor in the reduction in Scottish-domiciled entrants to Scottish institutions.
42. The number of Scottish-domiciled entrants to First Degree courses decreased by 285 students in 2019-20 (-0.7%). However since 2010-11, the number of First Degree entrants has increased by 3,940 (11.5%). The number of entrants to postgraduate courses in 2019-20 increased by 4,530 entrants, up 34.4% on 2010-11.

43. In 2013-14 SFC began investing in additional Taught Postgraduate places. Subsequently there has been an increase of 5,955 Scottish-domiciled postgraduate entrants (50.8%) between 2012-13 and 2019-20.
44. Figure 6 below details non-Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants to HE at Scottish institutions by domicile, from 2010-11 to 2019-20. In earlier years, the number of students from the rest of the UK (rUK) at Scottish HEIs was controlled by the number of funded places available. This changed in 2012-13 when provision for rUK students at Scottish HEIs became funded by deregulated tuition fees.
45. Figure 6 below shows that the number of rUK undergraduate entrants to Scottish institutions in 2019-20 (6,795) has increased slightly on 2018-19 by 50 students, but remains below the levels seen in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
46. Students from the EU (excluding rUK) who commenced their studies in 2020-21 or before are still eligible to have their provision supported through SFC funding for the duration of their course. However from 2021-22, EU students who start a new undergraduate course will have to pay international student fees. There were 4,345 EU undergraduate entrants in 2019-20, 400 fewer than a decade ago (-8.4%) and 240 fewer than the previous year (-5.2%).
47. The number of non-EU undergraduate entrants (which includes non-EU Europe and non-European) is the highest on record as of 2019-20, at 6,980, 20.8% higher than a decade ago (5,780) and a 7.0% increase from 2018-19.

Figure 6: Non- Scottish-Domiciled Undergraduate Entrants to Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile, 2010-11 to 2019-20



48. Similar data is shown but for all levels of study, in Table F below, which details the total number of entrants in HE at Scottish institutions split by domicile and level of study.
49. The total number of EU (excluding rUK) entrants has decreased by 610 students (-6.8%) since 2018-19. The number of EU entrants has decreased across all levels of study since 2018-19. At Postgraduate level, the number of entrants decreased by 365 (-8.3%), at First Degree level it decreased by 50 (-1.3%) and at Sub-degree level it decreased by 190 (-30.2%). Despite this, the number of EU entrants at Scottish institutions is 5.9% greater than a decade ago.
50. As of 2019-20 there were 24,250 non-European international entrants to HE (not including non-EU Europe), 3,775 more than the previous year, an increase of 18.4%. The number of non-European international entrants has increased by 53.6% since 2010-11, equivalent to 8,460 students.

Table F: Entrants to Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile and Level of Study, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Level of Study/ Academic Session	Total all domiciles (16)	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Other UK	Total UK	EU	Non-EU Europe	Non-European
All levels										
2010-11	140,590	106,460	7,800	235	1,390	75	116,015	7,905	870	15,790
2011-12	132,365	98,150	7,495	260	1,375	75	107,380	8,380	880	15,725
2012-13	133,415	98,455	7,910	285	1,165	155	107,975	8,890	965	15,565
2013-14	135,365	99,980	8,175	315	1,295	60	109,820	8,980	975	15,590
2014-15	133,660	97,790	8,405	285	1,240	65	107,780	8,975	1,030	15,875
2015-16	135,090	98,575	8,600	280	1,335	75	108,870	8,885	995	16,345
2016-17	139,785	101,430	9,240	325	1,335	100	112,430	9,405	935	17,010
2017-18	141,820	102,130	9,860	350	1,320	95	113,755	9,065	960	18,045
2018-19	143,915	102,320	9,495	345	1,260	85	113,505	8,985	955	20,475
2019-20	147,160	102,285	9,785	350	1,195	90	113,705	8,375	835	24,250
Postgraduate										
2010-11	30,705	13,150	3,095	100	270	15	16,660	3,160	395	10,480
2011-12	29,715	11,780	3,280	115	255	15	15,465	3,470	400	10,380
2012-13	29,810	11,725	3,280	120	215	65	15,405	3,730	485	10,175
2013-14	31,375	13,325	3,230	170	240	25	16,995	3,895	470	10,020
2014-15	32,110	13,610	3,030	125	230	25	17,020	4,025	520	10,545
2015-16	32,805	13,980	3,205	130	250	30	17,595	4,015	555	10,635
2016-17	35,360	15,075	3,710	150	250	30	19,215	4,270	500	11,380
2017-18	37,970	16,130	4,040	165	245	25	20,610	4,315	555	12,490
2018-19	39,855	16,115	3,980	150	285	25	20,555	4,395	570	14,335
2019-20	44,435	17,680	4,155	180	255	30	22,305	4,030	495	17,610
First Degree										
2010-11	46,860	34,265	3,720	100	1,035	45	39,170	4,175	330	3,185

2011-12	44,945	32,160	3,495	95	1,070	50	36,865	4,210	410	3,455
2012-13	46,870	33,910	3,910	125	885	45	38,875	4,500	370	3,125
2013-14	47,855	34,460	4,255	110	975	25	39,825	4,280	390	3,360
2014-15	48,075	34,480	4,670	125	955	30	40,265	4,115	385	3,310
2015-16	49,095	35,395	4,695	125	1,025	40	41,280	3,945	350	3,520
2016-17	50,245	35,835	4,810	135	1,010	45	41,835	4,455	365	3,595
2017-18	51,690	37,410	5,030	135	985	45	43,600	3,915	335	3,835
2018-19	52,565	38,490	4,595	150	870	40	44,145	3,955	315	4,150
2019-20	53,035	38,205	4,750	125	875	35	43,990	3,905	300	4,835
Sub-degree										
2010-11	63,025	59,045	985	35	85	10	60,185	570	140	2,125
2011-12	57,705	54,210	720	50	50	10	55,045	700	65	1,890
2012-13	56,735	52,825	725	40	65	45	53,695	655	110	2,265
2013-14	56,135	52,190	695	35	80	5	53,000	805	115	2,210
2014-15	53,475	49,695	705	35	60	5	50,500	830	125	2,020
2015-16	53,190	49,205	700	25	60	5	49,995	925	85	2,190
2016-17	54,180	50,525	720	35	75	25	51,380	685	75	2,040
2017-18	52,165	48,590	790	50	90	25	49,540	835	70	1,720
2018-19	51,490	47,715	920	45	105	20	48,805	630	70	1,990
2019-20	49,695	46,400	880	45	65	20	47,410	440	40	1,805

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Section 3 – Qualifier Numbers and Characteristics

Key Findings

As noted at the beginning of this report, this publication does not make direct comparisons between 2019-20 qualifier figures and those of previous years due to the vastly different circumstances students were faced with in the 2019-20 academic session as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Despite the direct impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the higher education sector in Scotland and the ability for students to successfully complete their courses, there were 75,705 qualifiers from HEIs and 25,385 from colleges, making a total of 101,090 HE qualifiers for 2019-20. Other students who may initially have expected to graduate in 2019-20 but were impacted by the pandemic are instead expected to obtain their awards in future years.
- In 2019-20, three quarters (74.9%) of HE qualifiers were from HEIs.
- Scottish-domiciled students accounted for 66.2% of all HE qualifiers from Scottish institutions, and 66.9% of qualifiers from First Degrees. In the college sector, the vast majority of qualifiers are Scottish domiciled (93.9%).

51. This section considers students qualifying from Scottish institutions with a HE qualification. The number of qualifiers is shown across different levels and modes of study as well as for selected protected characteristics. Further breakdowns are available in the accompanying background tables.
52. Information on the destinations of qualifiers was previously contained in HESA's Destination of Leavers publication (discontinued in 2016-17). This information can now be found in the HESA Graduate Outcomes report, available on the [HESA website](#). Information on destinations of HE students in colleges is available in SFC's [College Leaver Destinations](#) publication, with the 2019-20 edition scheduled for release in October 2021. Further information on outcomes and success rates for HE and FE students at college for 2019-20 will be released later in 2021 as part of the [College Performance Indicators](#).
53. There were 75,705 qualifiers from HEIs and 25,385 from colleges, making a total of 101,090 HE qualifiers for 2019-20, despite the direct impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the higher education sector in Scotland and the ability for students to successfully complete their courses. In 2019-20, three-quarters of qualifiers were from HEIs (74.9%). To see the number of

qualifiers for each HEI, see Table 27 in the background tables, and for individual colleges, see table 28 in the background tables accompanying this report.

54. Those qualifying from First Degree level studies have consistently constituted the largest proportion of qualifiers over the last decade. In 2019-20, those qualifying from a First Degree course accounted for 37.6% of all qualifiers, Research Postgraduate 3.3%, Taught Postgraduate 28.3%, HNC/HND 20.6% and Other Sub-degree 10.2% of all HE qualifiers.
55. In the HEI sector, Research Postgraduates accounted for 4.4% of qualifiers, Taught Postgraduates 37.7%, First Degree 49.3%, HNC/HND, 2.7% and Other Sub-degree 5.9% of qualifiers. In the college sector, First Degree qualifiers accounted for 2.7%, HNC/HND 74.1%, and Other Sub-degree 23.2% of qualifiers (there were no postgraduate qualifiers in the college sector).

Table G: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Institution Type and Level of Qualification Obtained, 2010-11 to 2019-20

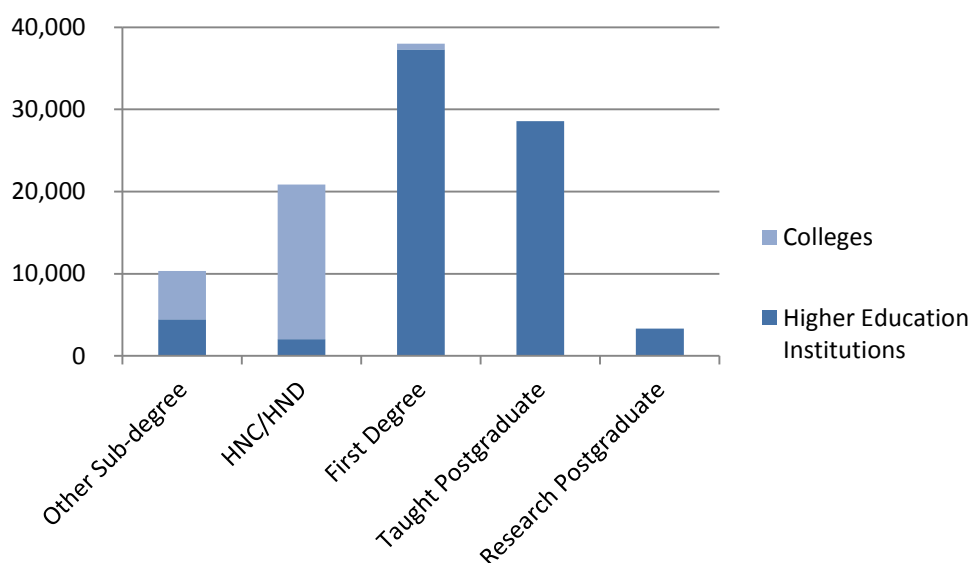
Institution Type/ Academic Session	Level of Qualification Obtained					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
Total						
2010-11	90,480	2,590	20,920	33,130	20,000	13,840
2011-12	92,870	2,710	22,360	34,585	20,530	12,675
2012-13 (2)	95,575	2,870	22,685	36,025	20,570	13,430
2013-14 (2)	97,340	2,605	24,110	37,010	20,525	13,090
2014-15 (2)	96,950	2,930	24,135	36,870	19,970	13,050
2015-16	97,400	2,790	23,050	37,785	20,525	13,250
2016-17	101,755	3,050	26,340	38,225	21,895	12,245
2017-18	104,160	3,265	27,240	38,855	21,995	12,810
2018-19	110,150	3,180	32,225	39,340	21,395	14,005
2019-20	101,090	3,320	28,575	37,990	20,870	10,335
All students at HEIs						
2010-11	64,295	2,590	20,875	32,555	1,765	6,500
2011-12	67,930	2,710	22,350	34,085	1,865	6,925
2012-13 (2)	70,005	2,870	22,670	35,440	1,920	7,110
2013-14 (2)	71,615	2,605	24,110	36,340	2,320	6,240
2014-15 (2)	71,175	2,930	24,135	36,210	2,330	5,575
2015-16	70,830	2,790	23,050	37,140	2,565	5,285
2016-17	74,765	3,050	26,340	37,650	2,785	4,940
2017-18	76,595	3,265	27,240	38,295	2,570	5,225
2018-19	82,240	3,180	32,225	38,730	2,610	5,495
2019-20	75,705	3,320	28,575	37,300	2,060	4,450
All students at colleges						
2010-11	26,185	-	40	570	18,230	7,340
2011-12	24,935	-	15	505	18,670	5,750
2012-13 (2)	25,565	-	15	585	18,650	6,320
2013-14 (2)	25,725	-	-	670	18,205	6,850
2014-15 (2)	25,775	-	-	660	17,640	7,475
2015-16	26,575	-	-	645	17,960	7,965
2016-17	26,990	-	-	575	19,110	7,305
2017-18	27,565	-	-	560	19,425	7,585
2018-19	27,910	-	-	610	18,790	8,510
2019-20	25,385	-	-	690	18,810	5,890

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 7: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Institution Type and Level of Qualification Obtained, 2019-20



56. Figure 7, above, shows the proportional split of qualifiers from HE courses by level qualification obtained in 2019-20. The distribution of qualifiers is similar to the distribution of entrants, with 37.6% of students qualifying with First Degree level qualifications and just over a quarter (28.3%) with a Taught Postgraduate qualification in 2019-20.

Gender, Age and Domicile of Qualifiers

57. Table H below displays HE qualifiers at Scottish Institutions by age and level of qualification. The full time series for 2010-11 to 2019-20 by institution type is available in the background tables online.

58. As is shown in Table H, throughout the last ten years those aged 21-24 have accounted for the largest proportion of qualifiers at Scottish institutions, of which there were 44,960 qualifiers in 2019-20, 44.5% of the total qualifiers population. The distribution of qualifiers follows the logic that students will be studying for a longer or shorter timeframe depending on the type of course. For example, a school leaver who enters a four year First Degree straight from school would likely qualify within the age bracket of 21-24 along with four cohorts of one-year HNC/HND students who fall into this age bracket when graduating. However, the age distribution of students differs depending of the level of qualification obtained.

59. When considering postgraduate qualifications, the age profile ages, with the largest proportion (36.7%) aged 25-29. The proportional distribution of First Degree qualifiers is in-line with the sector level, but more pronounced, with 75.9% of all First Degree qualifiers aged 21-24. The age distribution of qualifiers

from Sub-degrees is more evenly spread than other levels of qualification obtained; with 9.9% aged 16-18, 24.2% aged 19-20 and 21.7% aged 21-24.

60. Just over half of HE qualifiers across the sectors were under 25 years old (55.7%). This proportion is exactly the same at Sub-degree level, with 55.7% of sub-degree qualifiers aged under 25. However, there is a clear difference in age profiles of qualifiers from First Degrees and those from postgraduate level qualifications. In 2019-20, of the 31,895 qualifiers from postgraduate degrees, 70.7% were aged 25 or over. Meanwhile, 22.2% of the 37,990 First Degree qualifiers were aged 25 and over.

Table H: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Age and Level of Qualification Obtained, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Level of Qualification/ Academic Session	Total (10)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
All levels									
2010-11	90,480	2,930	9,165	36,170	17,270	13,250	7,955	3,000	740
2011-12	92,870	3,140	9,360	37,945	18,360	13,320	7,450	2,705	580
2012-13	95,575	3,585	14,815	38,895	16,055	12,295	6,660	2,545	715
2013-14	97,340	3,755	15,685	39,770	15,930	12,285	6,545	2,615	755
2014-15	96,955	3,005	10,455	42,465	18,465	12,975	6,155	2,720	705
2015-16	97,405	3,045	10,260	42,395	18,275	13,300	6,535	2,855	735
2016-17	101,755	3,415	10,330	43,615	19,850	14,480	6,625	2,765	670
2017-18	104,160	3,455	9,985	44,555	20,475	14,935	6,995	3,000	725
2018-19	110,150	3,020	9,755	47,475	21,835	16,040	7,515	3,505	965
2019-20	101,090	3,075	8,285	44,960	19,960	14,590	6,555	2,960	705
Postgraduate									
2010-11	23,510	-	5	5,270	9,005	5,690	2,445	930	160
2011-12	25,075	-	5	6,140	9,740	5,835	2,275	930	150
2012-13	25,560	-	45	9,130	8,230	5,035	2,165	830	125
2013-14	26,730	-	50	10,035	8,200	5,110	2,315	880	135
2014-15	27,065	-	10	7,815	10,190	5,720	2,190	945	190
2015-16	25,845	-	5	6,585	9,775	5,950	2,380	970	175
2016-17	29,390	-	10	7,660	11,040	6,725	2,715	1,050	185
2017-18	30,505	-	5	8,290	11,510	6,735	2,775	990	200
2018-19	35,405	-	10	11,245	12,825	7,215	2,830	1,070	215
2019-20	31,895	-	5	9,355	11,720	6,870	2,585	1,115	250
First Degree									
2010-11	33,130	15	1,060	23,320	3,930	2,450	1,640	580	135
2011-12	34,585	-	955	24,230	4,300	2,715	1,740	530	120
2012-13	36,050	30	5,700	22,190	3,485	2,545	1,530	465	115

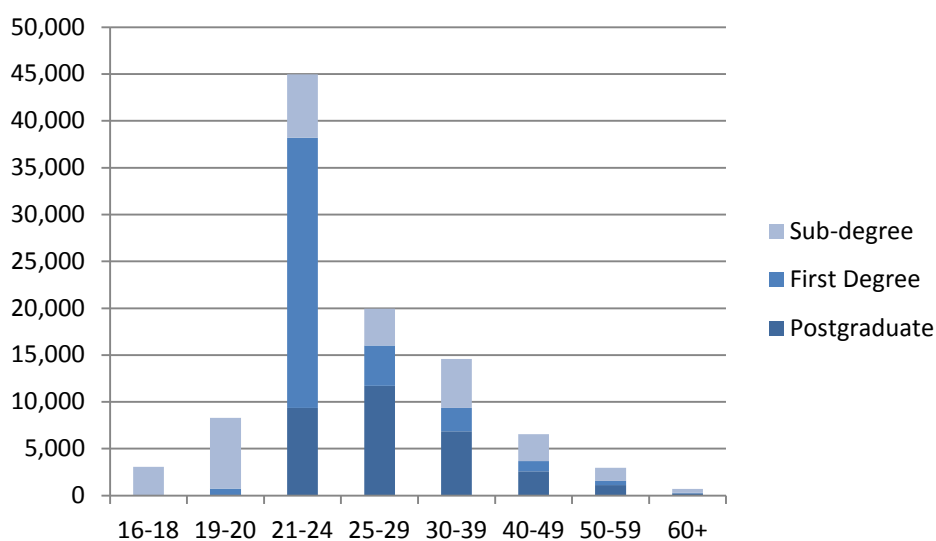
2013-14	37,055	35	6,480	22,120	3,580	2,780	1,470	490	105
2014-15	36,870	5	1,245	26,640	4,065	2,795	1,445	540	130
2015-16	37,785	10	1,295	27,780	4,065	2,600	1,415	490	130
2016-17	38,225	5	1,130	28,005	4,300	2,825	1,320	505	130
2017-18	38,855	5	1,185	28,515	4,460	2,750	1,305	525	115
2018-19	39,340	5	1,195	28,565	4,515	2,955	1,380	570	150
2019-20	37,990	-	730	28,840	4,310	2,500	1,110	435	60
Sub-degree									
2010-11	33,840	2,915	8,100	7,580	4,335	5,105	3,870	1,485	445
2011-12	33,210	3,140	8,405	7,575	4,320	4,770	3,435	1,250	315
2012-13	33,965	3,560	9,070	7,575	4,340	4,720	2,965	1,250	475
2013-14	33,555	3,720	9,150	7,615	4,145	4,400	2,760	1,245	515
2014-15	33,020	3,000	9,200	8,010	4,210	4,460	2,520	1,235	385
2015-16	33,775	3,035	8,960	8,030	4,435	4,750	2,740	1,395	430
2016-17	34,140	3,410	9,190	7,945	4,510	4,930	2,590	1,210	350
2017-18	34,800	3,450	8,800	7,750	4,505	5,445	2,920	1,485	415
2018-19	35,405	3,015	8,545	7,660	4,495	5,870	3,305	1,870	600
2019-20	31,205	3,075	7,550	6,765	3,930	5,220	2,860	1,410	390

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 8: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Age Group and Level of Qualification, 2019-20



61. Table I below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by domicile and qualification obtained. The full series for 2010-11 to 2019-20 by institution type is available in the background tables online.
62. In 2019-20, Scottish-domiciled students accounted for 66.2% of all HE qualifiers from Scottish institutions, and 66.9% of qualifiers from First Degrees. First Degrees account for the largest percentage of qualifiers. The vast majority of qualifiers at Sub-degree level are Scottish-domiciled, at 93.9%. Of all Scottish-domiciled HE qualifiers, 43.8% were from Sub-degree level courses, 38.0% from First Degree level and 18.2% from postgraduate courses.
63. Table I also shows that 66.2% of all HE qualifiers from Scottish institutions are domiciled in Scotland, whilst 9.1% are domiciled from the rest of the UK, 7.8% from the EU (excluding the UK) and 17.0% are from non-EU international. At postgraduate level 38.2% of HE qualifiers are Scottish domiciled, 10.6% are from the rest of the UK, 12.2% are from the EU (excluding the UK) and 39.0% are from non-EU international. At First Degree level these figures are 66.9%, 13.5%, 9.6% and 10.0% respectively, while at Sub-degree level the vast majority of qualifiers are Scottish domiciled, these figures being 93.9%, 2.1%, 1.0% and 3.0% respectively for 2019-20.

Table I: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Domicile and Qualification Obtained, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Level of Qualification/ Academic Session	Total	Scotland	Rest of UK	EU (excluding UK)	Non-EU International
Total					
2010-11	90,480	64,715	7,110	5,955	12,655
2011-12	92,870	65,045	7,500	6,095	14,230
2012-13	95,575	66,640	7,945	6,475	14,515
2013-14	97,340	68,530	7,260	6,855	14,695
2014-15	96,955	67,100	7,130	7,320	15,405
2015-16	97,405	68,685	7,630	7,320	13,760
2016-17	101,755	70,815	8,190	7,365	15,385
2017-18	104,160	71,545	8,905	7,750	15,960
2018-19	110,150	73,595	9,190	7,900	19,465
2019-20	101,090	66,880	9,185	7,845	17,180
Postgraduate					
2010-11	23,510	9,830	2,255	2,610	8,785
2011-12	25,075	9,610	2,335	2,850	10,275
2012-13	25,560	9,770	2,460	3,150	10,180
2013-14	26,730	10,595	2,405	3,450	10,280
2014-15	27,065	10,125	2,430	3,555	10,955
2015-16	25,845	10,610	2,570	3,450	9,210

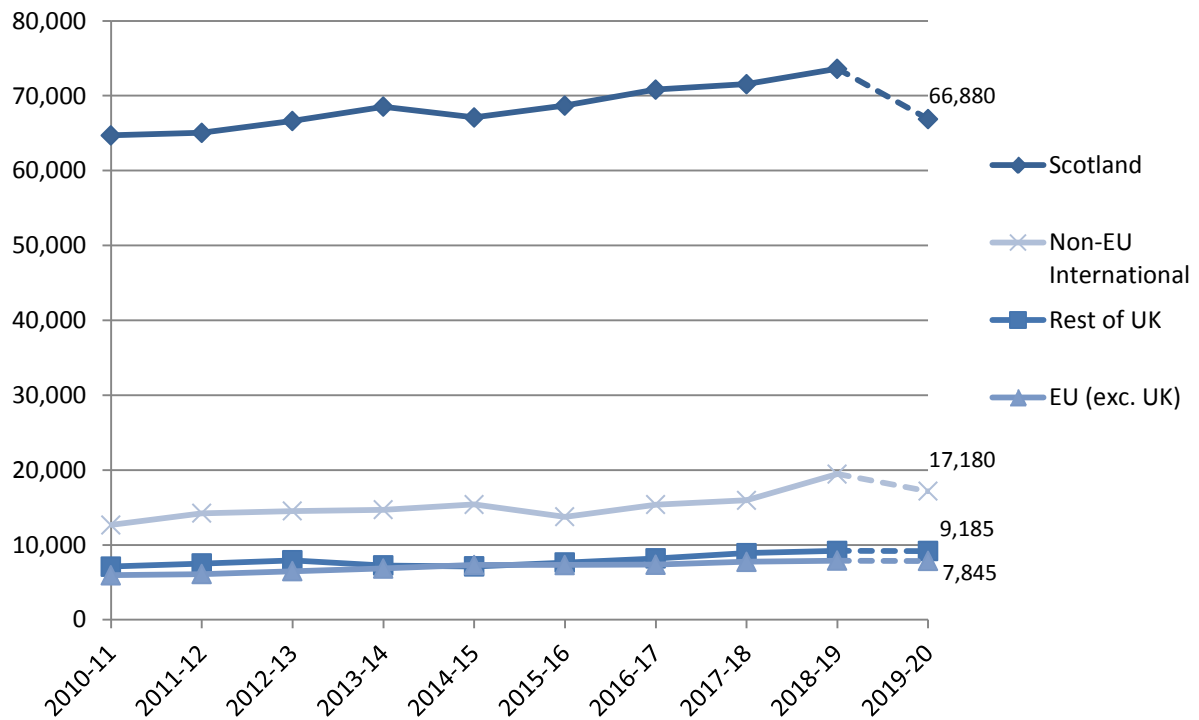
2016-17	29,390	11,895	2,900	3,595	11,005
2017-18	30,505	11,940	3,285	3,850	11,430
2018-19	35,405	13,025	3,520	4,140	14,720
2019-20	31,895	12,170	3,385	3,895	12,450
First Degree					
2010-11	33,130	23,200	4,335	2,965	2,620
2011-12	34,585	24,375	4,630	2,805	2,775
2012-13	36,050	25,310	4,900	2,890	2,955
2013-14	37,055	26,920	4,260	2,975	2,905
2014-15	36,870	26,305	4,215	3,330	3,020
2015-16	37,785	26,665	4,530	3,450	3,140
2016-17	38,225	27,060	4,675	3,355	3,140
2017-18	38,855	27,065	4,965	3,485	3,340
2018-19	39,340	27,380	4,895	3,345	3,715
2019-20	37,990	25,420	5,130	3,630	3,810
Sub-degree					
2010-11	33,840	31,685	520	375	1,250
2011-12	33,210	31,055	535	440	1,180
2012-13	33,965	31,560	585	435	1,385
2013-14	33,555	31,015	595	430	1,515
2014-15	33,020	30,670	485	435	1,430
2015-16	33,775	31,410	530	420	1,410
2016-17	34,140	31,865	620	415	1,245
2017-18	34,800	32,540	660	415	1,190
2018-19	35,405	33,185	775	415	1,030
2019-20	31,205	29,290	670	320	925

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 9: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Domicile, 2010-11 to 2019-20



Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

64. Table J below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by gender and mode of study. The table shows that females made up a higher proportion of qualifiers from HE in 2019-20 (58.2%). This is more pronounced for full-time courses where females constituted 59.8% of qualifiers in 2019-20 and less so for part-time courses where females accounted for 53.4% in the same year.

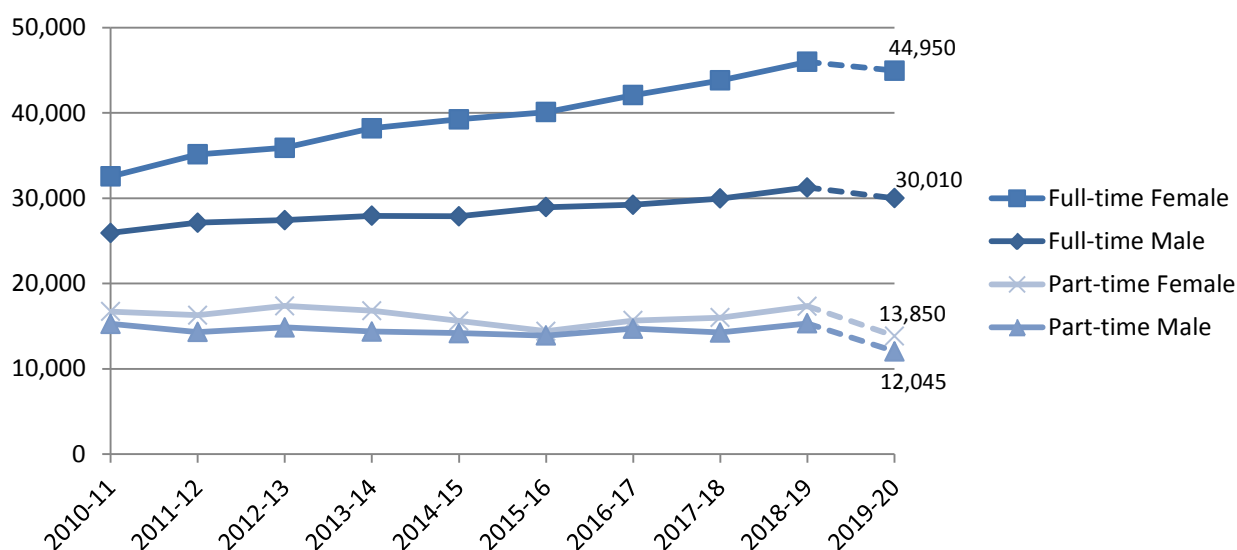
Table J: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Mode of Study and Gender, 2010-11 to 2019-20

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time (18)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2010-11	90,480	41,215	49,265	58,490	25,935	32,560	31,990	15,280	16,710
2011-12	92,870	41,440	51,430	62,275	27,130	35,145	30,595	14,310	16,285
2012-13	95,575	42,280	53,290	63,340	27,425	35,915	32,230	14,855	17,375
2013-14	97,340	42,320	55,005	66,150	27,945	38,195	31,195	14,375	16,815
2014-15	96,955	42,070	54,860	67,140	27,875	39,250	29,800	14,195	15,610
2015-16	97,365	42,855	54,505	69,055	28,960	40,095	28,310	13,900	14,410
2016-17	101,755	43,950	57,740	71,320	29,240	42,080	30,375	14,715	15,660
2017-18	104,160	44,240	59,810	73,870	29,965	43,810	30,290	14,270	16,000
2018-19	110,150	46,585	63,340	77,410	31,255	45,990	32,740	15,335	17,345
2019-20	101,090	42,055	58,795	75,145	30,010	44,950	25,945	12,045	13,850

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Refer to notes to tables.

Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 10: Higher Education Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions by Gender and Mode of Study, 2019-20



Please note that Qualifier figures in 2019-20 are not directly comparable with those of prior academic years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 4 – Participation Rates for Entrants to Higher Education in Scotland

Key Findings

- The Scottish HEIPR for 2019-20 was 57.4%, broadly in line with the 2018-19 figure of 57.5%.

Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)

66. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) is an estimate of the probability that a 16 year old will participate in Higher Education by the age of 30.
67. The Scottish HEIPR, detailed in Table K, is a measure of all Scottish or Scottish-domiciled initial entrants aged between 16 and 30 (inclusive). An initial entrant is defined as any student who participates in Higher Education for at least six months on a course which is expected to last for at least six months. They must not have participated in Higher Education previously for period of more than six months (whether that is at a college or a HEI).
68. This participation measure does not show the proportion currently participating in HE, the proportion continuing beyond the first six months, or those who successfully complete a course. The HEIPR measures the likelihood of participation in higher education and is suitable for comparison with the HEIPR of other UK nations. The key strength of having a participation rate statistic, in comparison to student number statistics, is that these participation rates are more inclusive and can be used to infer and recognise the importance of lifelong learning.
69. The initial participation rates for each age group (16 to 30), in scope of this calculation, are summed to give the overall HEIPR.
70. Table K shows that in 2019-20, the Scottish HEIPR of 57.4% was broadly in line with the 2018-19 HEIPR of 57.5%. There was a decrease in participation rates of 18 to 22 year olds. The initial entrant numbers for the 16 to 30 cohort fell by 845 (-2.4%) between 2018-19 and 2019-20 in tandem with a 0.7% reduction in the Scottish population of this age group. Meanwhile, participation rates increased amongst the aged 16 and 17 year old cohort year-on-year, offsetting the reduction in participation rates amongst 18 to 22 year olds.

Table K: Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), 2018-19 to 2019-20

Age	2018-19			2019-20			Year-on-Year Change in HEIPR
	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	
16	1,190	53,520	2.2%	1,375	54,325	2.5%	↑
17	8,925	55,435	16.1%	8,845	53,770	16.5%	↑
18	12,745	57,575	22.1%	12,380	56,315	22.0%	↓
19	3,445	62,640	5.5%	3,285	60,860	5.4%	↓
20	1,675	66,060	2.5%	1,430	65,145	2.2%	↓
21	1,160	69,125	1.7%	1,005	67,420	1.5%	↓
22	895	70,205	1.3%	840	70,350	1.2%	↓
23	700	70,985	1.0%	740	71,335	1.0%	↔
24	665	72,685	0.9%	680	71,560	1.0%	↑
25	605	74,210	0.8%	555	72,915	0.8%	↔
26	575	77,980	0.7%	595	74,580	0.8%	↑
27	565	78,610	0.7%	570	78,415	0.7%	↔
28	500	76,095	0.7%	510	79,105	0.6%	↓
29	480	75,105	0.6%	465	76,510	0.6%	↔
30	440	75,175	0.6%	445	75,705	0.6%	↔
16-30	34,565	1,035,405	57.5%	33,720	1,028,305	57.4%	↓

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to notes to tables.

71. There are oddities between the Scotland population which are used to calculate the HEIPR population and the true Scottish Population, due to swelling of some age ranges. For example, the HEIPR methodology estimates there were 57,575 18 year olds in 2018-19 but a year later, in 2019-20 the 19 year old population increased to 60,860. This would suggest that the population was being swollen by individuals entering Scotland from that age group. Given the demographics of the student population in Scotland, it would seem likely that Scotland's population was being swollen by the influx of students around this age group coming to Scotland to study.

Annex A: Notes to Tables

1. The numbering of the notes refers to additional tables published on the SFC website and not to any of the tables in this publication. For full details please see the associated Excel Workbook.
2. The figures include Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students at the Open University (OU) up to 2011-12. The OU had 20 Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students in 2011-12.
3. Students at the former land-based colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge, which merged with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) to form SRUC in October 2012, were still recorded through the college reporting until 2012-13. They are included in the figures for colleges for 2012-13 but are included with the SRUC and HEI related figures from 2013-14.
 - In 2010-11, Glasgow Metropolitan College, Glasgow College of Nautical Studies and Central College Glasgow merged to form City of Glasgow College.
 - In 2012-13 Telford College, Stevenson College and Jewel and Esk Valley College merged to form Edinburgh College.
 - In 2012-13 Barony College, Elmwood College and Oatridge College merged with the Scottish Agricultural College to form SRUC.
 - On 1 November 2013, Aberdeen College and Banff and Buchan College merged to form North East Scotland College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Ayr College, James Watt College (Kilwinning campus) and Kilmarnock College merged to form Ayrshire College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Adam Smith College, Carnegie College and SRUC (non-land base element) merged to form Fife College.
 - On 1 November 2013, North Glasgow College, John Wheatley College and Stow College merged to form Glasgow Kelvin College.
 - On 31 July 2013, Anniesland College, Cardonald College and Langside College merged to form Glasgow Clyde College.
 - On 1 November 2013, Angus College and Dundee College merged to form Dundee and Angus College.
 - On 1 November 2013, Cumbernauld College and Motherwell College merged to form New College Lanarkshire, and on 1 April 2014, they were joined by Coatbridge College.
 - On 1 August 2013, Clydebank College, Reid Kerr College and James Watt College (Greenock campus) merged to form West College Scotland.
4. The Edinburgh College of Art merged with the University of Edinburgh at the start of academic session 2011-12.
5. The college full-time equivalents (FTEs) for HE students exclude the additional volume associated with students receiving extended learning support as this is

not reported in the same way for HEIs. When looking at college FTEs on their own, FTEs accounting for extended learning support should be used. These can be accessed on the SFC [Infact database](#).

6. A number of institution mergers happened across the university and college sectors over the time period shown in this publication. Full details of these are described in [Annex A: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).
7. Totals include students whose genders were not reported.
8. The totals include Scottish-domiciled students whose local authority was not recorded.
9. The above table does not include Scottish-domiciled students at UK institutions outside of Scotland and does not represent rates of participation in Scottish local authorities.
10. Totals include students whose ages were not reported.
11. The 'Combined' subject grouping is used in recognition of programmes of study which cut across different subject areas.
12. Total includes students from overseas whose specific country of domicile was not recorded.
13. This table includes students at UK HEIs only and does not include students studying at colleges.
14. The above table does not include Scottish-domiciled entrants at UK institutions outside of Scotland and does not represent rates of participation in Scottish local authorities.
15. The total includes a small number of students at the Open University who are domiciled outside the UK.
16. Includes students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and students from the UK whose specific country of domicile was not reported.
17. Where universities are group in 'types', these types comprised the following HEIs:
 - Ancient Universities: University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrews.
 - Newer Universities: University of Dundee, Heriot-Watt University, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde.
 - Post-92 Universities: University of Abertay Dundee, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian University, Edinburgh Napier

University, University of the West of Scotland, Robert Gordon University and the University of the Highlands & Islands.

- Small Specialist Institutions: SRUC, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow School of Art.
18. Deprived areas are defined as the 20% and 40% lowest ranked areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) for the relevant year. In this table, Academic Year 2019-20 relates to SIMD 2016.
 19. The working population is defined as number of persons aged 16-64.
 20. Includes students obtaining qualifications from writing up and dormant status who were previously studying full-time.
 22. The entrant figures shown in the table will not match Scottish-domiciled entrant figures in other tables as not all postcodes from student records can be matched to postcodes in SIMD.
 23. The figures include Scottish-domiciled Research Postgraduate students at the Open University up to 2011-12.
 24. Aegrotat degrees; this is an honours degree without classification, awarded on the understanding that had the candidate not been unwell, he or she would have passed.
 25. Totals include other qualification classifications.
 26. These are Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) Level 1 subject areas, part of the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) coding system. The CAH provides a standardised hierarchical aggregation of HECoS codes.
 27. Students attending the Open University, whose location (domicile) prior to study was in Scotland.

Annex B: Methodology, Data Definitions, and Quality Information

Data Sources

This publication contains information on students from both colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) who are attending Higher Education courses in Scotland. These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from HEIs and by SFC from further education colleges (colleges).

Coverage

Following a consultation in 2007, the method of counting students at HEIs was changed in 2009 in order to provide a greater level of consistency with HESA. The figures in this publication that relate to higher education institutions are defined by HESA's standard registration population. Time-series have been revised according to this definition.

The standard registration population includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at point in the reporting period 1 August to 21 July except; dormant students, incoming visiting exchange students, student who study wholly outside the UK, students on sabbatical and writing up students.

Data from Scottish colleges continues to exclude those students who do not complete the first 25% of their course (the point at which they become eligible for funding).

Student Instances

HESA's Student Records use the term 'instance' to describe a student's engagement within an institution. A student may enrol on more than one course and, therefore, have more than one instance. It is instances that are reported in this publication, consistent with HESA's methodology. The same approach is taken when reporting on student activity at Scottish colleges. Where references are made in this release to 'students' this should be interpreted as instances.

Full-time Equivalent

Full-time Equivalent (FTE) represent the expected hours of learning undertaken by a student during their course, as a proportion of the expected learning of full-time study. For example; a student with an FTE of 0.8 is expected to undertake 20% fewer hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course, a student with an FTE of 1.2 is expected to undertake 20% more hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course.

At UK HEIs, full-time students are those normally required to attend an institution for periods amounting to more than 24 weeks within the year of study, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their institution. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amounts to an average of at least 21 hours per week. Full-time HE students at Scottish Colleges are those which meet the criteria of at least 480 planned notional hours.

Open University

Students attending the Open University, whose location (domicile) prior to study was in Scotland, are classified in this publication as studying at a Scottish HEI. Where comparisons are made with other UK countries, the Open University is regarded as a separate institution in each country. Students studying at the Open University whose location (domicile) prior to study was outside the UK or recorded as an unknown UK domicile are excluded prior to 2012-13. This methodology differs from that used by HESA where the Open University is counted as a whole English institution; as a result student figures reported in this release will differ from those reported by HESA.

Domicile

The full list of countries included in each domicile grouping is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Level of Study

The full list of qualifications included in each level of study category is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Subject Tables

Subject data from higher education institutions is apportioned to broadly reflect the weight of a particular subject within the study programmes of individual enrolments. This process is consistent with the treatment of subject breakdowns by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). For the 2019-20 academic year onwards, HESA implemented a new subject coding system – the [Higher Education Classification of Subjects \(HECoS\)](#). This replaces the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) that was used to classify subjects in previous editions of this publication. Because the HECoS coding system is being used in this publication for the first time, we do not compare HECoS classified subjects in 2019-20 against JACS classified subjects used for previous years.

Data Presentation

Our rounding strategy is in line with [HESA's](#). In all tables in this release, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 whilst values of 0, 1 and 2 have been rounded to 0

and presented as '-'. Percentages are based on rounded figures. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Totals are calculated from unrounded figures, therefore figures may not sum to totals due to rounding as well as the inclusion of unknown values. Figures and percentage in the text and charts are calculated from rounded values.

Percentages calculated from a denominator of less than 22.5 have been masked with an asterisk (*) to avoid deriving percentages from small numbers.

Percentage changes in actual numbers, for example between one year and the next, are referred to as x%. However, when discussing the difference between percentages, such as the difference between two proportions, percentage points (pp) is used.

Data Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information in the following dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. For further information please see [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Relevance

HESA is the official UK agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education at higher education institutions. SFC collects data on provision at colleges through the Further Education Statistics (FES) data collections.

Accuracy

The procedures followed by HESA to ensure quality of the data are provided on the HESA website. The guidance issued by SFC for the submission of the Scottish college records is on the SFC website.

The following table gives the proportions of the overall student populations at Scottish HEIs and colleges where the ethnicity and disability were unknown, both for all students and for Scottish-domiciled students only. The proportion of Scottish-domiciled students at Scottish HEIs and colleges and for whom their unitary authority of residence was not recorded is also given.

Proportion where Local Authority is Unknown, 2013-14 to 2019-20

Institution Type	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
HEIs	0.5%	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	2.0%	1.4%
Colleges	2.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%

Scottish HEIs are only required to return ethnicity information for UK-domiciled students.

Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical publication is pre-announced and then published on the SFC website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables available on the website only which is a freely available resource.

Comparability

HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. The Release '[Higher Education Student Data](#)' provides information on this topic.

Associate Students

When a college and HEI share responsibility for students, for example, when a HEI acts as the awarding body for a course that is partly delivered at college, these students appear in both the HEI and college data and are known as Associate Students.

Following consultation, it was decided to continue counting Associate Students in both sectors in this publication and to produce a separate table quantifying the number of identifiable Associate Students. The table shows a split by gender, age, and percentages from the most deprived areas for the 1,465 students who have been identified as Associate Students in colleges in 2019-20.

Associate Students by Gender, Age and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Quintile, 2019-20

	Number of Associate Students	Percentage of Associate Students
Gender		
Male	850	58.0%
Female	610	41.6%
Total (1)	1,465	
Age group		
16-18	445	30.4%
19-20	400	27.3%
21-24	255	17.4%
25-29	145	9.9%
30-39	155	10.6%
40-49	45	3.1%
50-59	15	1.0%
Total	1,465	
Deprivation Quintile (2) (18)		
20% most deprived areas	360	24.6%
40% most deprived areas	660	45.1%

Refer to notes to tables.

Metadata Table

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication Title	Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2019-20
Description	Includes data on Higher Education students, entrants and qualifiers in Scottish Higher Education Institutions and Colleges over a ten year time series (2010-11 to 2019-20)
Theme	Higher Education
Topic	Student Information
Format	PDF and Excel Tables
Data Source(s)	This publication contains information on students from both colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) who are attending Higher Education courses in Scotland. These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from HEIs and by SFC from further education colleges (colleges). Population data used to calculate the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate is sourced from National Records Scotland Mid-year Population Estimates.
Date that data are acquired	College statistics: October 2020 HEI data: 6 January 2021
Release date	30/03/2021
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Trend data over ten academic years, 2010-11 to 2019-20
Continuity of data	<p>Following a consultation in 2007, the method of counting students at HEIs was changed in 2009 in order to provide a greater level of consistency with HESA. The figures in this publication that relate to higher education institutions are defined by HESA's standard registration population. Time-series have been revised according to this definition.</p> <p>The standard registration population includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at point in the reporting period 1 August to 21 July except; dormant students, incoming visiting exchange students, student who study wholly outside the UK, students on sabbatical and writing up students.</p> <p>Data from Scottish colleges continues to exclude those students who do not complete the first 25% of their course (the point at which they become eligible for funding).</p>
Revisions statement	n/a
Revisions relevant to this publication	n/a
Relevance and Key uses of this statistics	HESA is the official UK agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education at higher education institutions. SFC collects data on provision at colleges in Scotland through the Further Education Statistics (FES) data collection.
Accuracy	The procedures followed by HESA to ensure quality of the data are provided on the HESA website. The guidance issued by SFC for the submission of the Scottish college records is on the SFC website.
Comparability	HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. The Statistical First Release 'Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications Obtained at Higher Education Institutions'

Accessibility	SFC has a style guideline which sets out options to make all publications as accessible to potential readers as possible. More information relating to accessibility of the website can be found here
Coherence and clarity	This statistical publication is pre-announced and then published on the SFC website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables available in Excel format on the website only which is a freely available resource.
Value type and unity of measurement	Number, percentage, percentage points
Disclosure	In all tables in this release, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, and 0, 1 and 2 have been rounded to 0. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Figures and percentages in the text and charts are calculated from rounded values. This is to mitigate the risk of identification of individuals.
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
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