



Regional Pathfinders Learners Journey Mapping

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Overview of the two regions	5
North East of Scotland	5
South of Scotland.....	6
Both Regions.....	7
What do we mean by ‘Rest of Scotland’?	8
Map of Institutions and Campuses in the North East and South of Scotland.....	10
What does provision look like in the regions?	11
North East of Scotland – University Offer	11
Enrolments Per Local Population.....	11
Mode of Study	12
Level of Study	12
Subject.....	13
North East of Scotland – College Offer	16
Enrolments Per Local Population.....	16
Mode of Study	16
Level of Study	17
Qualification Aim	18
Subject.....	19
Local Authority	21
Category of Student.....	21
Age Group.....	22
South of Scotland – University offer	23
Enrolments Per Local Population.....	23
Mode of Study	23
Level of Study	24
Subject.....	24

South of Scotland – College offer.....	28
Enrolments Per Local Population.....	28
Mode of Study	28
Level of Study	28
Qualification Aim	29
Subject.....	31
Local Authority	33
Category of Student.....	33
Age Group.....	35
What are the established pathways into and through education and training in the regions?.....	36
Both Regions – School Leaver Destinations	36
Both Regions – University Pathways.....	39
Pathways into First Degree undergraduate study at university (Scottish domiciled entrants).....	39
Activity Trends.....	41
Location Trends	42
Graduate Outcome Trends	43
Employment-Specific Trends*	44
Both Regions – College Pathways	44
Known Leavers Destinations.....	44
North East	44
South of Scotland.....	45
Positive / Negative Outcome	45
North East	45
South of Scotland.....	46
Negative Outcome Breakdown.....	47
North East – Qualification Level.....	47
North East – Primary Classification.....	47
South of Scotland – Qualification Level	48

South of Scotland – Primary Classification	48
Positive Outcome	49
North East	49
South of Scotland	49
Sector – Stay or Leave	50
North East	50
South of Scotland	53

Introduction

1. This paper aims to tackle the question, what are the established pathways into and through tertiary education and training in the North East and South of Scotland? The work takes a data-driven approach to represent entry enrolments, student populations and graduate outcomes relating to the provision explored in [Regional Pathfinders Data and Analysis Summary report published in December 2022](#). Its purpose is to provide insight into the opportunities available to learners and the relevant uptake in the region.
2. The report approaches the question in two parts: the first providing a snapshot of the courses and qualifications available to individuals in these regions, using data for the 2021-22 academic year to profile the provision using the latest student data available. The second aims to capture the pathways available to students in the college and university sectors within Scotland.
3. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record 2021-22 are used to look at university provision. SFC's Further Education Statistics (FES) are used to look at college provision in 2021-22. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five to protect against the identity of individual learners.
4. For brevity, this paper looks at activity in these regions taking place in the college or university sectors as a whole and does not examine activity at specific institutions and provides an overview of the institutions which have a presence in these regions.

Overview of the two regions

5. An overview of the institutions and campuses in the two regions is important to consider when outlining the breadth of provision in the two regions. In the Regional Pathfinders programme, we define the North East of Scotland as comprising City of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire local authority areas, and the South of Scotland as comprising Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders local authority areas. In Scotland's Census 2022, this North East region recorded a population of 487,900, forming 9% of Scotland's overall population. Only 5% of Scotland's overall population were recorded as living in the South of Scotland, at 262,800.

North East of Scotland

6. Approximately 4,595 school leavers left publicly funded secondary schools in the North East in the 2021-22 academic year, equivalent to 8% of school leavers nationally (publicly funded only).
7. The North East is home to two medium-sized universities located entirely within the region: University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. As of the 2021-22 academic year they are the eighth and tenth largest universities in Scotland by student

enrolment, out of a total of 19 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)¹. Between them they enrolled over 31,000 total students and admitted around 6,500 to undergraduate courses in 2021-22. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) has a satellite campus located in Aberdeen; however, this was only home to 405 HE-level enrolments and 255 FE-level enrolments in 2021-22.

8. Overall, of the Scots studying at universities in the North East, close to half are recruited locally with 49.3% being domiciled in Aberdeenshire or City of Aberdeen. City of Edinburgh is the third most popular local authority of recruitment at 6.0%, followed by Highland (5.1%).
9. Aside from SRUC's Aberdeen campus, college provision in the North East is almost entirely served by North East Scotland College (NESCol), with campuses spread around Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. NESCol is a large college with a student headcount of 20,890 in 2021-22, the third highest of the 26 colleges in Scotland in the 2021-22 academic year. The college recruits heavily from the region, with roughly 4-in-5 being domiciled in this region (80.6%).

South of Scotland

10. Approximately 2,890 school leavers left publicly funded secondary schools in the South of Scotland in the 2021-22 academic year, equivalent to 5% of school leavers nationally (publicly funded only).
11. The university campuses located in the South of Scotland are satellite campuses of universities primarily located in the central belt. In 2021-22 the University of Glasgow's Dumfries Campus enrolled 430 students, whereas Heriot-Watt University's Galashiels Campus enrolled 700 students, and University of the West of Scotland's Dumfries Campus enrolled 360 students, making a total of 1,490 students studying at universities in the South of Scotland. For context, students at these campuses make up 1%, 6% and 2% of those institutions' entire student populations, respectively.
12. These university satellite campuses tend to be more focused in their area of provision. At University of Glasgow's Dumfries campus roughly three quarters of its students study education and teaching, or geography, earth, and environmental studies. Meanwhile Heriot-Watt University's Galashiels campus offers mainly courses in fashion and textiles and the University of the West of Scotland predominantly offers courses in nursing, health, and social care. These factors should be considered so as not to draw direct comparisons with the North East, due to the entirely different level of presence of HEIs in the two regions. As with the North East, SRUC serves both HE and FE-level provision (405 and 255 enrolments respectively) and does so through its Dumfries Barony campus, in subjects associated with agriculture, food and veterinary sciences.

¹ Colleges also deliver higher education but are not included in the definition of HEIs..

13. Roughly three-quarters of university students studying in the South of Scotland are Scottish-domiciled, which is high for a university, owing to its narrow offer of provision. Of these Scots, 46.5% came from the region in 2021-22, with most coming from Dumfries and Galloway (43.0%) and 3.5% coming from Scottish Borders. In fact, more students studying at university in the South of Scotland came from City of Edinburgh and Glasgow at 6.5% and 6.1% respectively, than came from Scottish Borders (3.5%).
14. Three colleges provide provision in the South of Scotland: SRUC via its Dumfries Barony campus, Dumfries and Galloway College (DGC), and Borders College. DGC could be regarded as a medium sized college and the 13th largest college in Scotland by student headcount (out of 26 colleges). DGC is located entirely within the South of Scotland region with a main campus in Dumfries and a smaller campus in Stranraer, where approximately 11% of the College's activity takes place (by full time equivalents (FTEs) delivered). Meanwhile Borders College has a main campus in Galashiels with other campuses in Tweedbank, Hawick, and Newtown St Boswells. The two colleges are similar in size: there were 5,285 students studying at Borders College in 2021-22 compared to 6,075 at DGC.
15. Like most colleges, colleges in the South of Scotland tend to recruit locally. Most college students are from Dumfries and Galloway (52.6%), followed by Scottish Borders (31.4%). The other students are spread across other local authorities from outside the region, but all are very small in number.

Both Regions

16. The Open University in Scotland (OUIs) serves the whole of Scotland, providing part-time distance learning courses at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level, with no entry requirements. In 2021-22 there were 2,050 enrolments at the OUIs from individuals domiciled in the North East and 1,270 enrolled from the South of Scotland. Because of the OUIs's focus on distance learning, they are not the focus of this paper, however, we recognise the commitment of the OU to collaborate with other institutions in these regions to contribute to coherent provision through their online offer.
17. Outside of the college and university sectors, independent training providers and employers also provide learning and apprenticeship opportunities across the North East and South of Scotland, across a range of disciplines and industries. In 2021-22 there were 3,015 enrolments on Modern Apprenticeships in training from those domiciled in the North East and 1,875 domiciled in the South of Scotland in training. Colleges are significant providers of off-the-job training for Modern Apprenticeships.
18. At the degree level, there were 605 enrolments on Graduate Apprenticeship programmes in training in the North East in 2021-22 via Robert Gordon University and 10 in training in the South of Scotland via Borders College. Therefore in 2021-22 Robert Gordon University was the sole supplier of Graduate Apprenticeships in the tertiary sector while Borders College was the only institution in the sector providing Graduate

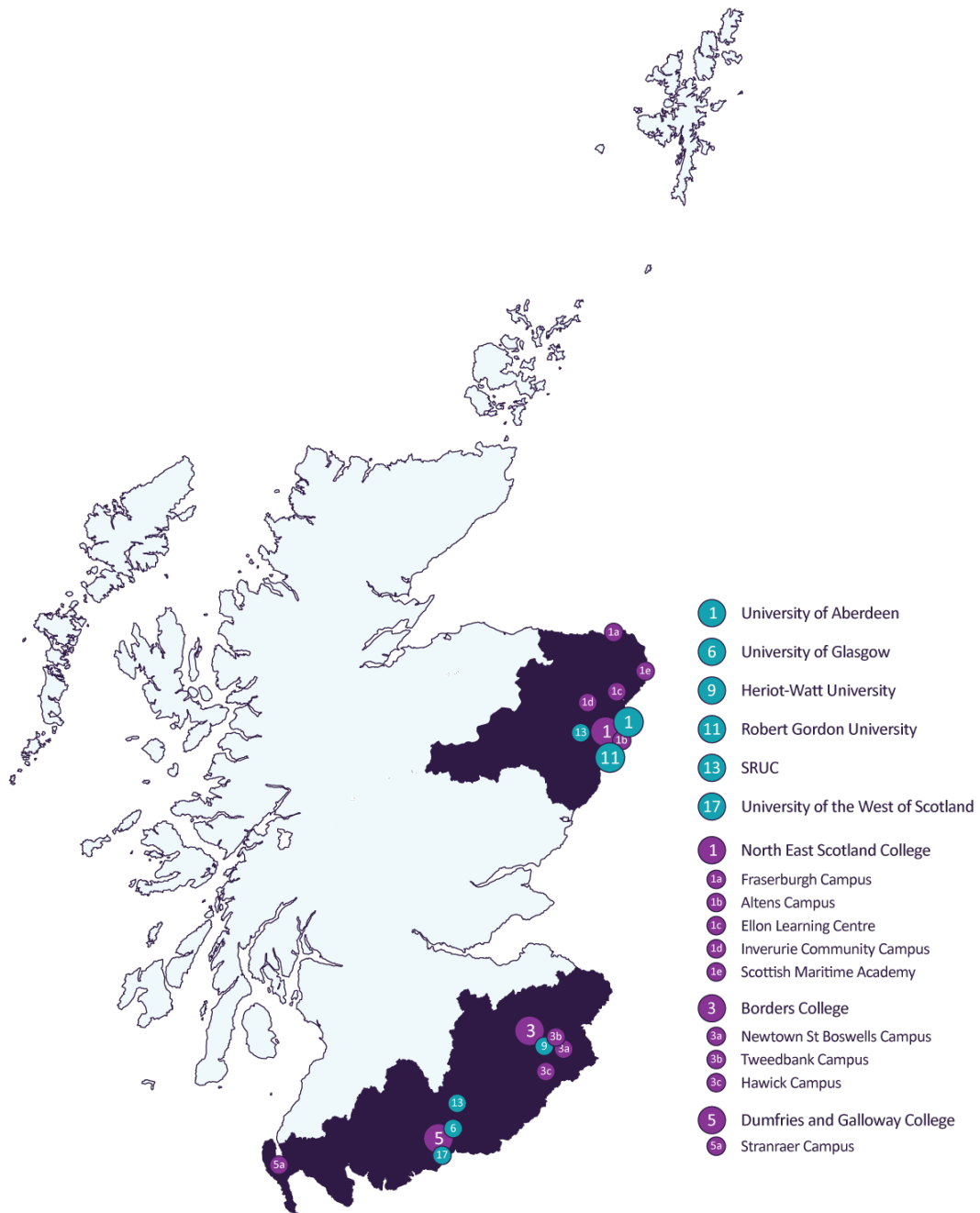
Apprenticeships in the South of Scotland. Although learners and employers can access Graduate Apprenticeship opportunities from out with the region, it nonetheless indicates that there are fewer Graduate Apprenticeship opportunities to learners looking to study these courses locally in the South of Scotland. This presents an opportunity for HEIs to explore and potentially develop relationships with local employers. By collaborating with employers, HEIs can advocate for the benefits of graduate apprenticeship and assess if there is a demand from employers for such programs.

19. Aside from the OUIS, distance learning opportunities are also available to those living in the two regions, via other universities and colleges. For those domiciled in the North East on distance learning courses at college, most (roughly three-quarters) are studying at NESCol, i.e. within the region itself. These are almost exclusively courses at the FE (i.e. non-advanced) level, with Care subjects being the most popular. Therefore there isn't strong evidence to suggest that significant numbers of those living in the North East are having to study distance learning via colleges outside the region. Distance learning opportunities are also available within the university sector. However for those domiciled in the North East, the vast majority study distanced learning takes place within the region, at either University of Aberdeen or Robert Gordon University (discounting the OUIS), and tends to be in subjects under Combined and General Studies.
20. Neither Dumfries and Galloway College nor Borders College offered distance learning courses in 2021-22. College students living the South of Scotland therefore tend to study distance learning courses at West College Scotland or NESCol (235 and 165 enrolments respectively). These are almost exclusively at the FE level, with Care subjects being the most popular. The number living in the South of Scotland and studying distance learning via colleges outside the region are therefore not significant, however it is noteworthy that there was no distance learning offer within the region itself. Distance learning for those in the region is mostly done via the OUIS, at roughly four-fifths of university distance learning from those in the region. Discounting OUIS, Business and Management subjects are the most popular for those doing distance learning at university.

What do we mean by 'Rest of Scotland'?

21. In this report Rest of Scotland refers to data for all other areas in Scotland *except for the region in question*. For example, data for the North East refers to activity taking place in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire local authority areas, with its Rest of Scotland comparator being activity taking place in all other local authority areas in Scotland *apart from* Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire i.e. the North East region. The same principle applies to the South of Scotland.
22. Therefore Rest of Scotland is a dynamic region, dependent on which of the two regions is being examined. This ensures we get a more accurate comparator for what's available outside this region. This may differ from other reports which compare against Scotland

nationally.



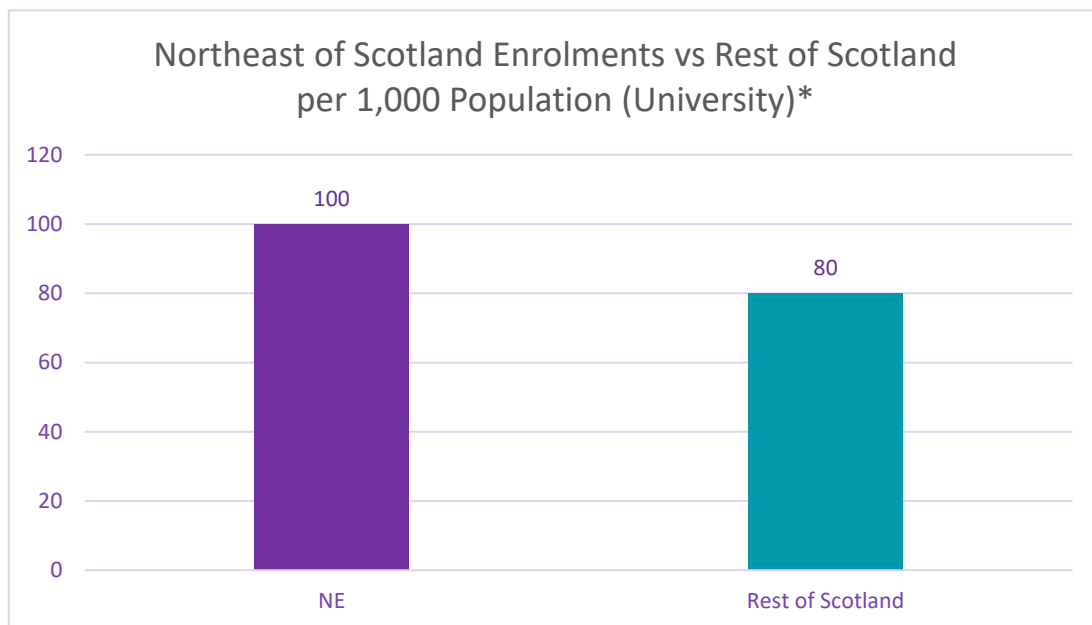
Map of Institutions and Campuses in the North East and South of Scotland

What does provision look like in the regions?

North East of Scotland – University Offer

Enrolments Per Local Population

23. The data reveals a notable difference in the rate of university education participation at the local population level when comparing the North East and the Rest of Scotland (i.e. located in local authority areas outwith the North East – Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire). With an enrolment² rate of approximately 100 per 1,000 in the North East compared to the 80 per 1,000 in the Rest of Scotland, participation in university study in the North East is high amongst the population in that region.

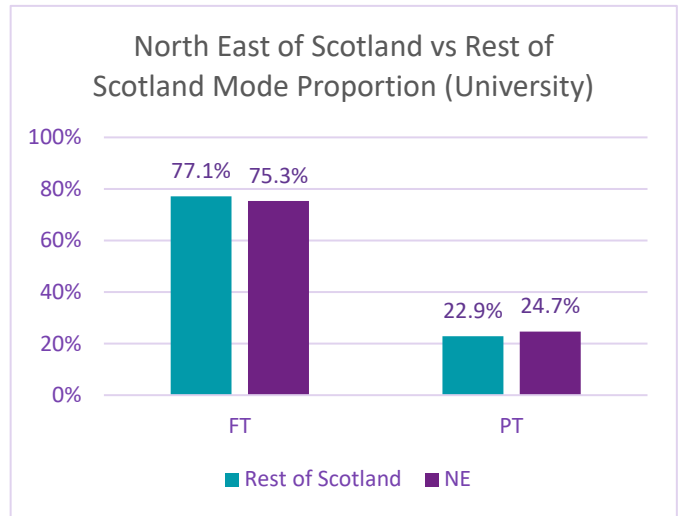


*Comparison against per 1,000 population is based on population ages between 16 – 64-year-olds.

² Enrolments cover all levels, modes and domiciles except where noted otherwise for breakdowns by level or mode etc.

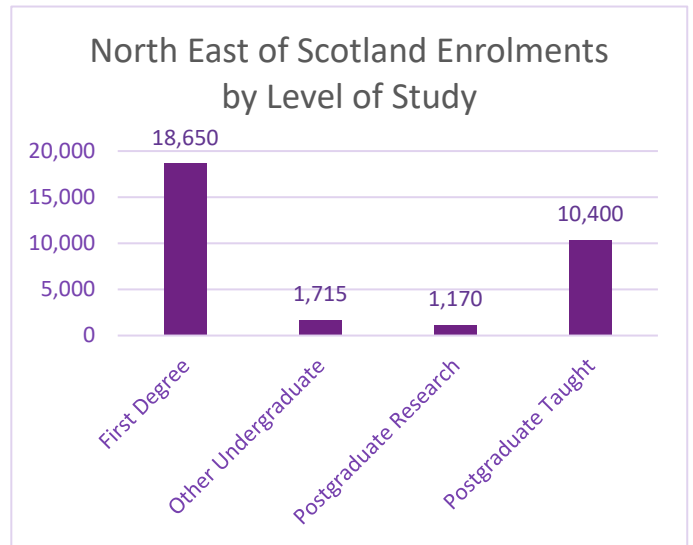
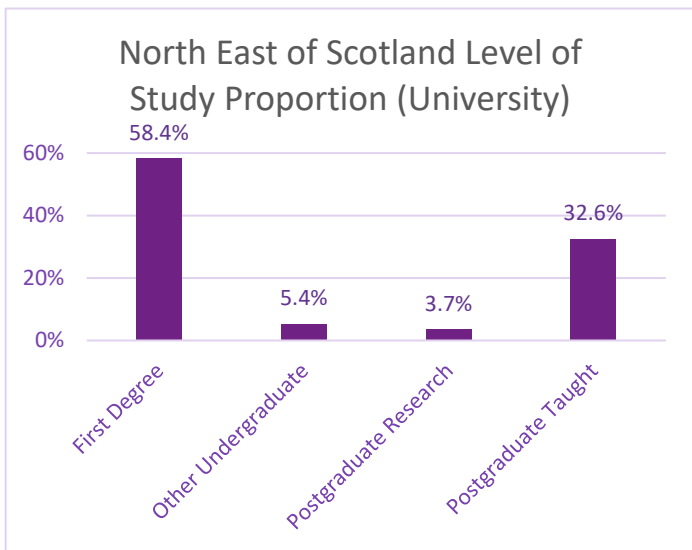
Mode of Study

24. As the chart above shows, the balance between full-time (FT) and part-time (PT) modes of university study in the North East is in-line with the rest of the university sector in Scotland. The North East has a strong presence of full-time students, with a mode distribution similar to the Rest of Scotland.



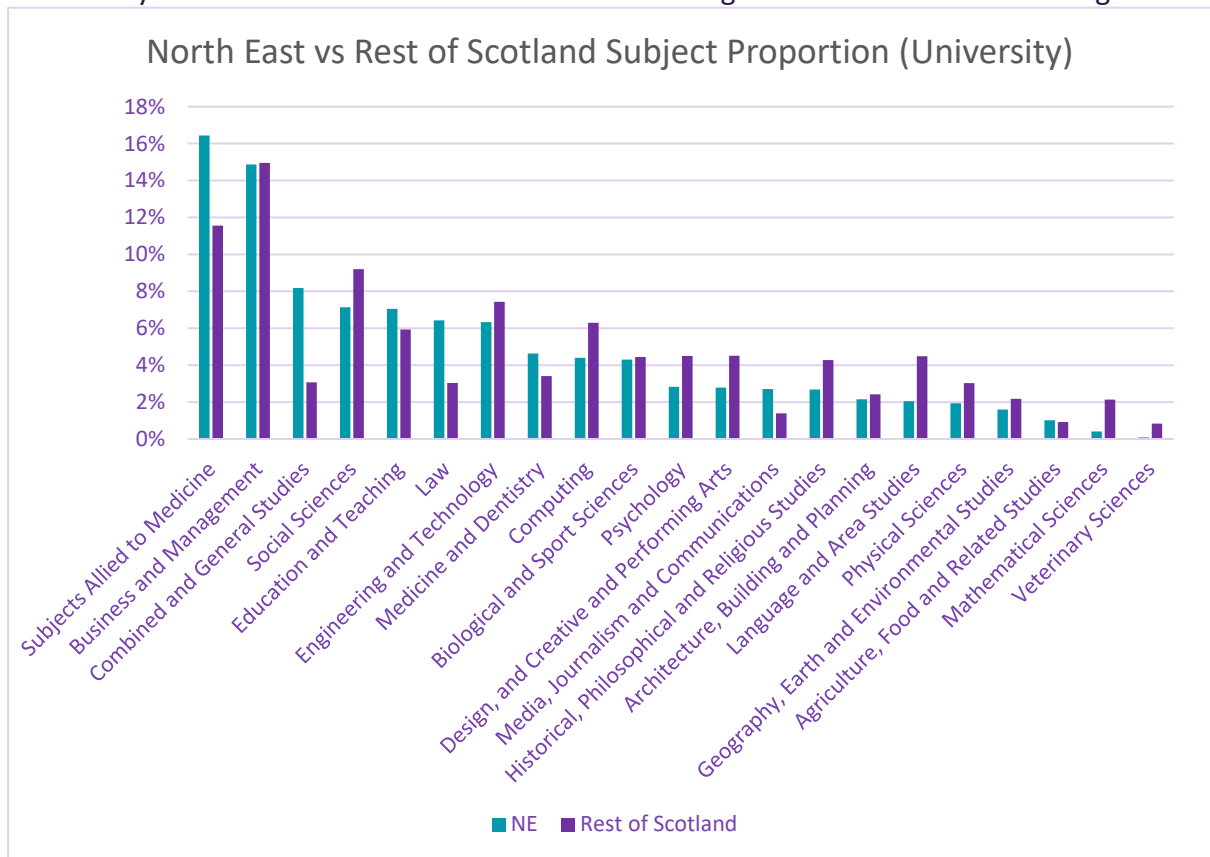
Level of Study

25. In the North East of Scotland, the majority of enrolments, 58.4%, are in first-degree programmes, with 32.6% in postgraduate taught programmes. This reflects the shape of provision in the region, as a result of the provision available at two universities in this region, and is reflective of provision we might see in the rest of Scotland.

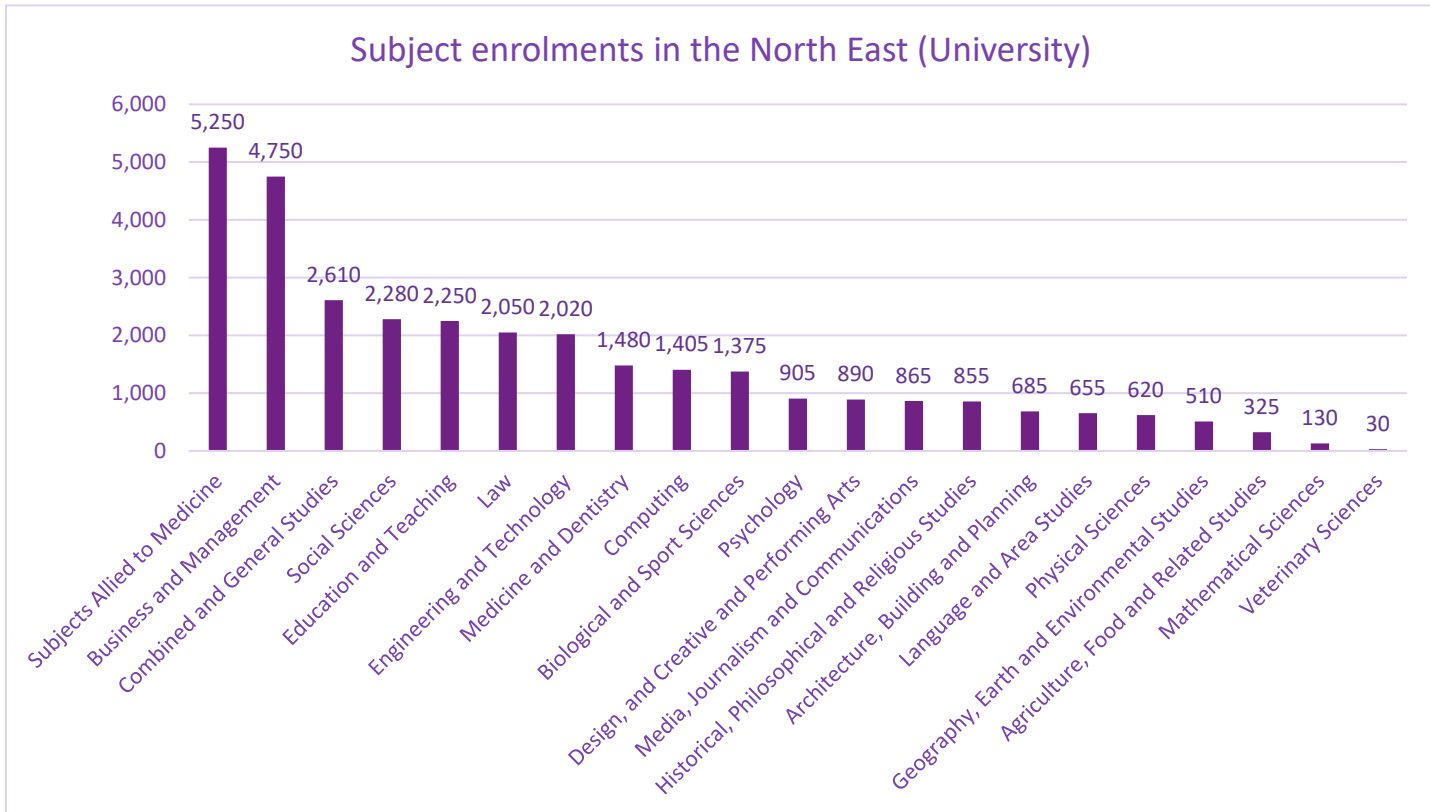


Subject

26. Courses classified within subjects allied to medicine are over-represented at universities in the North East when compared to the rest of the sector, with 16.4% of enrolments being on this subject group in the North East in 2021-22, compared to 11.5% for the Rest of Scotland. This does not necessarily tell us whether the demand is coming from the region, or whether students are choosing to travel to the North East. Institutions will make a balanced subjects offer that will attract students from outside the region as well as within it. Students may of course move out of the region upon qualifying, so these graduates from Subjects Allied to Medicine may not stay in the area, and the chart is not necessarily indicative of skills demand for allied health graduates from within the region.

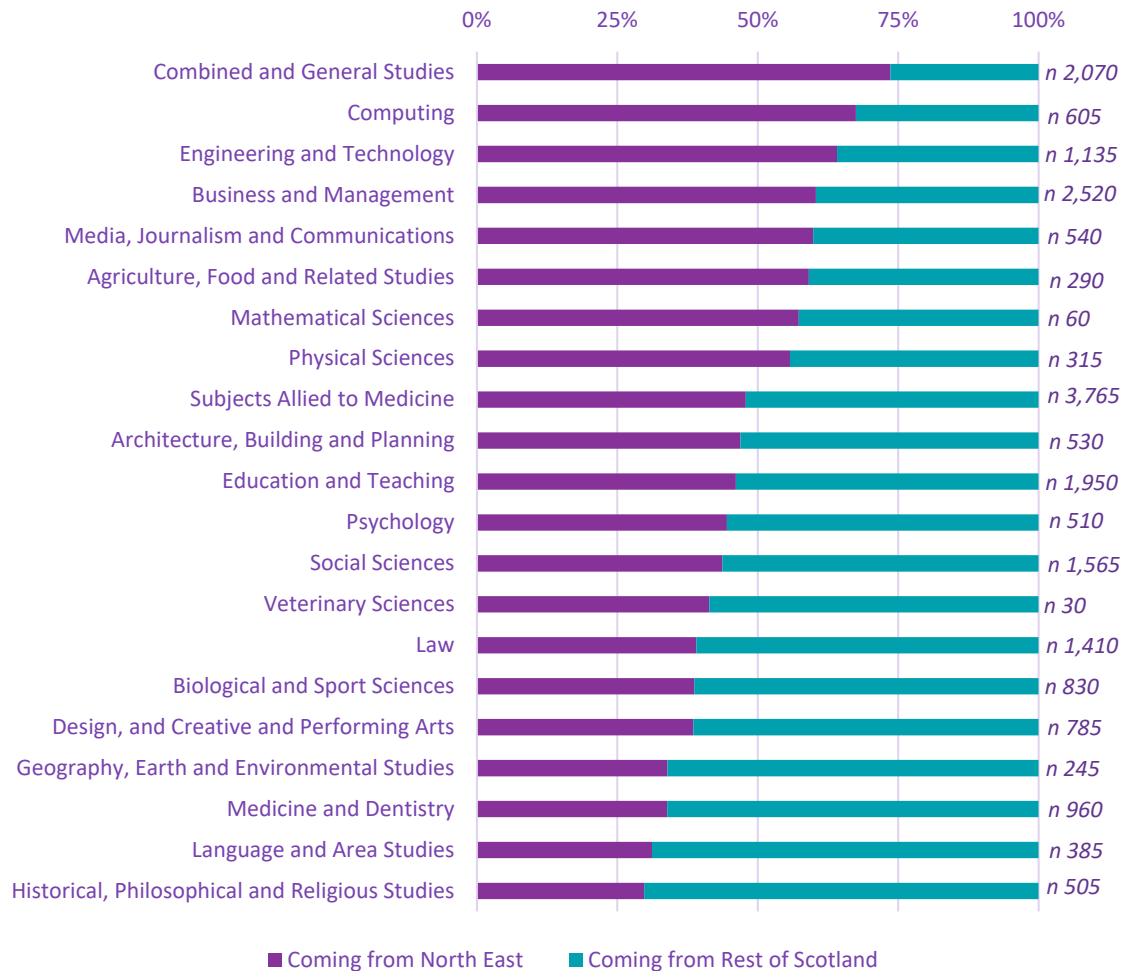


27. There is a notable difference in the proportion of enrolments in the fields of some subject areas between the Rest of Scotland and the North East, for example historical, philosophical and religious studies and language and area studies.



28. The chart below also allows us to see the subjects which tend to attract more 'local' students domiciled in the region and the subjects which tend to attract a greater share of Scots coming from outside the region. As can be seen from the below, subjects are vastly different in whether they tend to attract individuals locally or from elsewhere in Scotland.

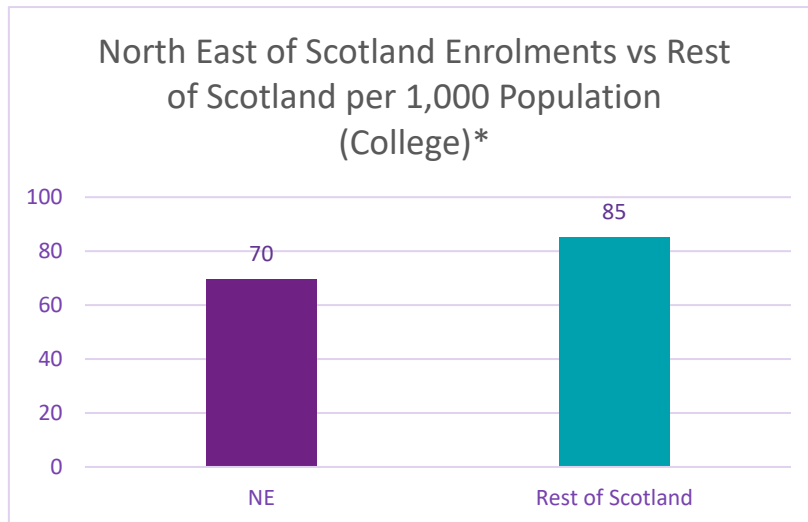
Scottish students studying in the North East, showing the proportion coming from within the region vs the Rest of Scotland (University)



North East of Scotland – College Offer

Enrolments Per Local Population

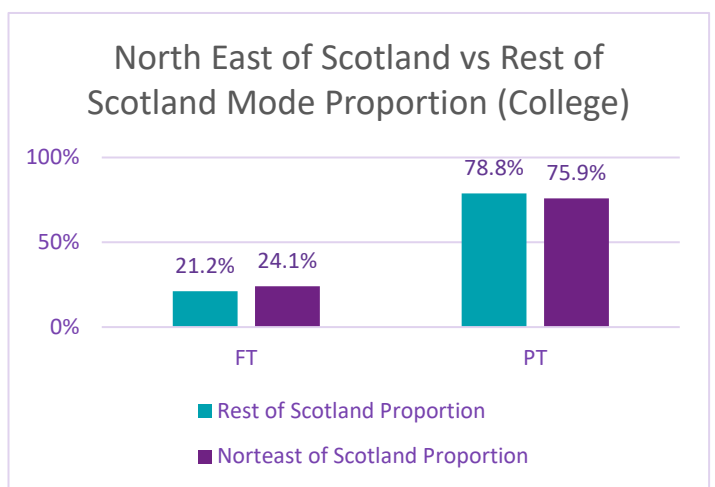
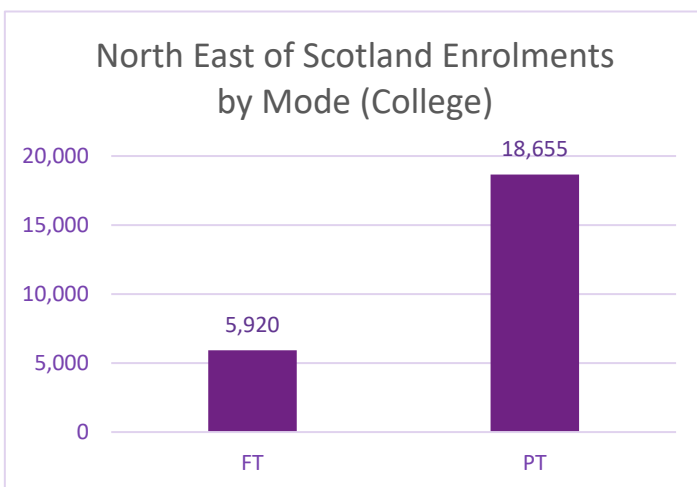
29. The above chart shows that FE and HE enrolment numbers per 1,000 population are 15 lower (70 vs 85) in North East region compared to the remainder of Scotland. It indicates that participation in college within the North East is lower for those living in the North East compared to the rest of the Scotland.



*Comparison against per 1,000 is based on population of 9 – 64-year-olds (99% of college students in 2021-22). Population based on: North East - Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

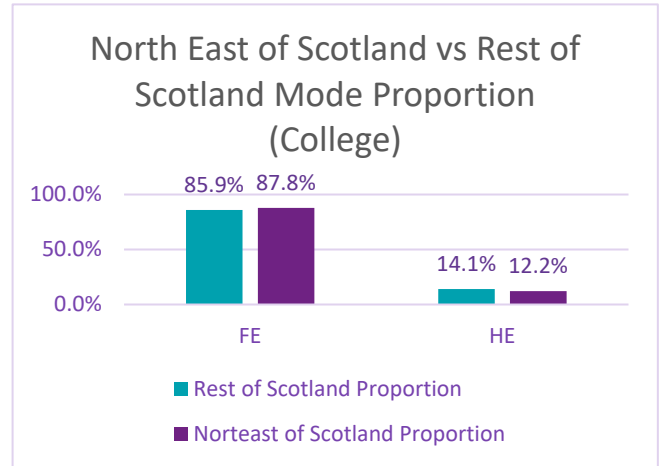
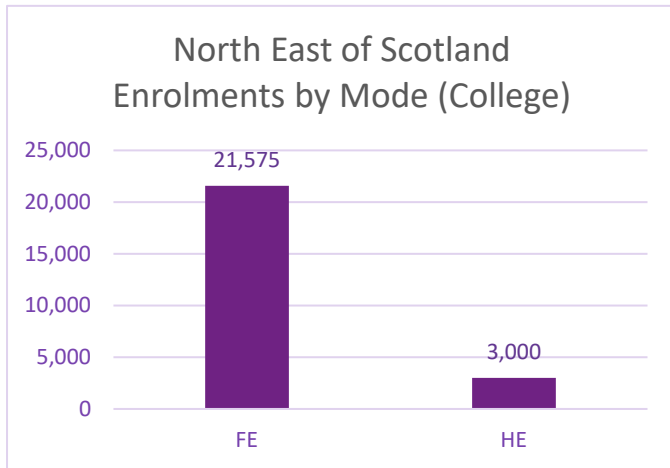
Mode of Study

30. The majority of college enrolments in North East are part time (75.9%) but the rate of full-time study is higher than the rest of Scotland with 24.1% of enrolments based on full time study, against 21.2% in the rest of Scotland.



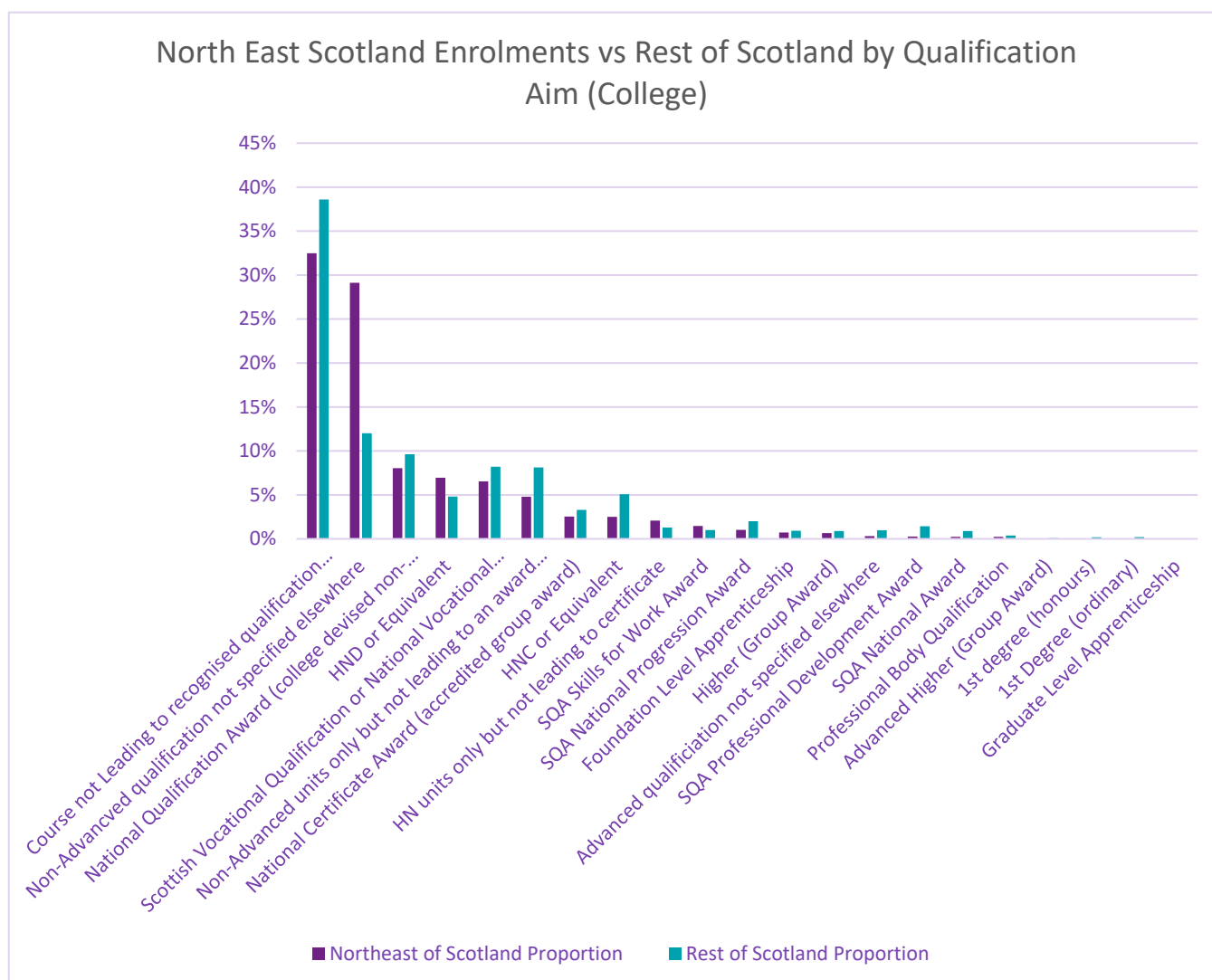
Level of Study

31. Most college enrolments within North East are at the Further Education level of study (SCQF 1-6), with only 12.2% of enrolments to Higher Education (SCQF level 7+), which is lower in comparison to the remainder of Scotland at 14.1%.



Qualification Aim

32. The highest proportion of qualification aims in this area are on courses not leading to a recognised qualification, although the proportion of these is lower in relation to the rest of Scotland (32.5% vs 38.5%). This is followed by non-advanced qualifications not specified elsewhere, with North East reporting significantly higher proportion than the rest of Scotland (29.1% vs 12%). Non-recognised courses are an important part of the learner journey for many students. They provide a pathway into further education, are designed to give a grounding in a vocational subject or act as a route back into vocational learning for people with no or very few qualifications. Further information on NRQs can be found in the [College Statistics](#) report.



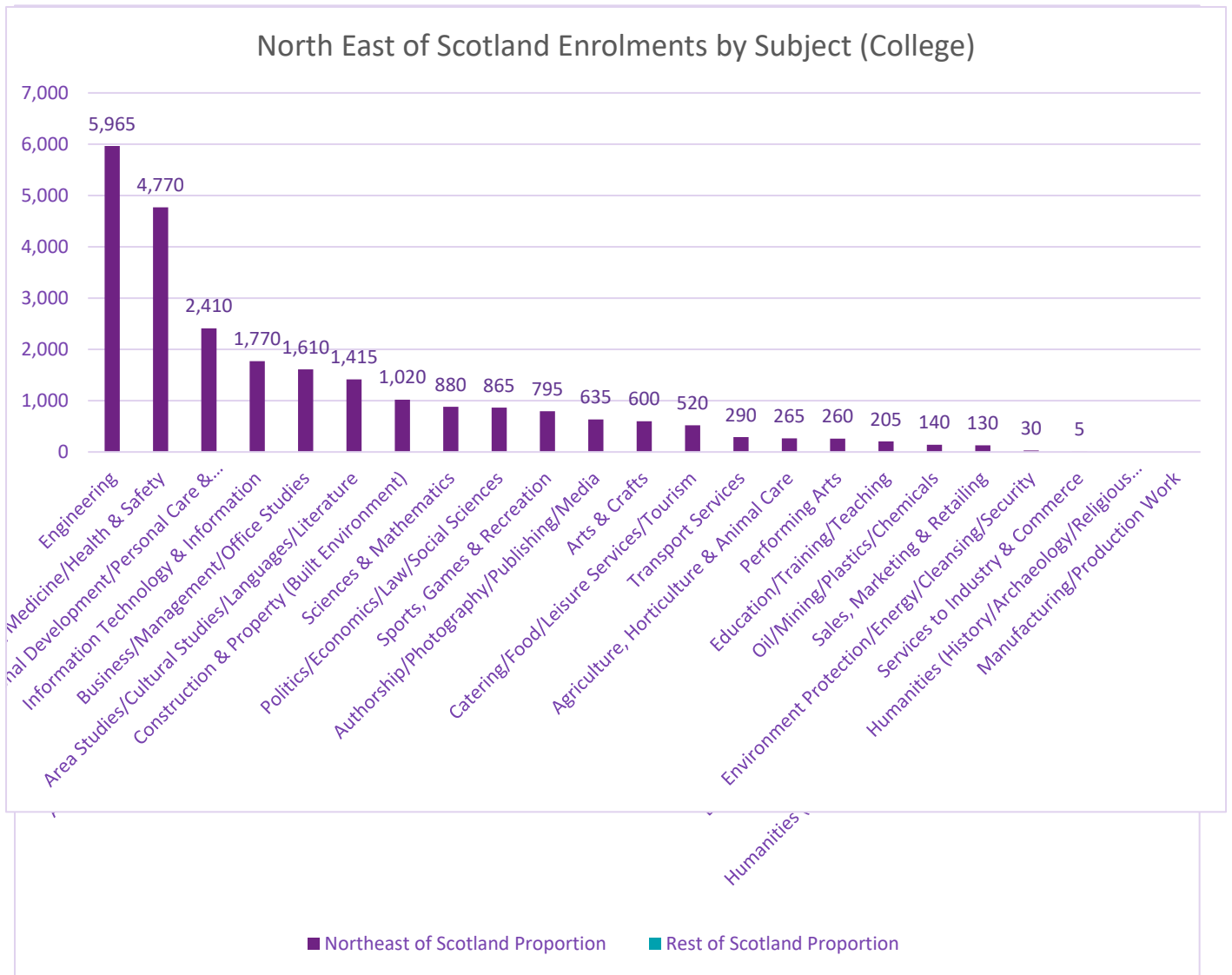
33. Colleges in the North East did not offer any First Degrees (Honours or Ordinary) or Graduate Level Apprenticeships in 2021-22. Within the North East there is a strong serving from the university sector overall, with University of Dundee and Robert Gordon University being entirely located in the region. Therefore there is less demand for First

Degree courses from colleges in the region. Furthermore there were 605 enrolments on Graduate Apprenticeship programmes in training in the North East in 2021-22 via Robert Gordon University, which explains the lack of Graduate Apprenticeship offers from colleges in the region. Colleges therefore have an offer in the region with a greater prevalence towards Non-Advanced Qualifications.

Subject

34. Engineering and health care / medicine / health and safety are the courses with the highest enrolments in North East (24.3% and 19.4% respectively) - health Care / medicine / health and safety is consistent with the rest of Scotland (18.8%) but engineering is proportionately much higher compared to rest of Scotland (24.3% vs 11.4%).
35. Family care/personal development/personal care & appearance is reporting lower against the rest of Scotland (9.8% vs 16.3%) as is construction & property (4.2% vs 7.2%). Information Technology and catering/food/leisure services/tourism also note a slight drop in proportion of enrolments (7.2% vs 8.4% and 2.1% vs 3.8% respectively).

36. There are no humanities (history/archaeology/religious studies/philosophy) or manufacturing/production work college courses in the 2021-22 data for this region.

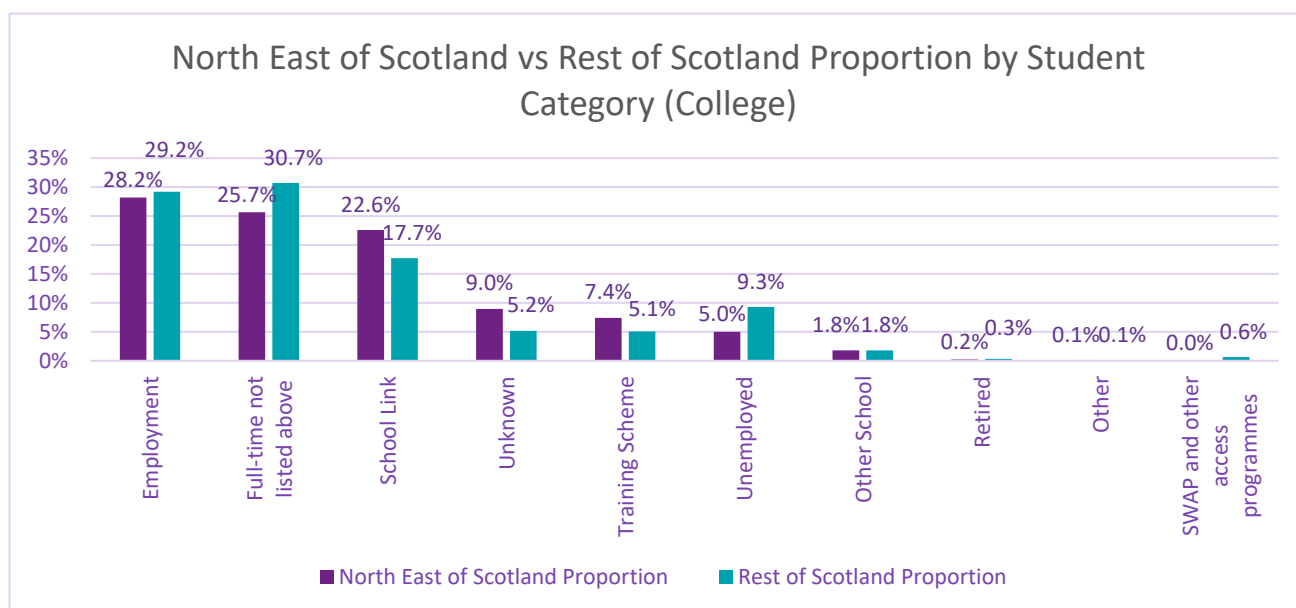


Local Authority

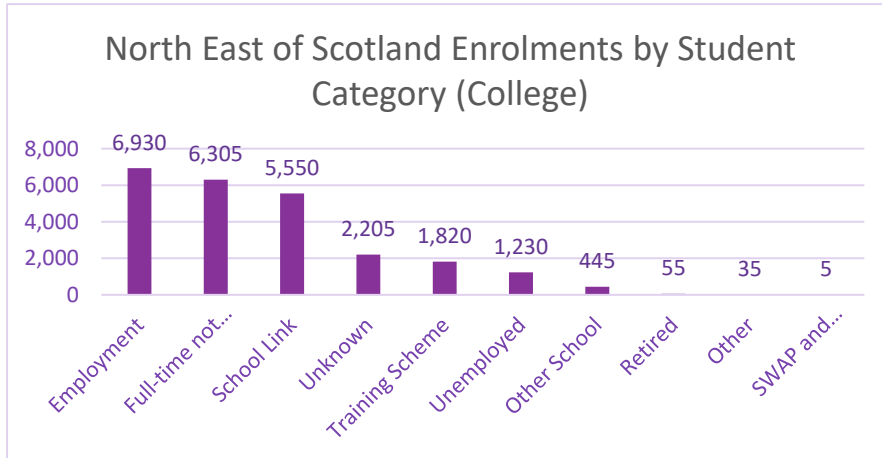
37. The majority of college students for this area are from Aberdeenshire (42.6%), followed by Aberdeen (38%). The other students are spread across other local authorities from outside the region, but none are of particular note.
38. Students originating from North East local authorities only make up 1.1% of the college population in the rest of Scotland, indicating that very few of those living in this region go to college outside the region.

Category of Student

39. The largest proportion of students who attend colleges in this region are in employment (28.2%), followed by studying full time (25.7%) and then onto a school link programme³(22.6%). For those in employment, this region reports below the rest of Scotland (29.2%) and also for those studying full time (30.7%) but a higher proportion for those on school link (17.7% in rest of Scotland). The proportion of unemployed is also lower when compared against the rest of Scotland (5% vs 9.3%).

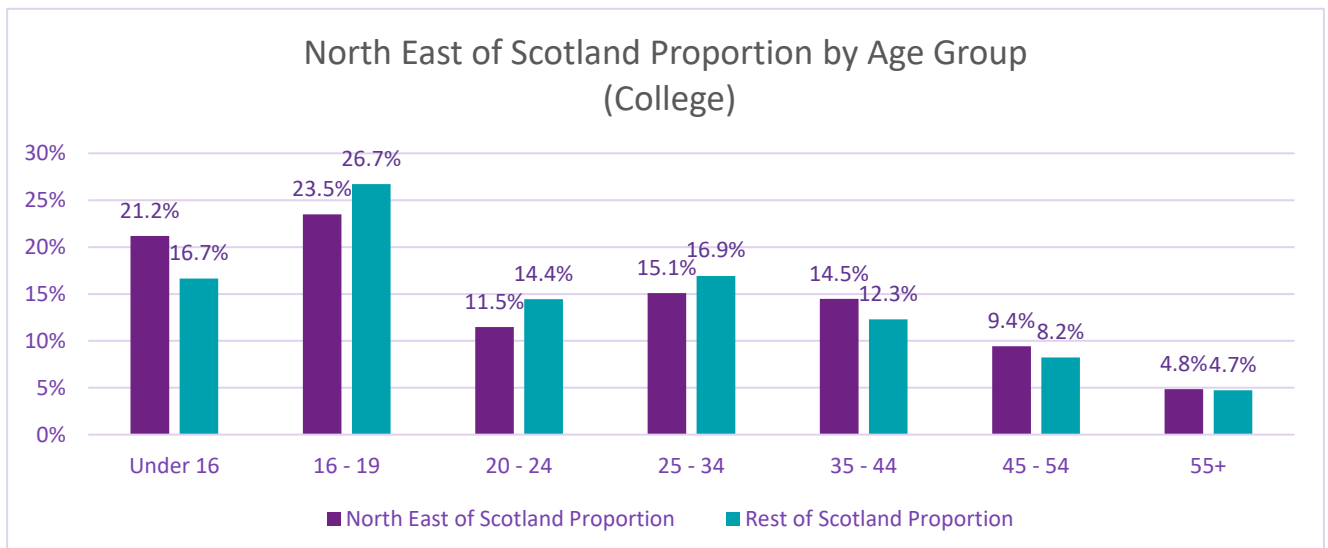


³ School link programmes are delivered in partnership with local authorities and offer courses to school pupils. These courses tend to be classed as non-recognised qualifications and are introductory in nature, typically for STEM subjects. More detail on North East Scotland College's school link programmes can be found here: <https://www.nescol.ac.uk/more-than-1500-pupils-ready-to-embark-on-school-links-programme/>



Age Group

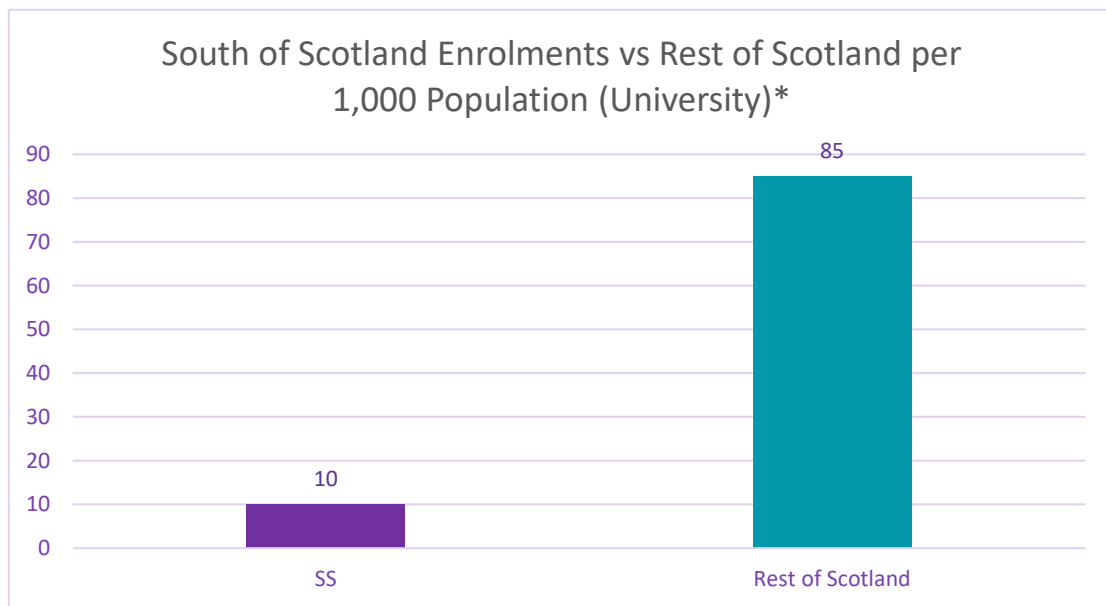
40. Although those in employment make up the largest proportion of student categories at colleges in the North East, the largest age group is in fact 16 – 19 year olds. These young students are typically concentrated in the categories full-time not listed above, training scheme and school link. There is a higher number of students aged under 16 compared to Rest of Scotland, which aligns with the higher number of students on a school link programme in this region (21.2% vs 16.7%). In terms of overall population, this region is in line with the proportion of people aged under 16 at a national level (17%) and so it is not a disproportionate number for this age group. This region also reports fewer 20 – 34-year-old students, although reports more of those aged from 35 – 54 years old.



South of Scotland – University offer

Enrolments Per Local Population

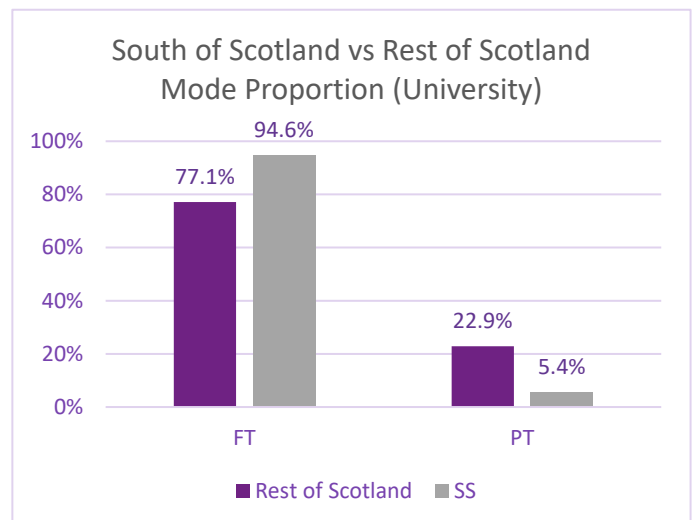
41. The data indicate a notable difference in the proportion of the local population taking part in university education at campuses in the South of Scotland, compared to those located in the rest of Scotland studying at university in the rest of Scotland. While the rest of Scotland has an enrolment rate of 85 per 1,000 population, the South of Scotland has a substantially lower rate of 10 per 1,000. This substantial gap in enrolment rates suggests significant disparities in education participation levels between the regions.



*Comparison against per 1,000 population is based on population ages between 16 – 64-year-olds.

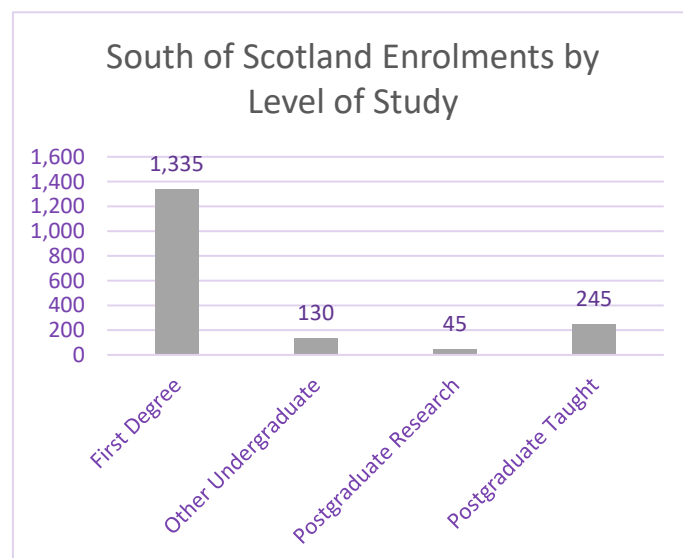
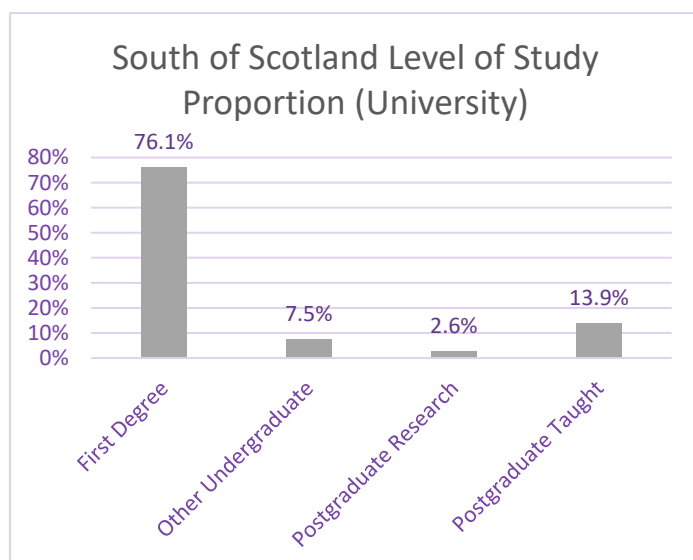
Mode of Study

42. The South of Scotland exhibits a notable enrolment pattern, with a dominant preference for full-time studies, representing 94.6% of enrolments. In contrast to the rest of Scotland, which has a lower full-time proportion at 77.1% and a higher part-time proportion at 22.9%, South of Scotland stands out for its strong inclination towards full-time education.



Level of Study

43. First degree provision constitutes the vast majority of university provision in the South of Scotland.



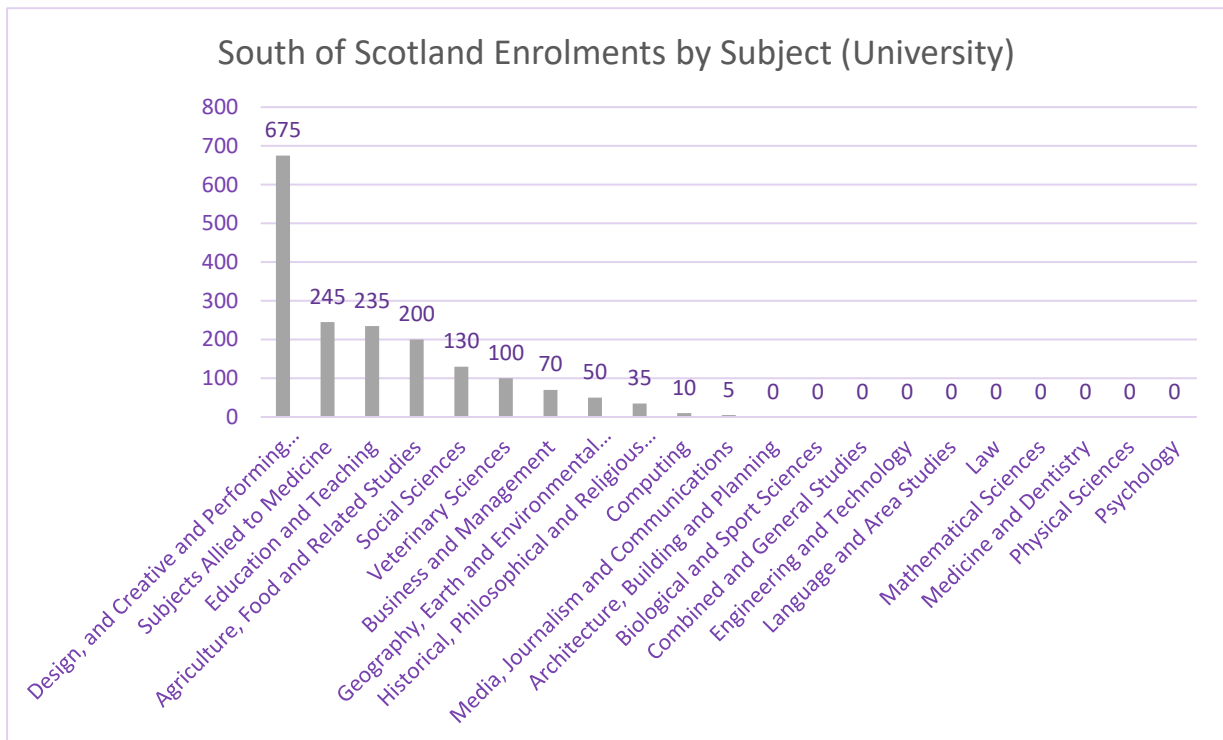
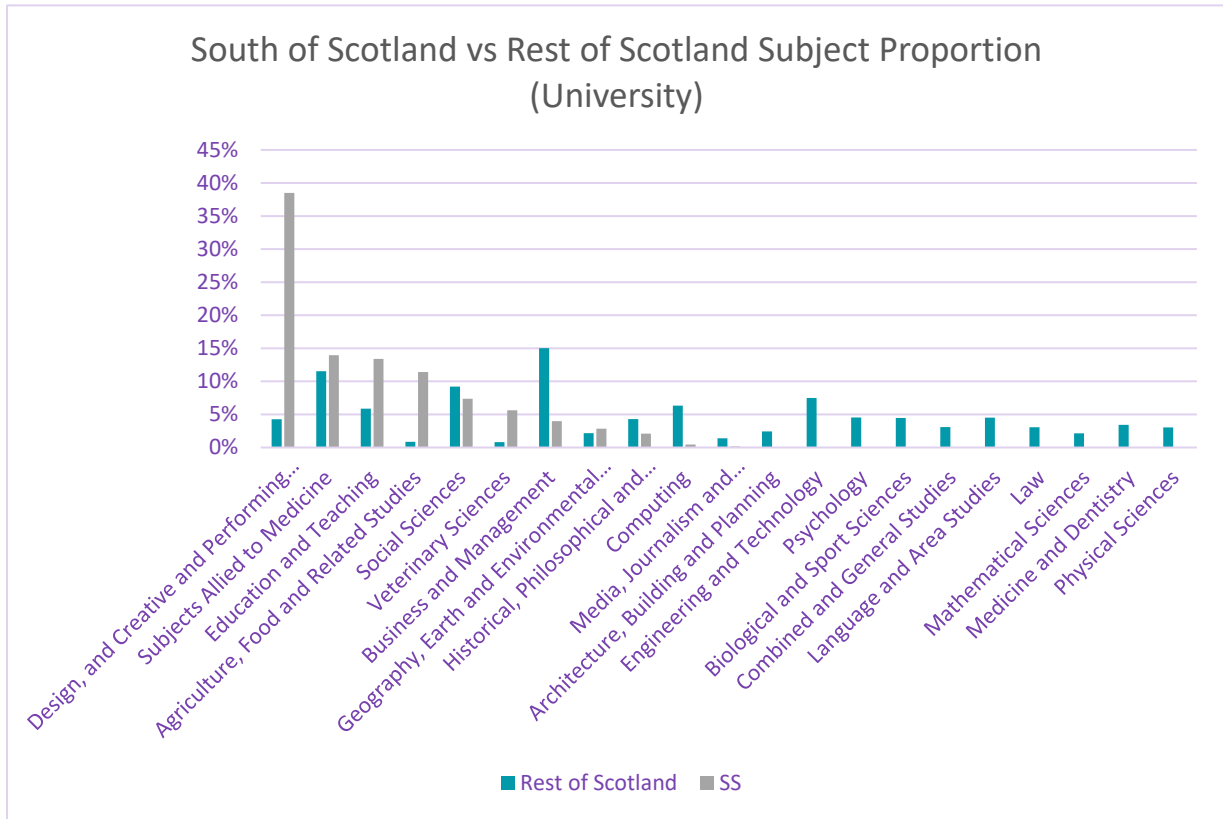
Subject

44. The charts below reveal a significant difference in the choice of courses. Specifically, the 'Design, and Creative Performing Arts' subject group stands out with the highest proportion of students in the South, accounting for a substantial 38.5%. In contrast, rest of Scotland demonstrates a much lower proportion of students in the same subject, with only 4.8%.
45. In the South West, institutions and partners collaborate through the Crichton Campus⁴ partnership and leadership group, to share understanding of skills, education and training needs and to support learner pathways in Dumfries and Galloway. Institutions represented on the partnership include Dumfries and Galloway College, the University of Glasgow (School of Social and Environmental Sustainability), University of the West of Scotland (UWS), SRUC and the Open University in Scotland.
46. There were no enrolments in the South of Scotland for the following subject groupings at university level for 2021-22 in the data: architecture, building and planning, biological and sport sciences, combined and general studies, language and area studies, law,

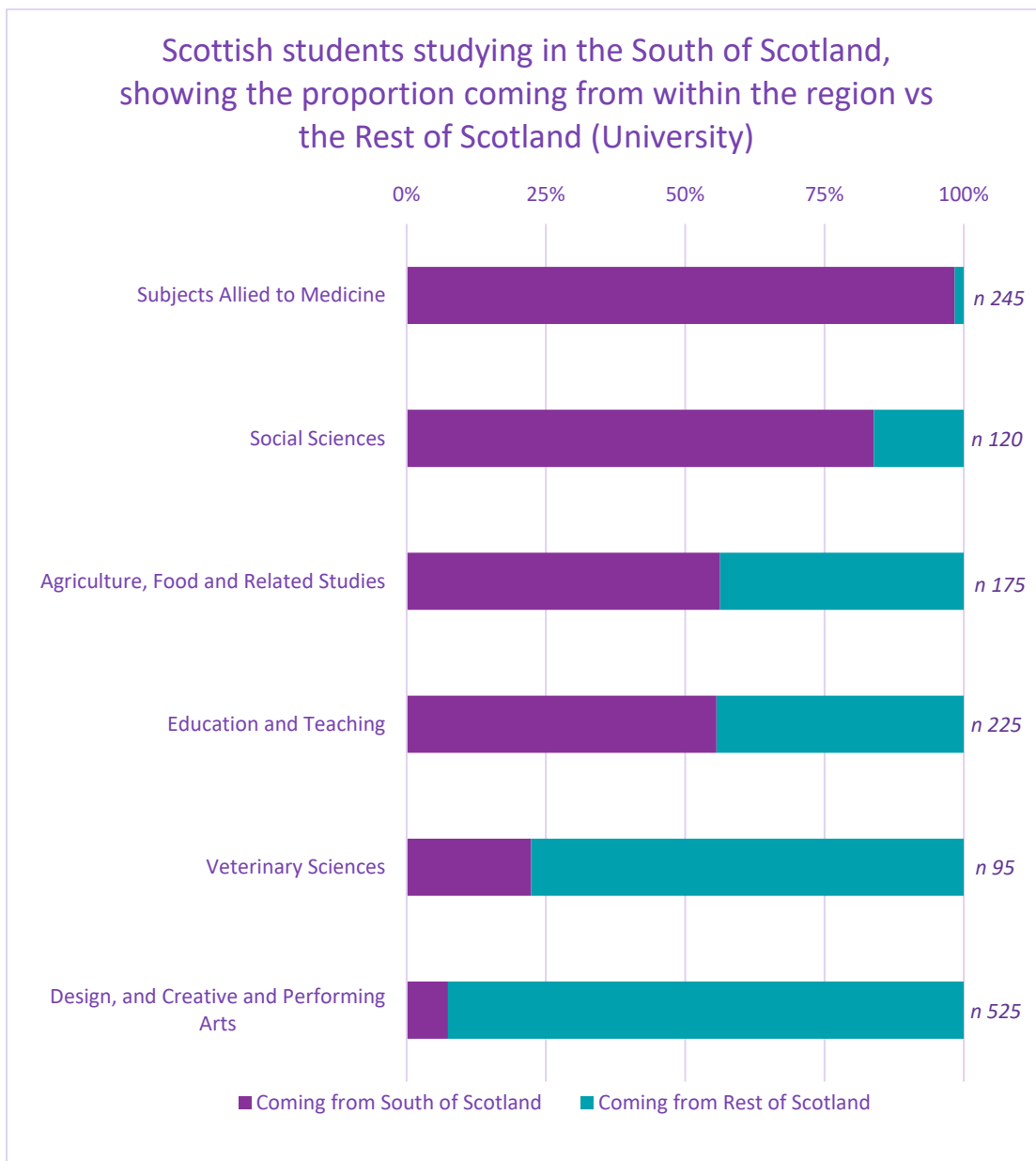
⁴ Crichton Campus partnership and Leadership Group was created in 2013 to facilitate a shared understanding of the skills, education and training needs of Dumfries and Galloway through effective engagement with all the key stakeholders by collaborating and having efficient communication and planning activity in a coherent manner, avoiding duplication of activity. See the Crichton Campus [Statement of Ambition](#).

mathematical sciences, medicine and dentistry, physical sciences & psychology.

47. Meanwhile Design, Creative and Performing Arts has a much greater focus at universities in the region compared to the Rest of Scotland (38.5% of provision compared to 4.3% at universities in the rest of Scotland, provided entirely by Heriot-Watt University's School of Textiles and Design at the Galashiels Campus. This does not necessarily tell us whether the demand is coming from the region, or whether students are choosing to travel to the South of Scotland. Institutions will make a balanced subjects offer that will attract students from outside the region as well as within it. Students may of course move out of the region upon qualifying, so these graduates from Design, and creative and Performing Arts may not stay in the area, and the chart is not necessarily indicative of skills demand for demand for these skills from within the region.



48. The chart below also allows us to see the subjects which tend to attract more ‘local’ students domiciled in the region and the subject which tend to attract a greater share of Scots from outside the region. Subjects Allied to Medicine was almost entirely made up of Scots from the region. This might be these subjects (such as Nursing) are offered widely across universities throughout Scotland, therefore there are opportunities for students to study closer to their home domicile rather than travel from outside the region in order to study Nursing and other Allied Health subjects. In contrast, Design, and Creative and Performing Arts courses in the get far more demand from outside the region, with 92.6% of Scots studying there being those domiciled outside the South of Scotland in 2022-23.

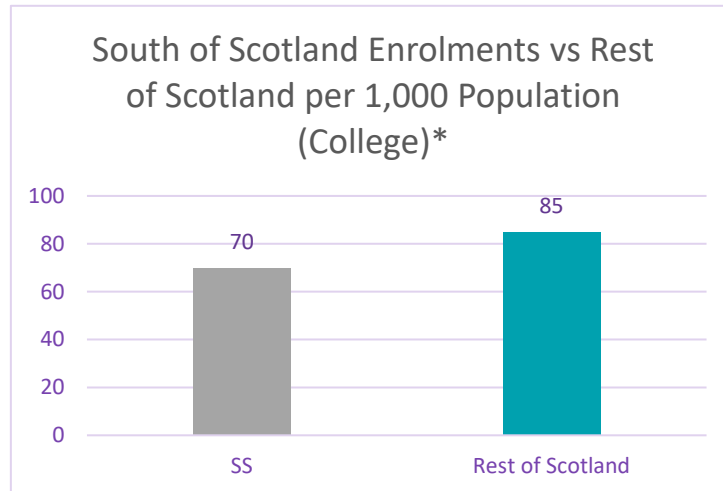


*Subjects are not shown where enrolments were less than 23, to avoid percentages from small numbers.

South of Scotland – College offer

Enrolments Per Local Population

49. Enrolment numbers per 1,000 population show that there are 15 fewer enrolments (70 vs 85) in South of Scotland region compared to the remainder of Scotland.

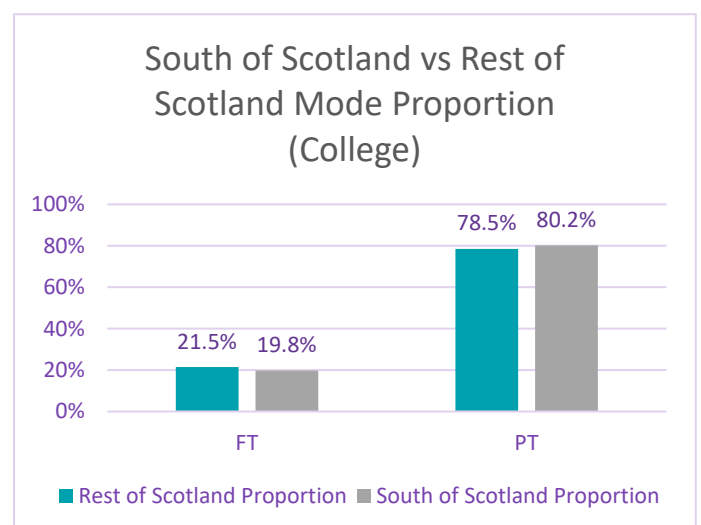


*Comparison against per 1,000 is based on population of 9 – 64-year-olds (99% of college students in 2021-22). Population based on: South of Scotland – Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders.

50. Both regions show a lower level of enrolment compared against the rest of Scotland.

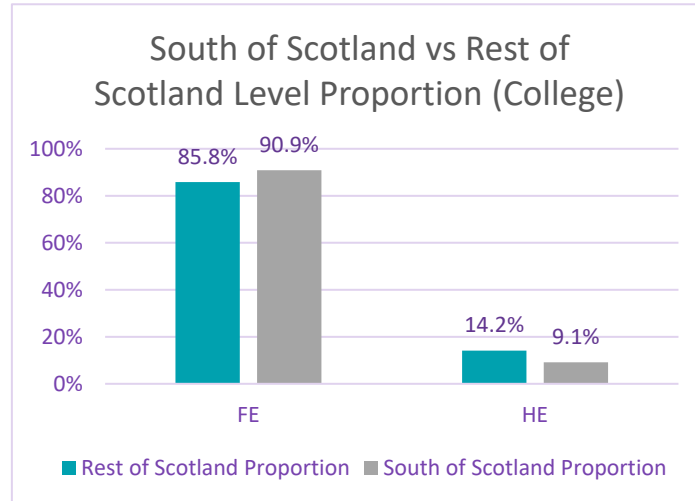
Mode of Study

51. The majority of college enrolments in South of Scotland are part time (80.2%) with the rate of full-time study marginally lower than the rest of the Scotland with 19.8% of enrolments, against 21.2% in the rest of Scotland.



Level of Study

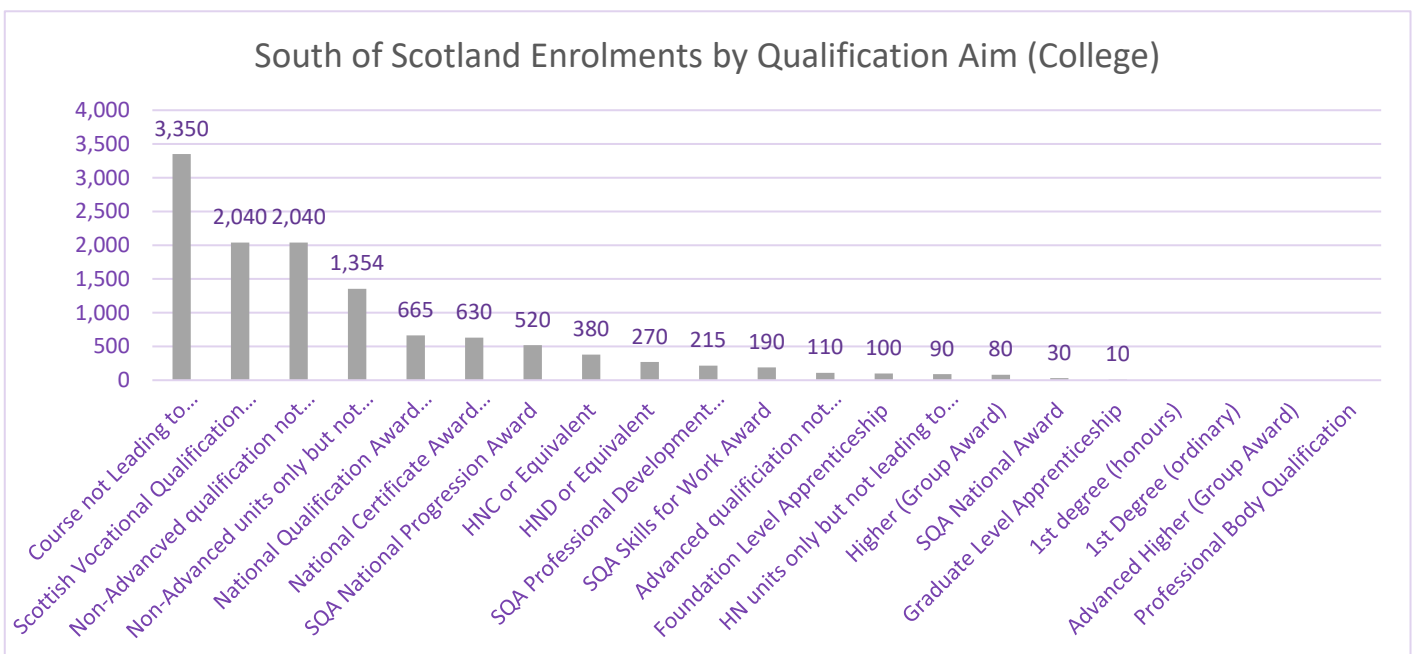
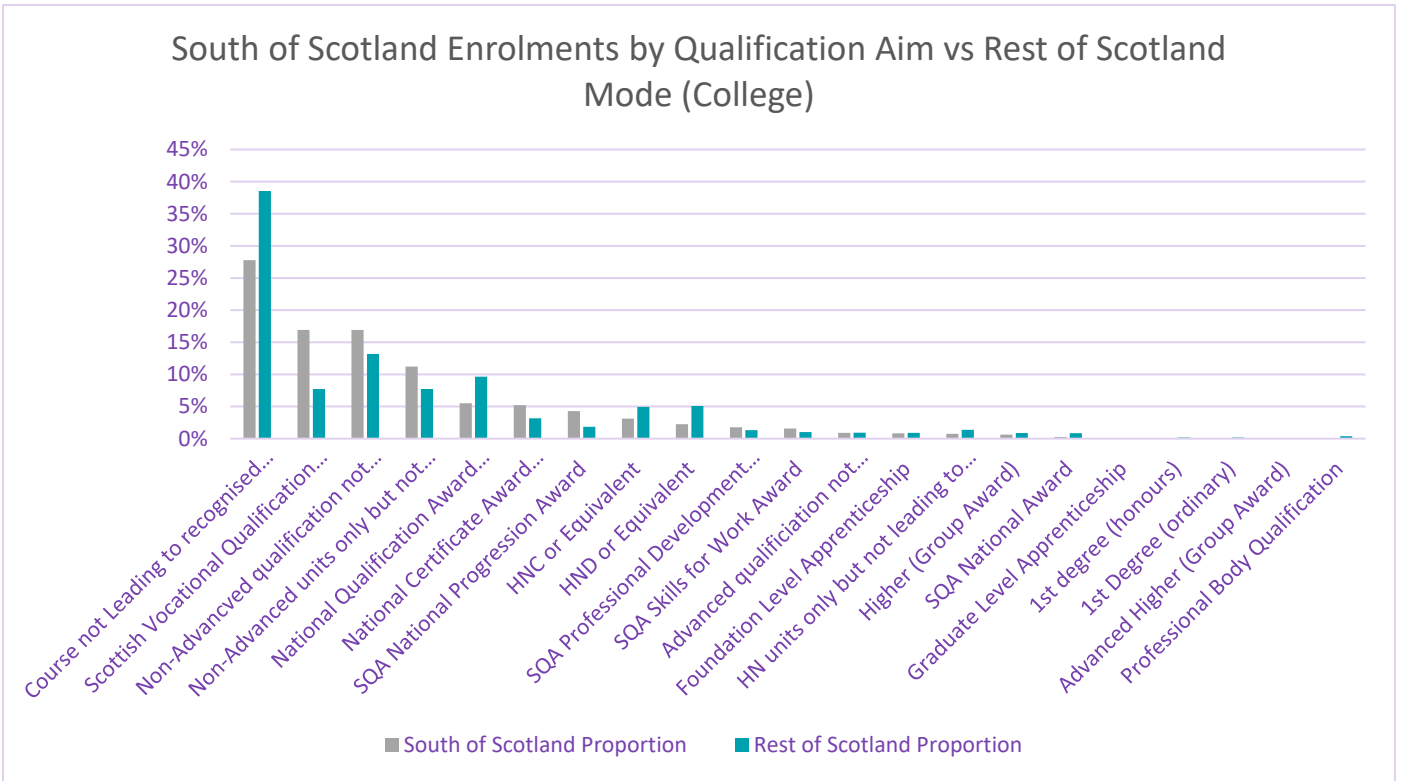
52. The majority of college enrolments within South of Scotland are in further education, with only 9.1% of enrolments to higher education, which is lower in comparison to the remainder of Scotland at 14.1%.



Qualification Aim

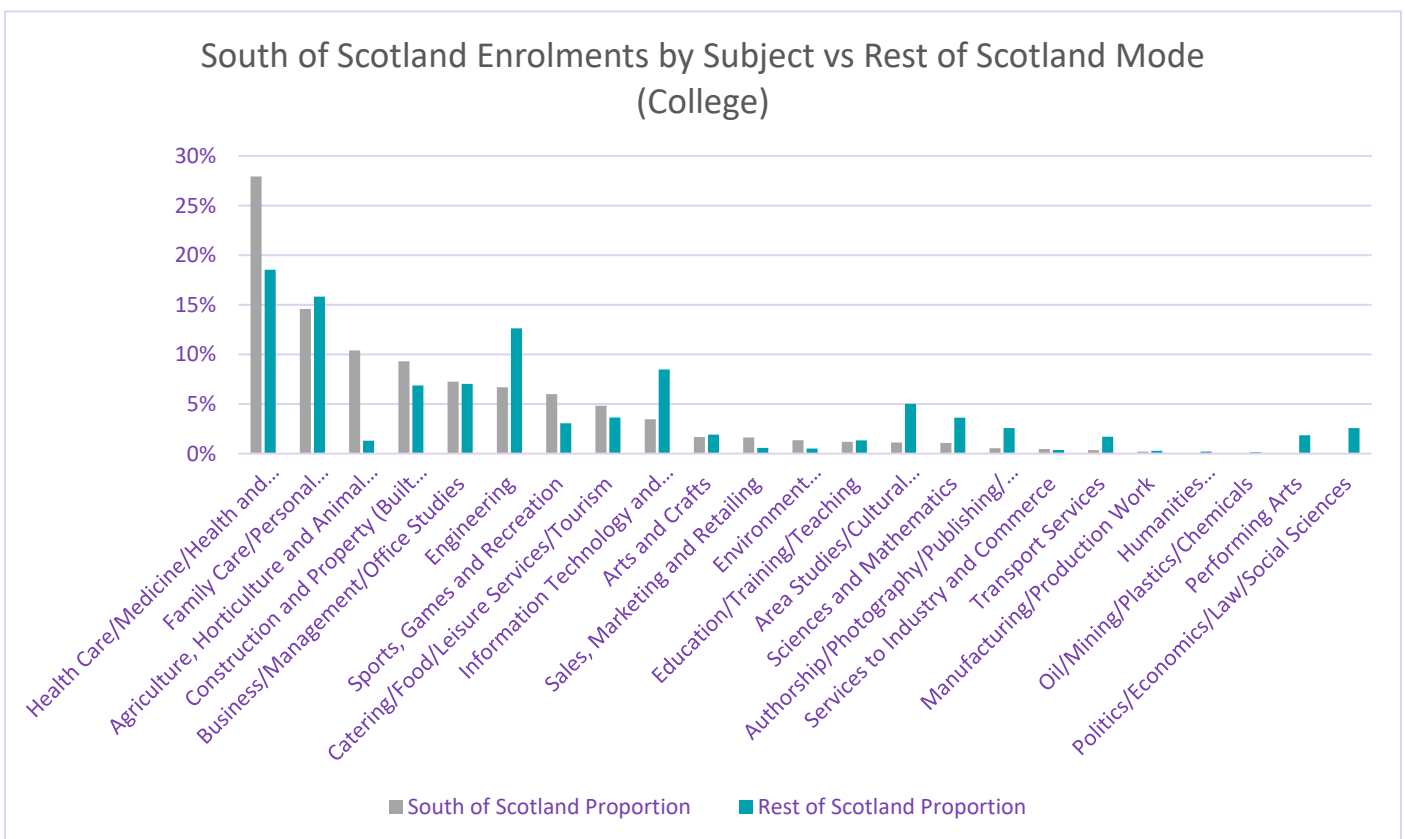
53. The highest proportion of courses in this region are categorised as 'courses not leading to a recognised qualification', although the proportion of these is lower in comparison to the rest of Scotland (27.8% vs 38.5%). This is followed by Scottish national vocational qualifications, which are higher in this region compared to the rest of Scotland (16.9% vs 7.7%) and non-advanced qualifications not specified elsewhere (16.9% vs 13.2%).
54. South of Scotland reports a higher proportion of non-advanced units only (Scottish Credit Qualification Framework, SCQFL level 6 and below) but not leading to an award certificate (11.2% vs 7.7%), National Certificate Award (5.2% vs 3.2%) and SQA National Progression Award (4.3% vs 1.8%) compared to the rest of Scotland.

55. Other notable qualification types that have fewer enrolments in the South of Scotland than the rest of Scotland include National Qualification Awards (5.5% vs 9.7%), HNC or equivalent qualifications (3.1% vs 4.9%) and HND or equivalent qualifications (2.3% vs 5.1%). Colleges in the South of Scotland have not offered any First Degrees (honors or ordinary), Advanced Highers or professional body qualifications in 2021-22.

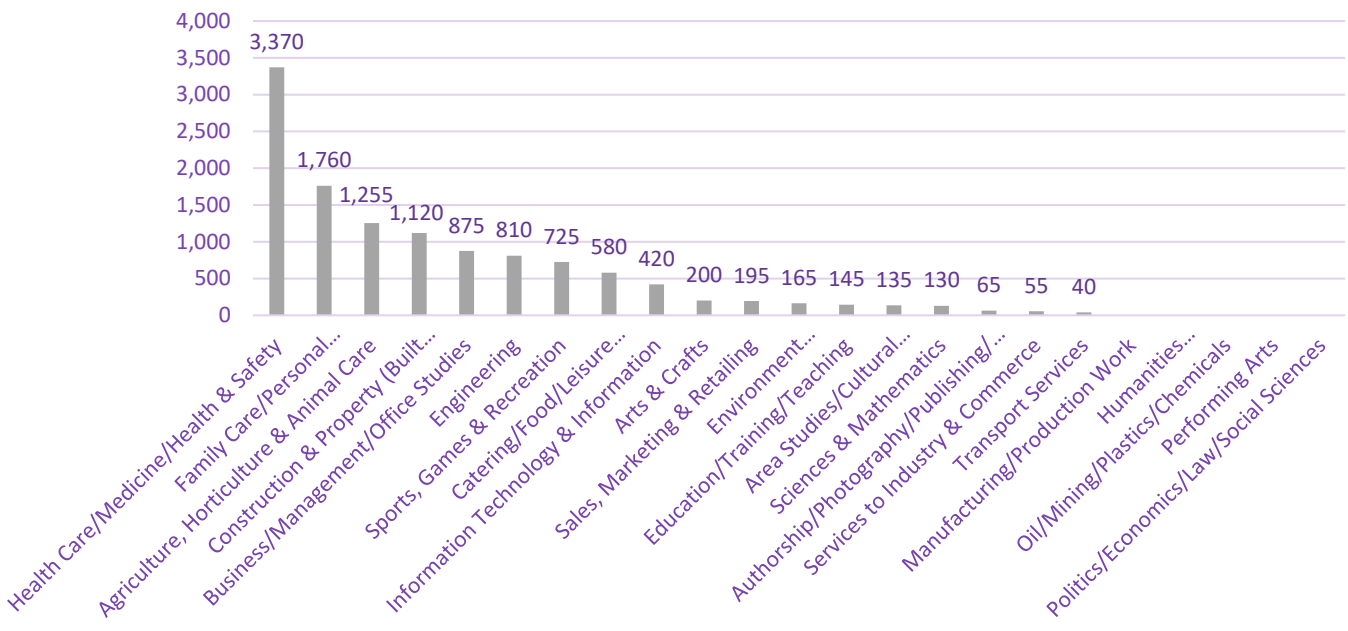


Subject

- 56. Health care / medicine / health and safety is the course with the highest enrolments in the South of Scotland (27.9% of enrolments) – reporting more than the rest of Scotland (18.5%).
- 57. Family care/personal development/personal care & appearance has slightly fewer enrolments than the rest of Scotland (14.6% vs 15.8%) and is the second highest enrolment in the South of Scotland in 2021-22. Agriculture, horticulture and animal care is also more likely to be studied in this region compared to the rest of Scotland (10.4% vs 1.3%).
- 58. Construction and property and sports, games and recreation courses have a higher proportion of enrolments in this region over the rest of Scotland (9.3% vs 6.9% and 6% vs 3.1% respectively).
- 59. Information Technology and engineering note a drop in proportion of enrolments against rest of Scotland (3.5% vs 8.5% and 6.7% vs 12.6% respectively).
- 60. There were no humanities (history/archaeology/religious studies/philosophy), oil/mining/plastics/chemicals, performing arts or politics/economics/law/social sciences enrolments in the 2021-22 data for the region.



South of Scotland Enrolments by Subject (College)

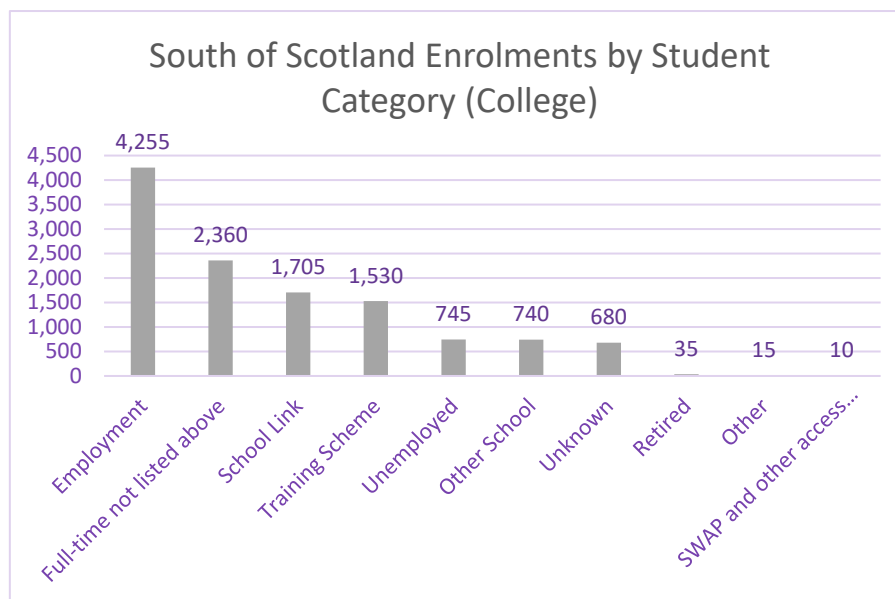


Local Authority

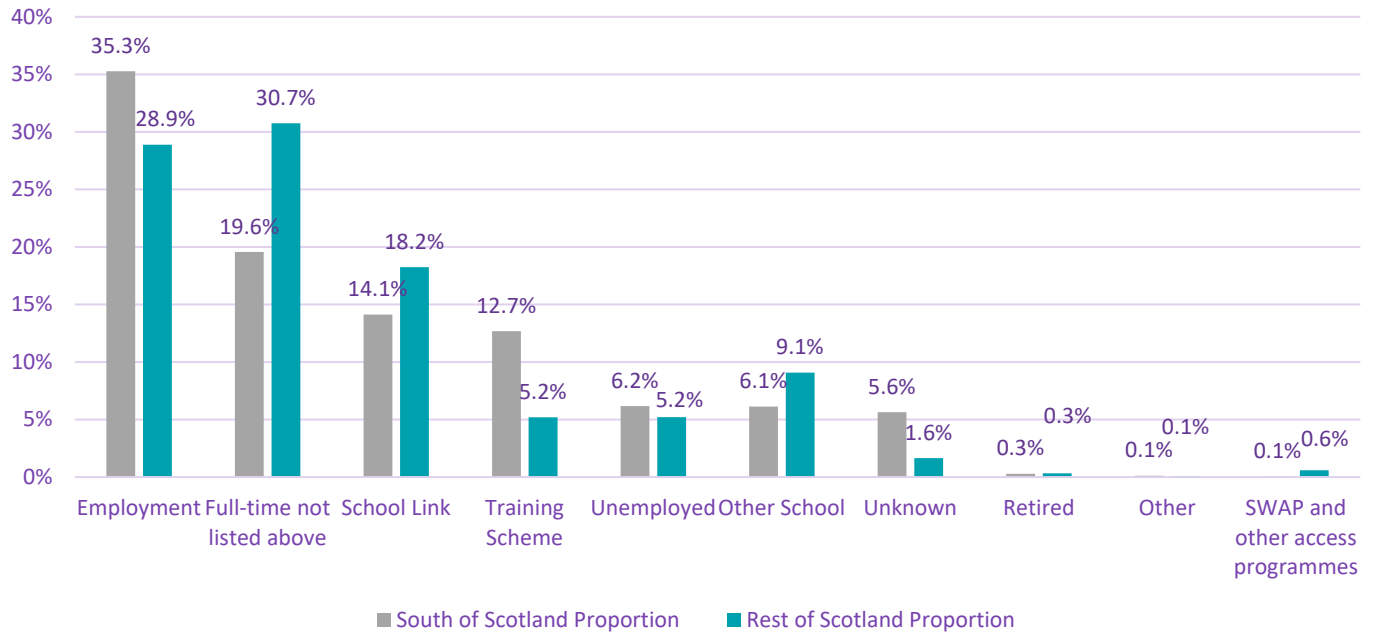
61. Most college students for this area are from Dumfries and Galloway (52.6%), followed by Scottish Borders (31.4%). The other students are spread across other local authorities from outside the region, but all are very small in number.
62. For the rest of Scotland, 0.9% of college enrolments are made up of the population domiciled in South of Scotland Local Authorities.

Category of Student

63. Most of the students who attend colleges in this region are in employment alongside their college studies (35.3%), followed by those studying full time (19.6%) and on school link programmes (14.1%). For the South of Scotland, there are more students who are also in employment than in the rest of Scotland (28.9%) but fewer for those studying full time (30.7%) and those on school link programmes (18.2% in rest of Scotland). The proportion of students on a training scheme is higher for this region when compared against the rest of Scotland (12.7% vs 5.2%).

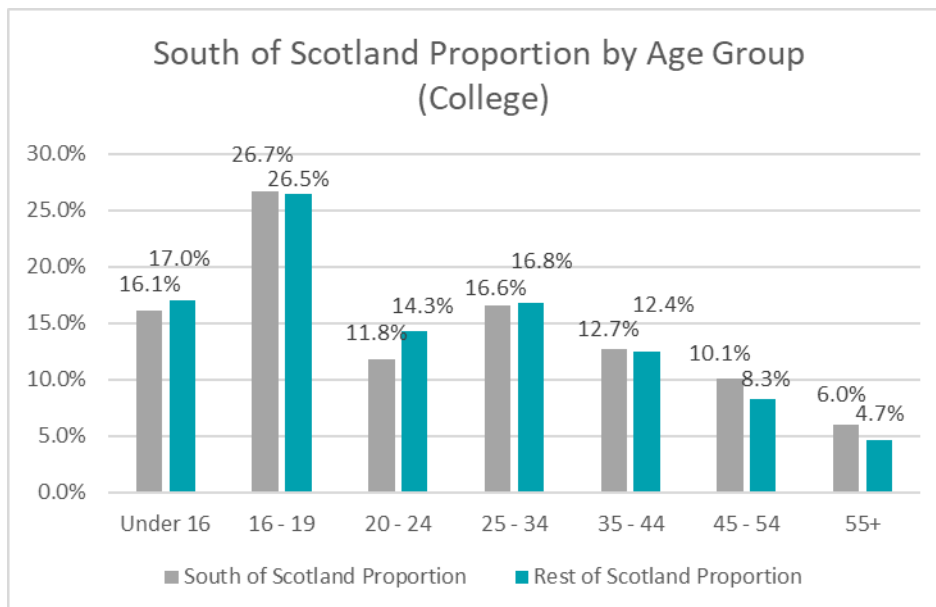


South of Scotland vs Rest of Scotland Proportion by Student Category (College)



Age Group

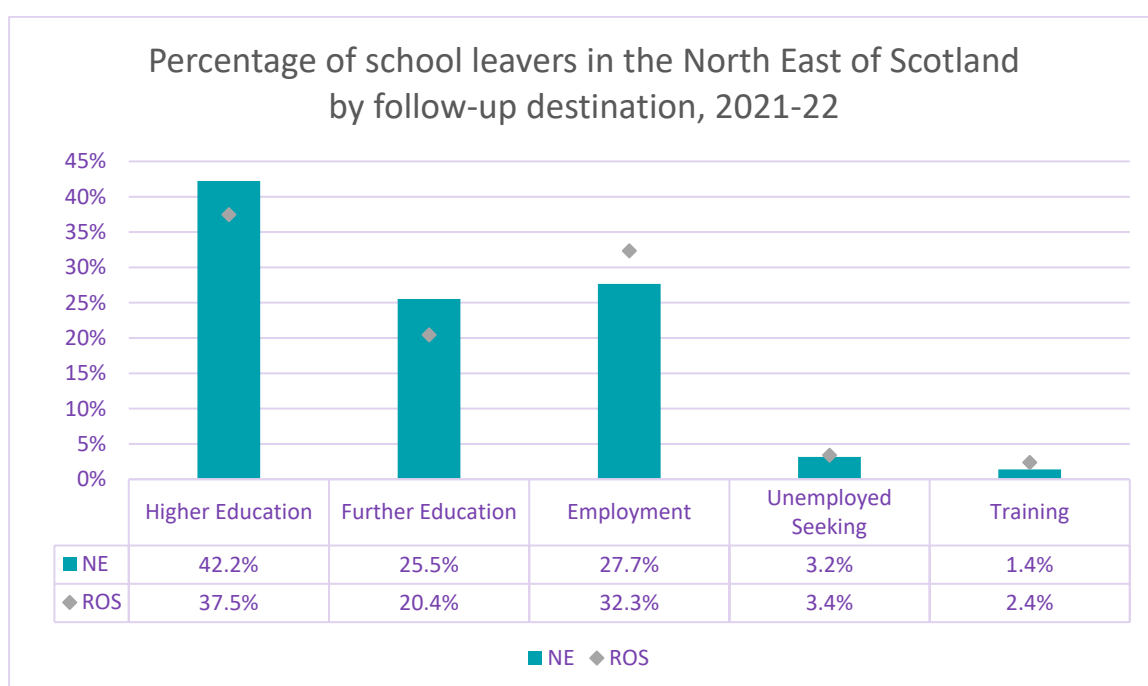
64. The college sector in the South of Scotland tend to have a similar age profile to that found in the rest of Scotland. Under 16s made up 16.1% of college enrolments in 2021-22 compared to 17.0% in the Rest of Scotland. Similarly, 26.7% are aged 16 – 19 in South of Scotland, which is fractionally higher than for Rest of Scotland. At 26.5%. Looking at it another way, just over two fifths of enrolments in South of Scotland are for those aged 19 and under (42.8%), which is in line with colleges elsewhere (43.5%).
65. The South of Scotland college sector does tend to enrol more from older age groups of 45 and over compared to the Rest of Scotland, reflective of the fact that the college sector here has greater proportions of its students studying courses while in employment, as discussed in the section on student category above.



What are the established pathways into and through education and training in the regions?

Both Regions – School Leaver Destinations

66. The below shows the high-level pathways school leavers are taking as of the 2021-22 academic year. Leavers from publicly funded schools were surveyed nine months after leaving to learn about their destination. Data was collected for the local authority areas in the North East and South of Scotland, which we have combined to show findings for the two regions we are interested in, with the Rest of Scotland respective figure for comparison.



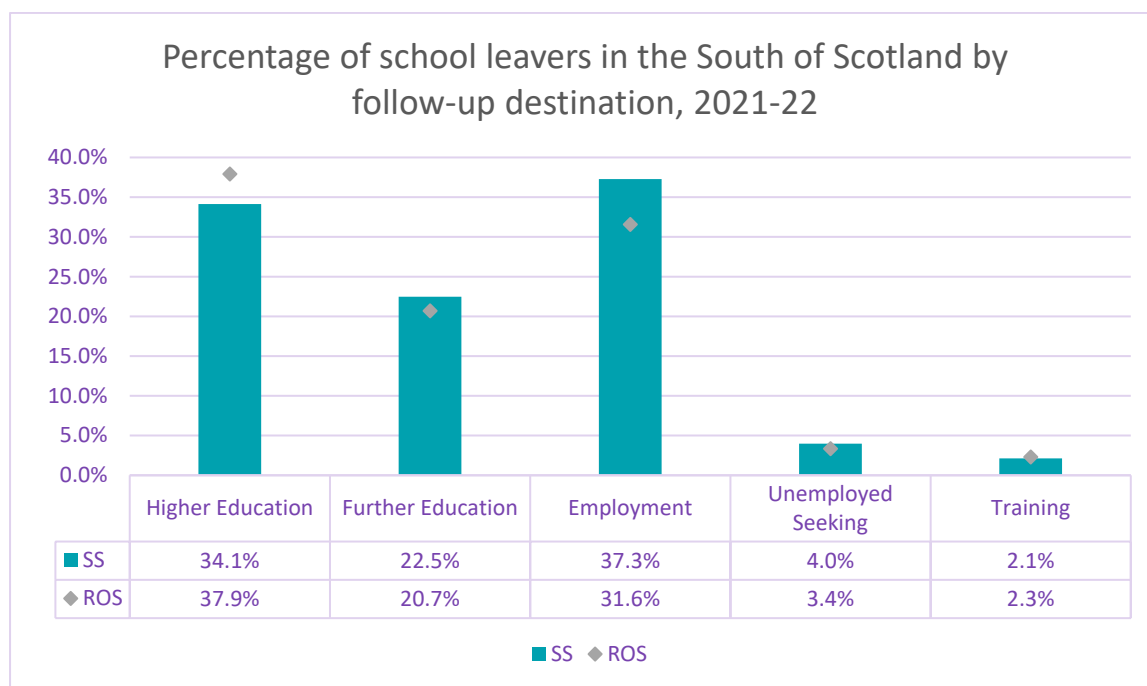
Source: *Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations, No. 5: 2023 Edition – Scottish Government*

67. For the North East we can see that a greater proportion of leavers had entered into higher or further education approximately nine months after leaving school compared to the Rest of Scotland for 2021-22 (i.e. out with the North East or South of Scotland regions). The latest data shows that 42.2% of school leavers from the North East were in higher education nine months after leaving and 25.5% were in further education, which are 4.7pp and 5.1pp higher than the figures for the Rest of Scotland, respectively. Meanwhile, fewer school leavers entered employment compared to leavers from the Rest of Scotland. In the North East, 27.7% of leavers were in employment after leaving school compared to 32.3% in the Rest of Scotland.

68. For the North East, we can observe that a higher proportion of school leavers had

entered into higher education or further education approximately nine months after leaving school compared to the Rest of Scotland for the 2021-22 period (i.e., excluding the North East or South of Scotland regions). It's important to note that due to the way the survey has been coded, 'higher education' encompasses both programmes at SCQF level 7 and above at university and higher education courses offered at colleges,. The latest data shows that 42.2% of school leavers from the North East were engaged in higher education nine months after leaving, and 25.5% were participating in further education, with these figures being 4.7 percentage points and 5.1 percentage points higher, respectively, than those for the Rest of Scotland. Meanwhile, a smaller percentage of school leavers from the North East entered employment compared to those from the Rest of Scotland, with 27.7% of leavers in employment compared to 32.3% elsewhere.

- 69. One reason for the higher continuation rates into tertiary education may be due to the greater breadth of tertiary provision available in this region, with two HEIs and North East Scotland College centrally located in the region.



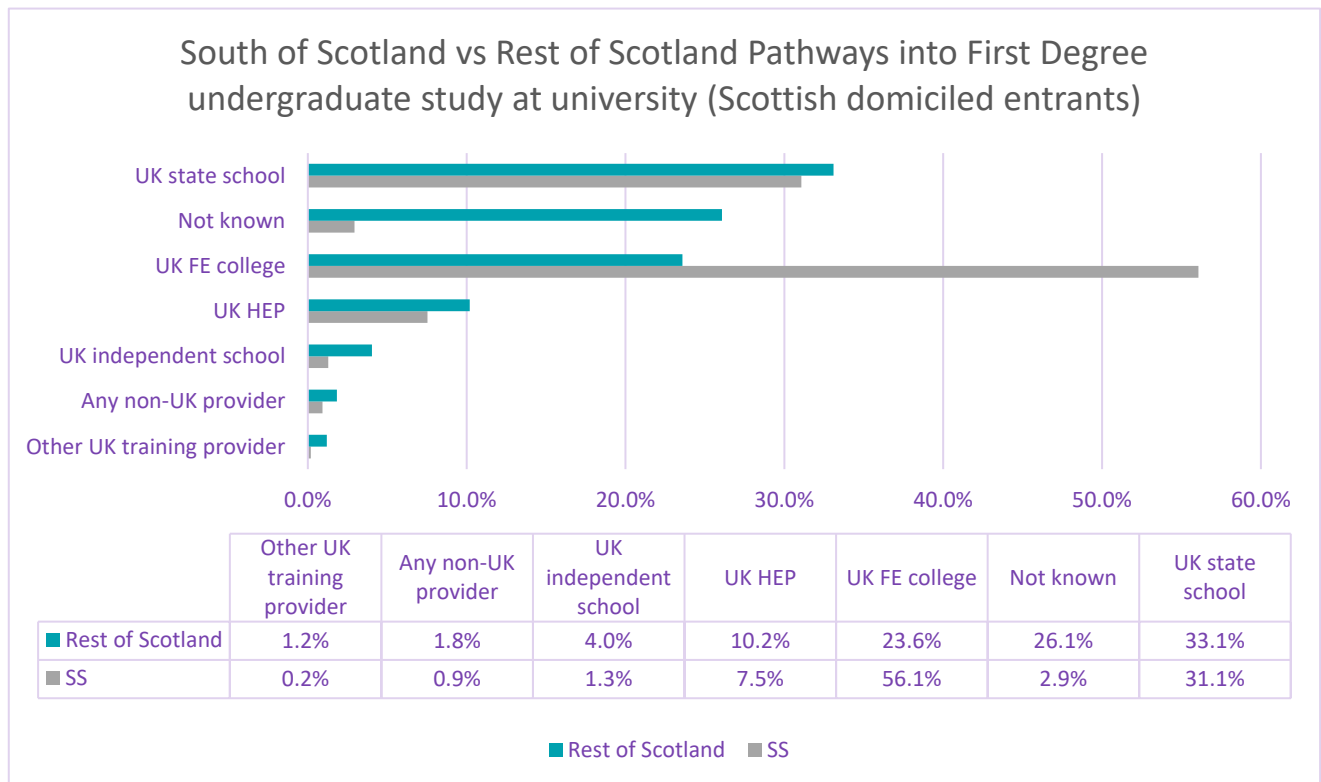
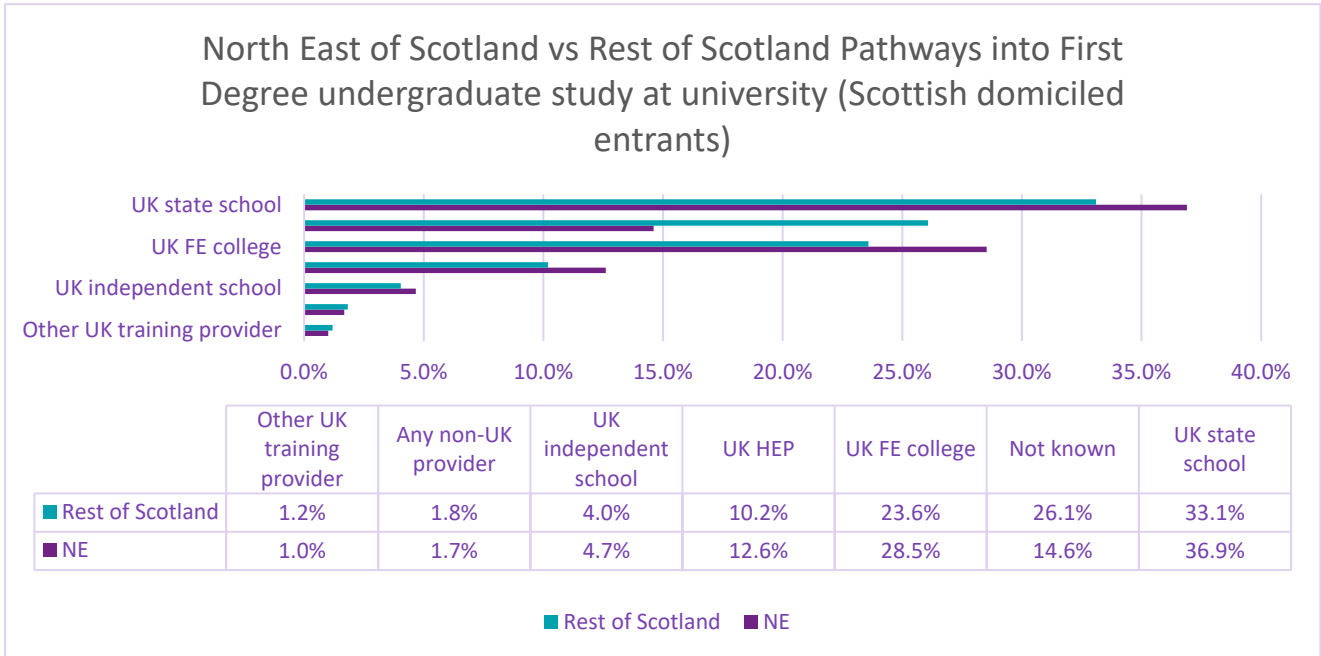
Source: Summary Statistics for Follow-up Leaver Destinations, No. 5: 2023 Edition – Scottish Government

- 70. In the South of Scotland, the pathways often taken immediately after secondary education appear different to the Rest of Scotland. Leavers in the South of Scotland are less likely to go into higher education immediately after leaving school, at 34.1% compared to 37.9% for the Rest of Scotland, but are more likely to enter further education, at 22.5% compared to 20.7% for the Rest of Scotland. Employment is a preferred option to school leavers from the South of Scotland, with 37.3% taking this pathway compared to 31.6% in the Rest of Scotland. The relatively high proportion of

leavers from the region going on to further education may be partially due to the availability of college provision which reaches the local populations of Scotland's southern region despite its geographical breadth, from Borders College and the surrounding area in the east, to SRUC and DGC in Dumfries and onto their Stranraer campus on the west coast of Southern Scotland.

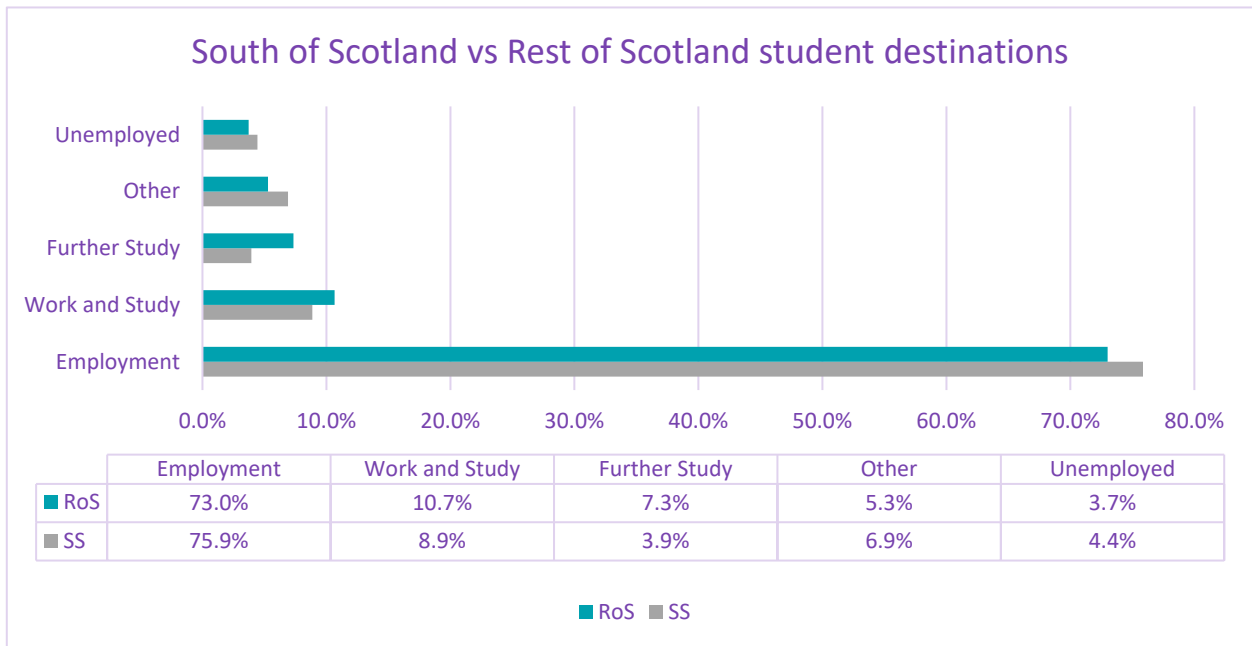
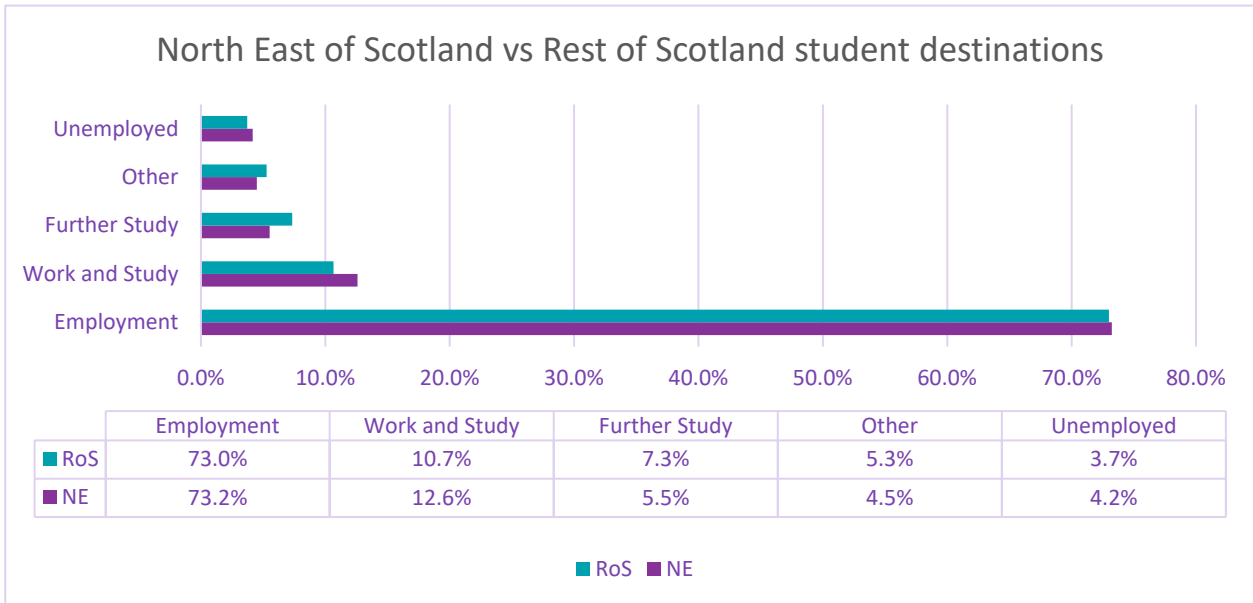
Both Regions – University Pathways

Pathways into First Degree undergraduate study at university (Scottish domiciled entrants)



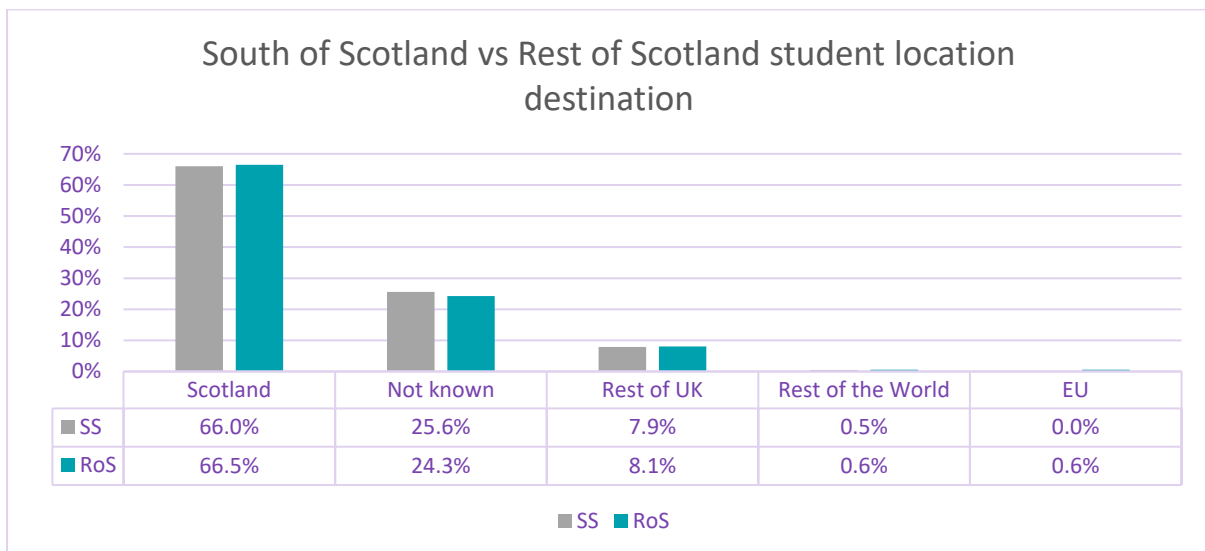
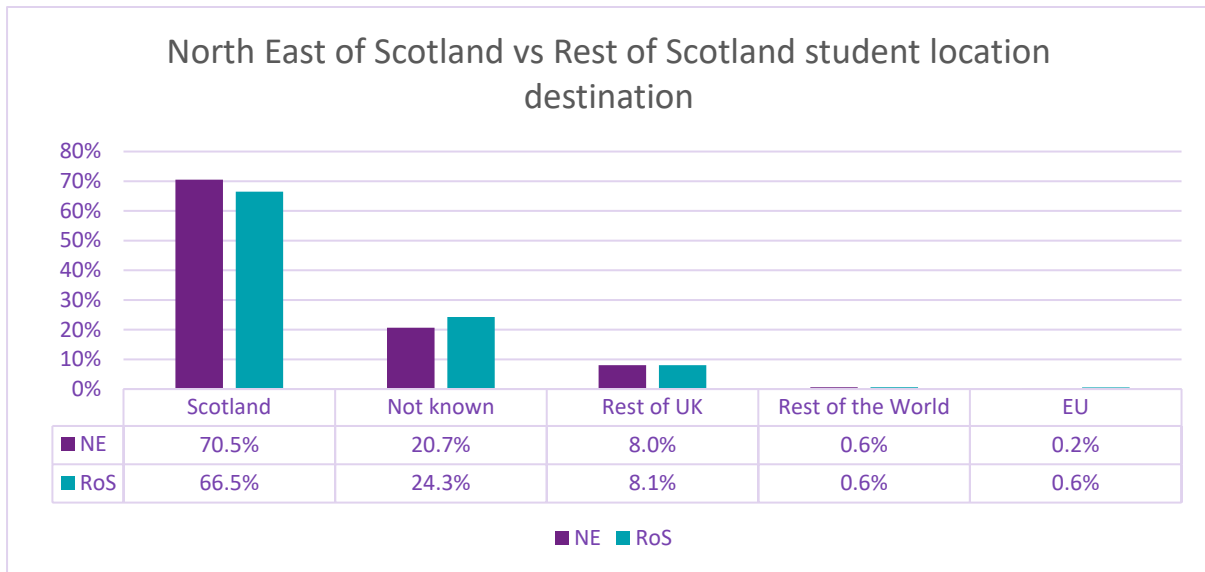
72. The most common pathway to first degree in the North East is from a state school (36.9%). In the South of Scotland, it is an FE college (56.1%).
73. In this data showing pathways, 'UK FE college' and 'UK HEP' is the category label used by HESA and refers to Further Education colleges or Higher Education Providers located anywhere in the UK, as opposed to internationally. In reality the vast majority of students will be coming via an institution in Scotland.
74. South of Scotland differs from the Rest of Scotland with a higher proportion of entrants arriving from UK FE Colleges (56.1% vs 23.6% respectively).
75. Additionally, South of Scotland differs from the Rest of Scotland with a lower proportion of entrants arriving from UK independent schools (1.3% vs 4.0% respectively).

Activity Trends



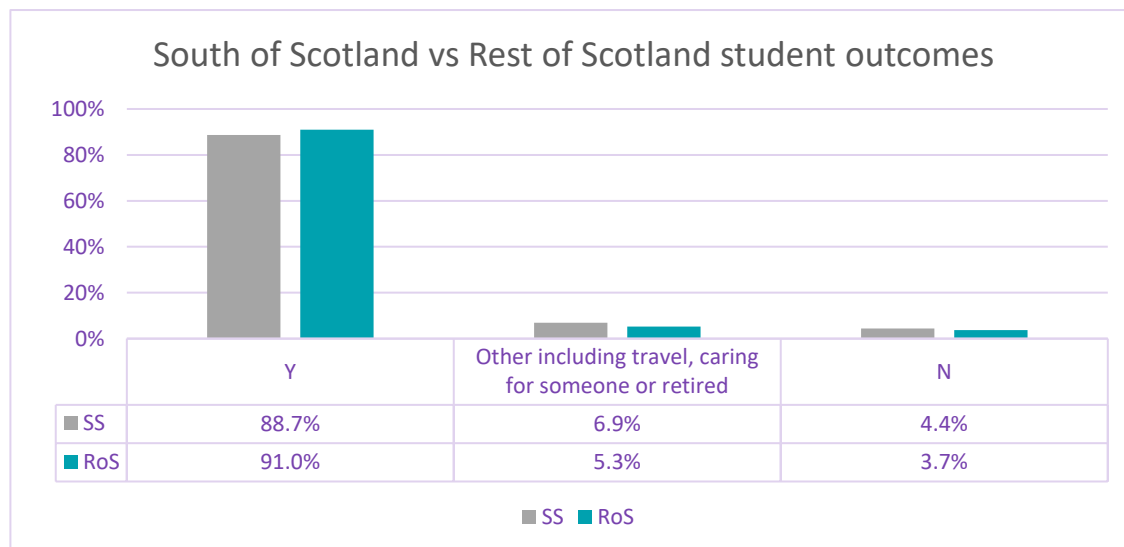
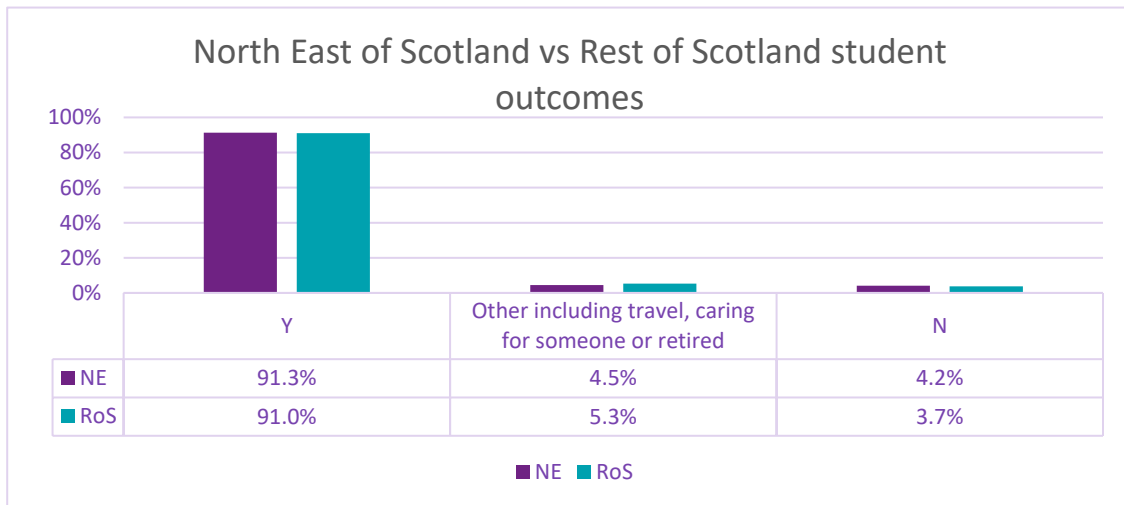
76. Most graduate respondents go into employment (North East 73.2%, South of Scotland 75.9%, Rest of Scotland 73%), followed by work and study (North East 12.6%, South of Scotland 8.9%, Rest of Scotland 10.7%).

Location Trends



77. Most respondents stay in Scotland (North East 70.5%, South of Scotland 66%, Rest of Scotland 66.5%), though a significant portion of students end up in unknown locations (North East 20.7%, South of Scotland 25.6%, Rest of Scotland 24.3%).
78. Very few respondents left the UK, with North East (0.8%) and South of Scotland (0.5%) having a slightly lower proportion of respondents listing the EU or the Rest of the World as a location than the Rest of Scotland Baseline (1.25%).

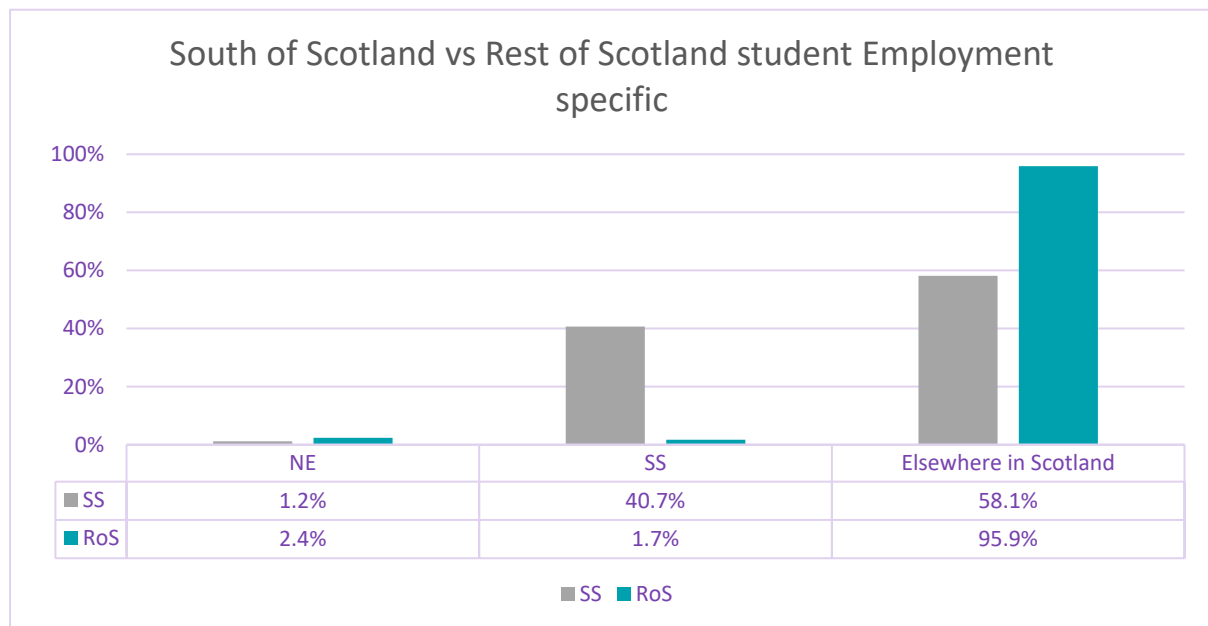
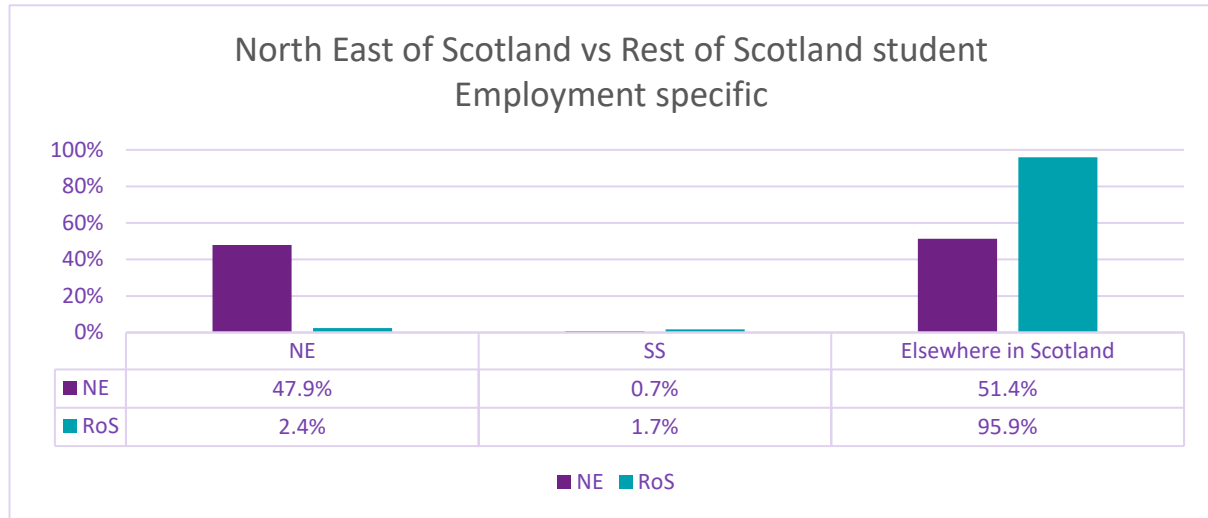
Graduate Outcome Trends



79. Most students report a positive graduate outcome (North East 91.3%, South of Scotland 88.7%, Rest of Scotland 91%).

Employment-Specific Trends*

*Refers to respondents that reports either 'Employment' or 'Work and Study' in Scotland



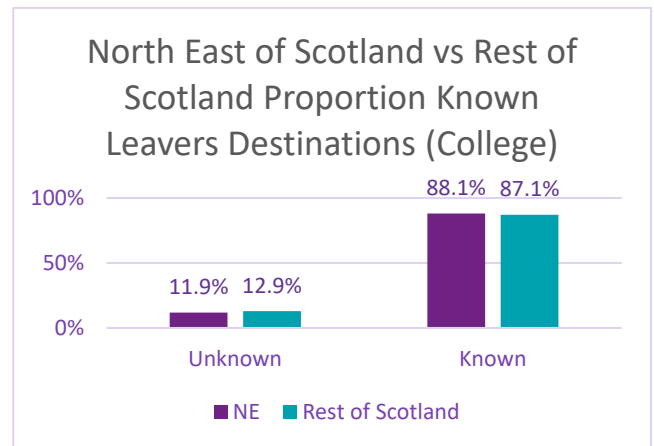
80. Only a small proportion of students go to the other Pathfinder regions (South of Scotland to North East 1.2%, North East to South of Scotland 0.7%).

Both Regions – College Pathways

Known Leavers Destinations

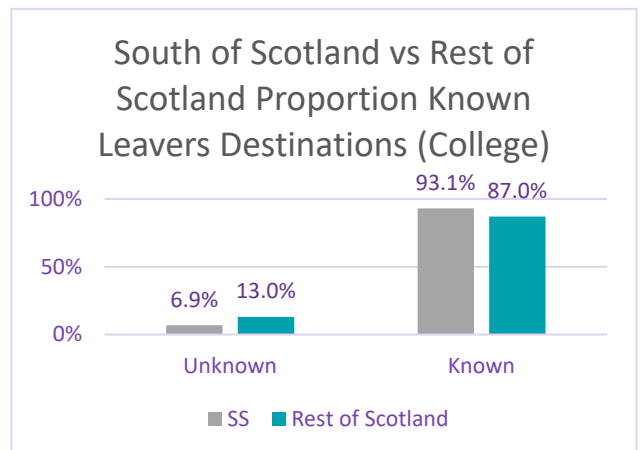
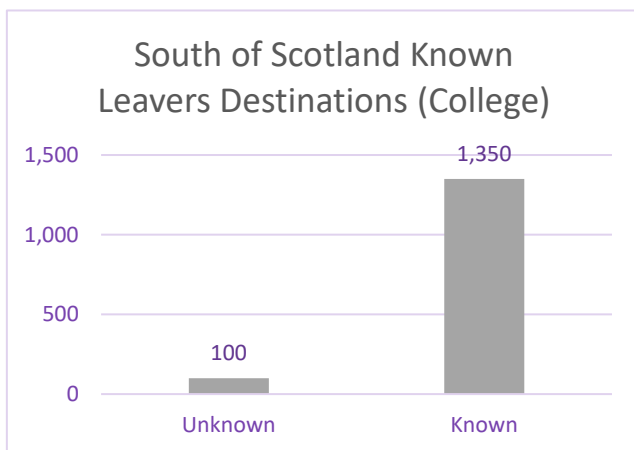
North East

81. The College Leaver Destination Survey records a positive outcome as further study, training or employment within three to six months of completing. A negative outcome broadly covers unemployment and unavailable for work. A higher proportion of leavers destinations are known for this region against the Scotland average, with only 11.9% of leavers destinations unknown in comparison to 12.9%.



South of Scotland

82. A higher proportion of leavers destinations are known for this region against the rest of Scotland, with only 6.2% of leavers destinations unknown in comparison to 12.5%.



83. The remainder of this report will be based on only those students where there is a known leavers destination.

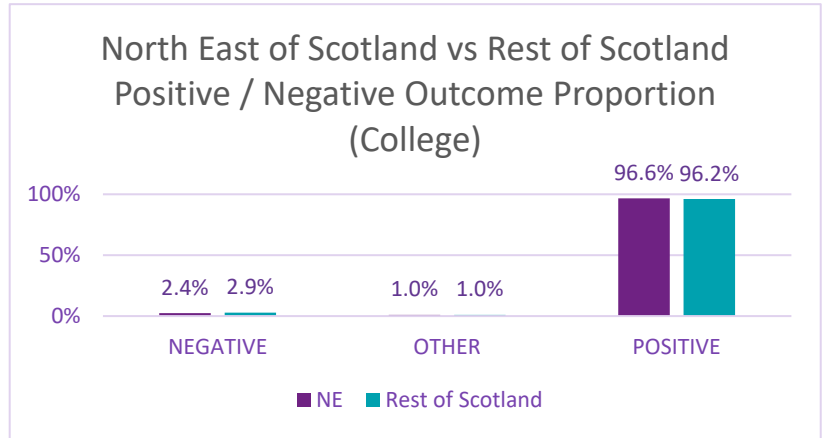
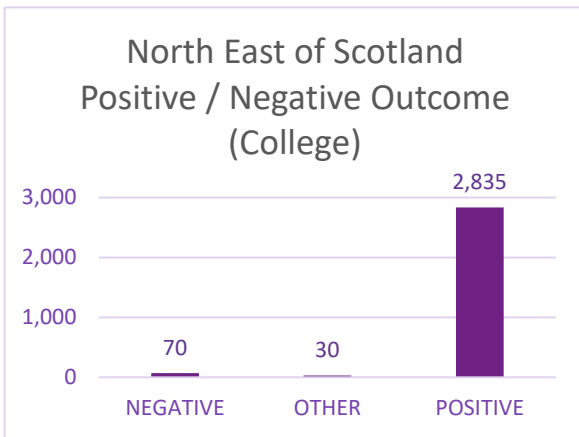
Positive / Negative Outcome

North East

84. Most students have a positive outcome (96.6%) in this region, which is in line with the

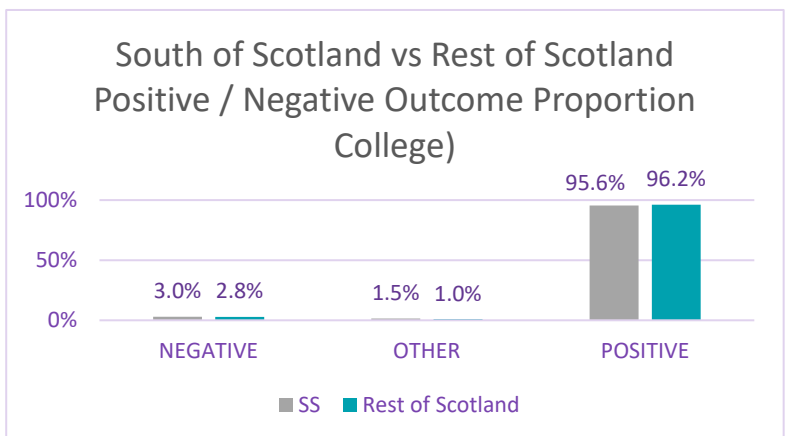
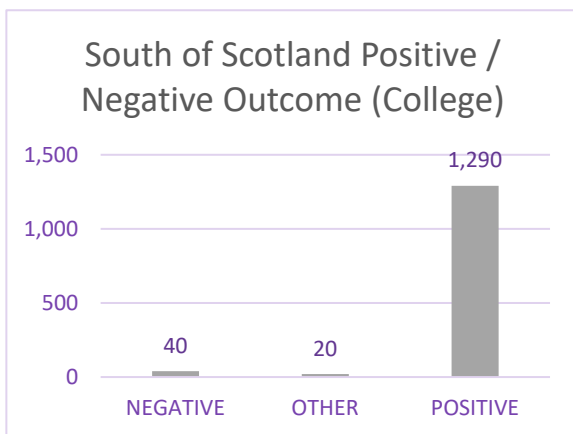
rest of Scotland (96.2%).

85.



South of Scotland

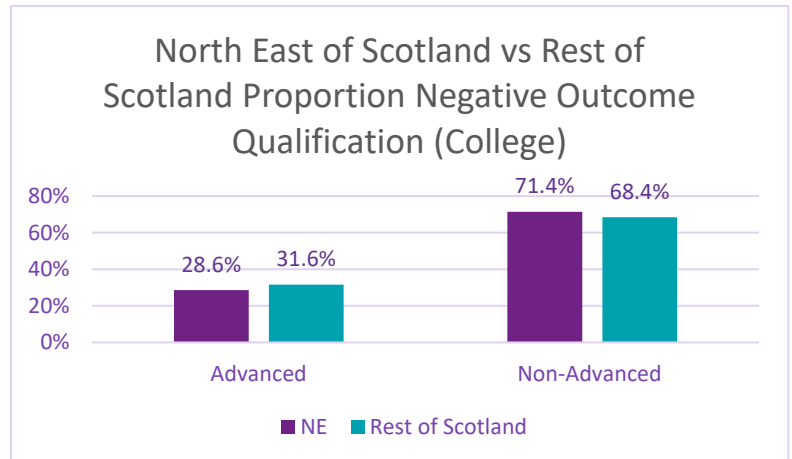
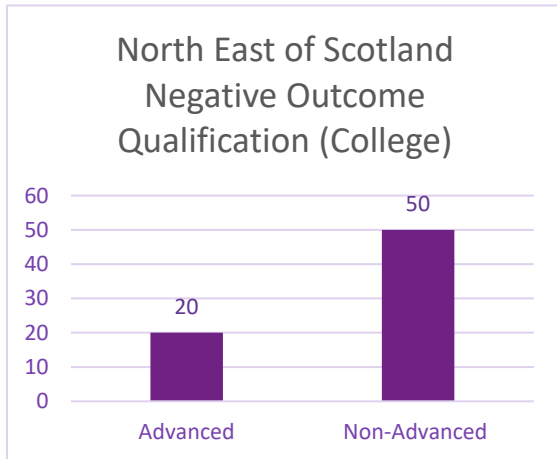
86. Most students have a positive outcome (95.6%) in this region, reporting slightly below the rest of Scotland (96.2%).



Negative Outcome Breakdown

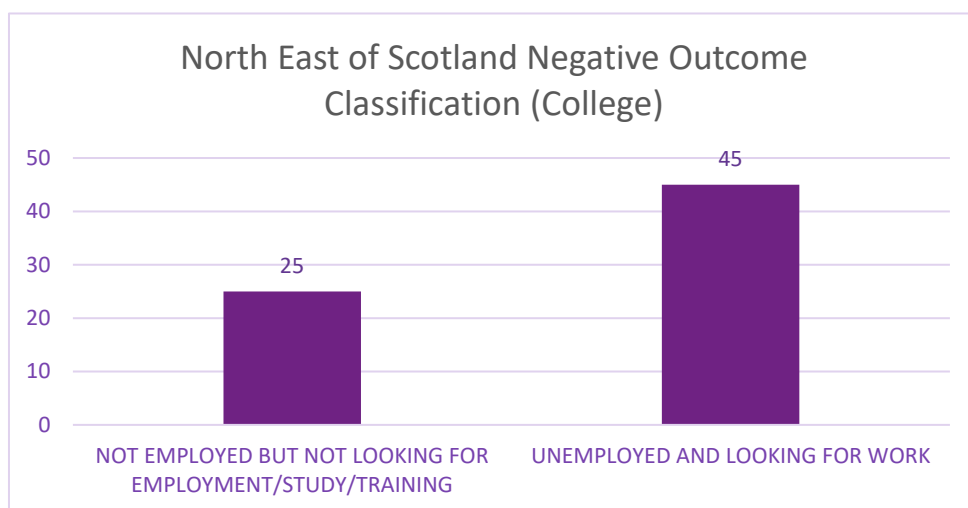
North East – Qualification Level

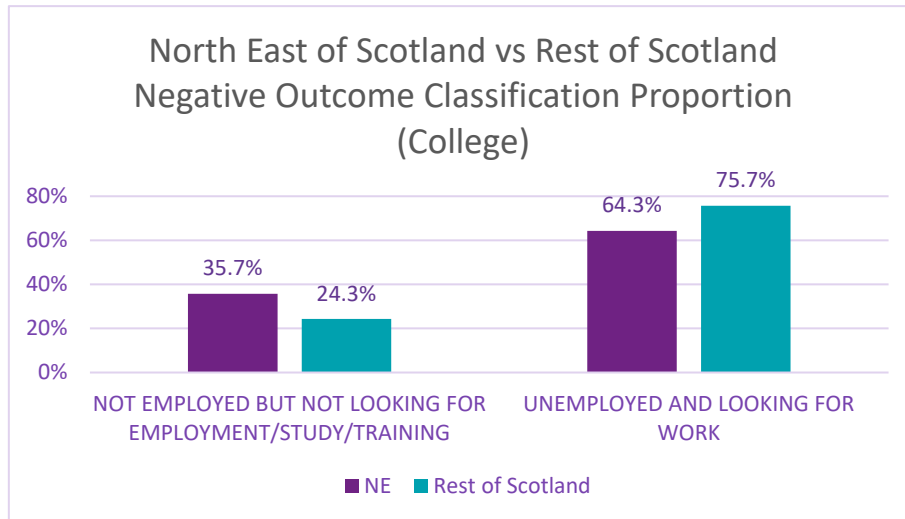
87. For those students who have a negative destination in this region, the majority were studying a non-advanced qualification (71.4%), (SCQF level 6 or below). This is a slightly higher proportion than those who studied non advanced qualifications and reported negative outcomes in the rest of Scotland (68.4%).



North East – Primary Classification

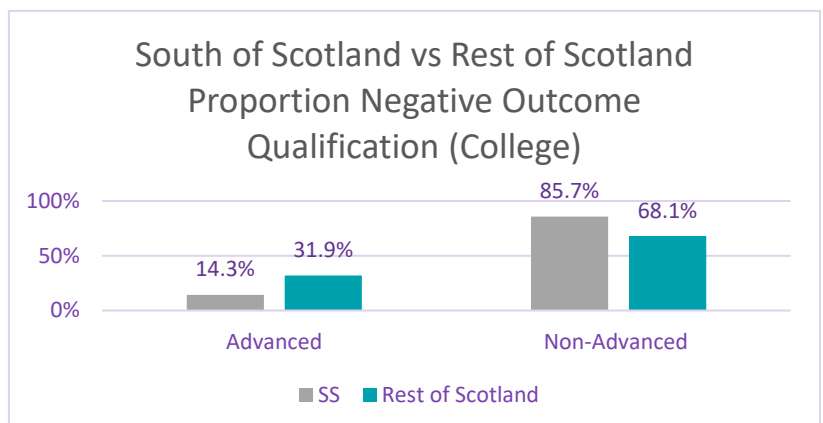
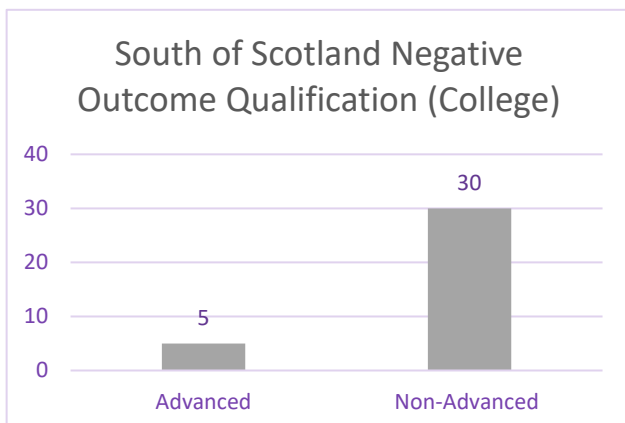
88. The most common classification for a negative outcome suggests that the majority are actively looking for work but currently unemployed (64.3%) in this region, with the remainder not looking for work or further study (i.e. economically inactive). This is a lower proportion than the rest of Scotland (75.7%).





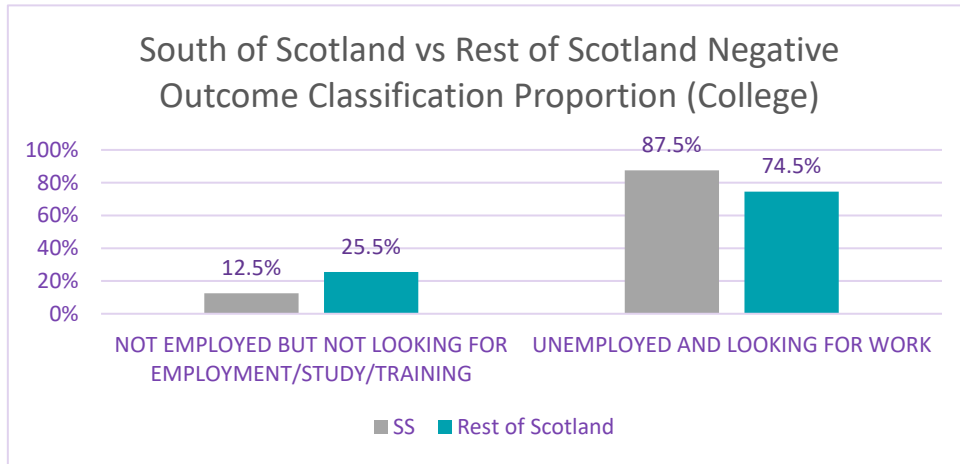
South of Scotland – Qualification Level

89. For those students who have a negative primary classification in this region, the majority were studying a non-advanced qualification (85.7%), which is a higher proportion than rest of Scotland (68.1%), but it should be noted that low numbers were reported and so there can be significant variation in proportional values.



South of Scotland – Primary Classification

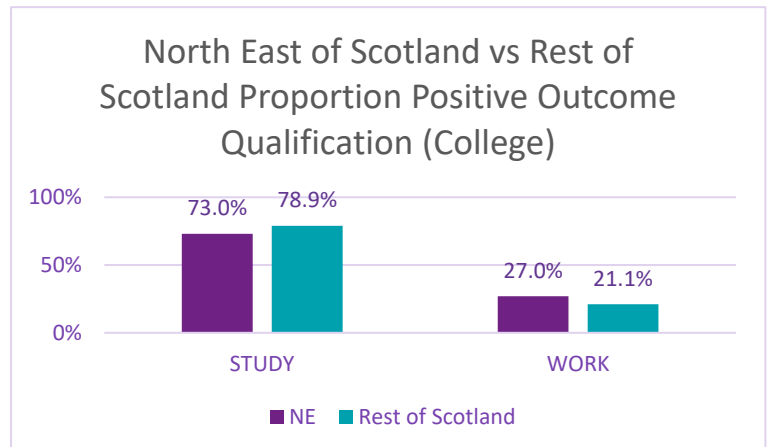
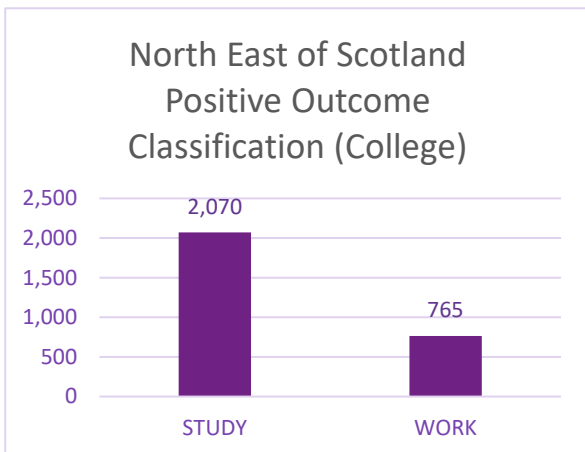
90. The most common classification for a negative destination suggests that the majority are actively looking for work but currently unemployed (87.5%) in this region, with the remainder not looking for work or further study. This is higher than the rest of Scotland (74.5%), which may suggest less availability of work in this area, although reported numbers are low and so there can be significant variation in proportional values.



Positive Outcome

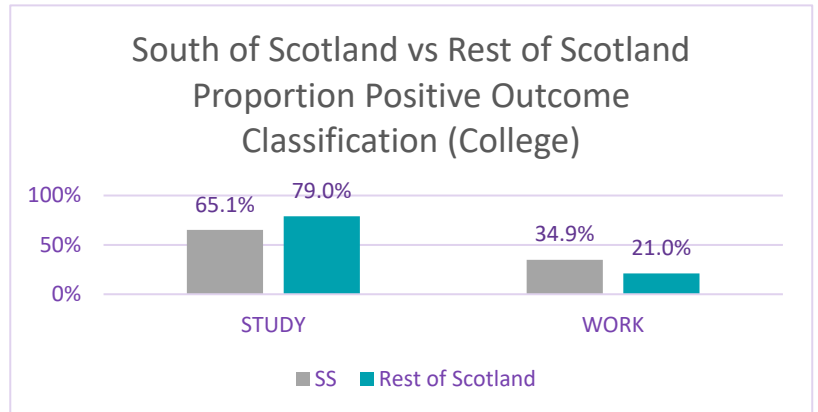
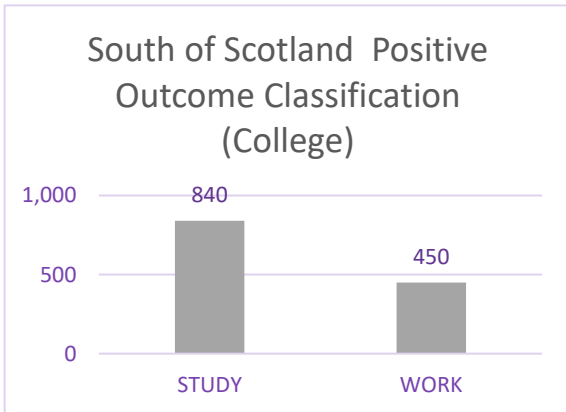
North East

91. For students with a positive outcome, 73.0% continued their studies further (either in college or university), followed by 27.0% who were in employment. The proportion that continued to further study in this region is lower than the rest of Scotland (78.9%).



South of Scotland

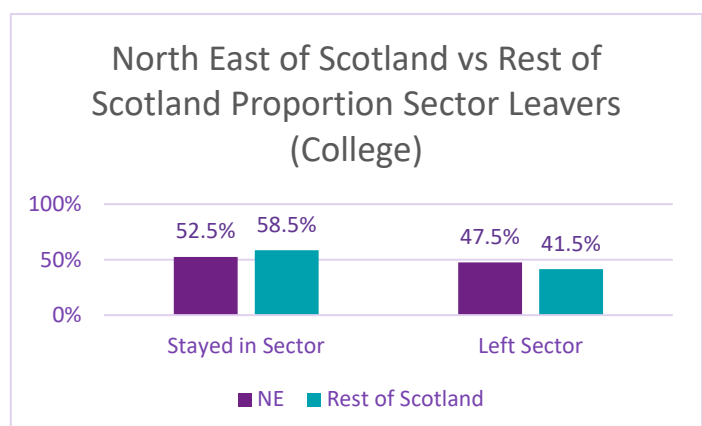
92. For students with a positive outcome, 65.1% continued their studies further (either in college or university), followed by 34.9% who were in employment. The proportion that continued into further study in this region is lower than the rest of Scotland (79%).



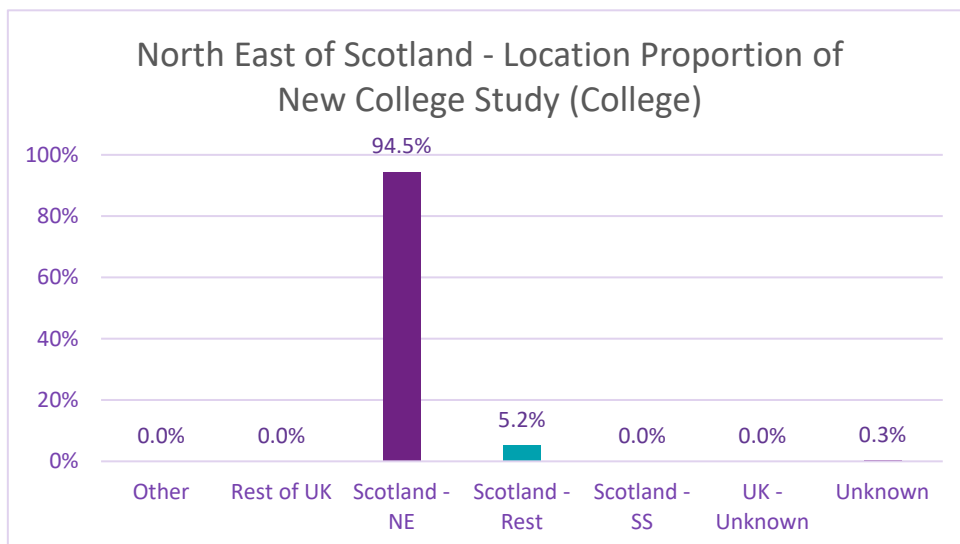
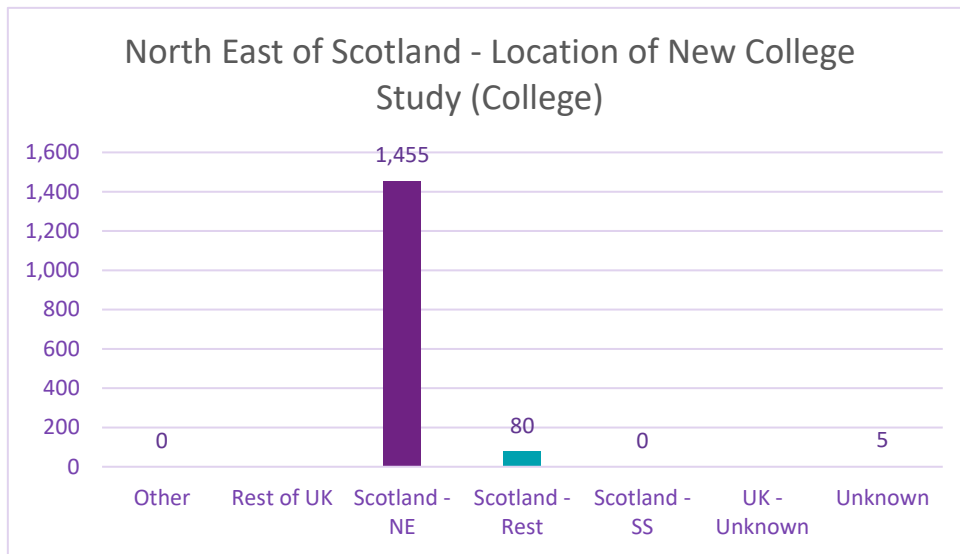
Sector – Stay or Leave

North East

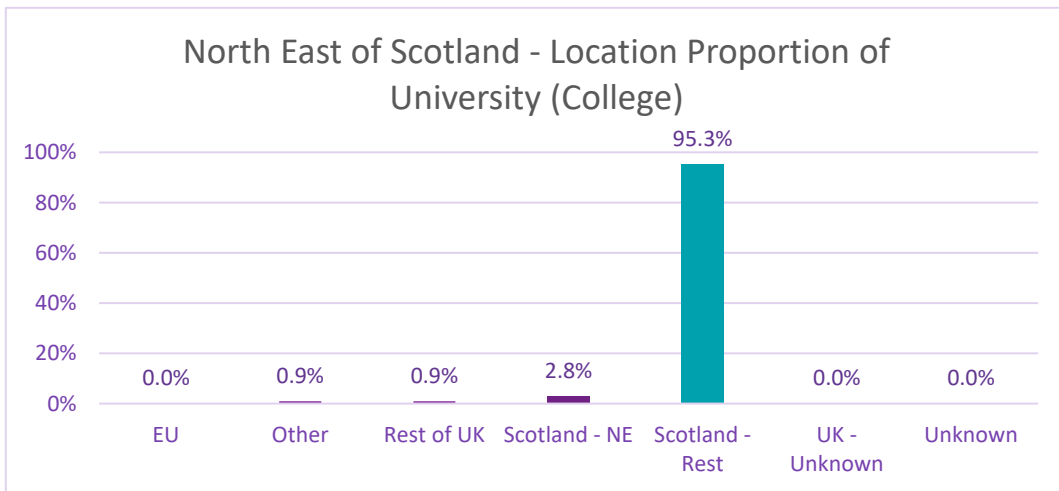
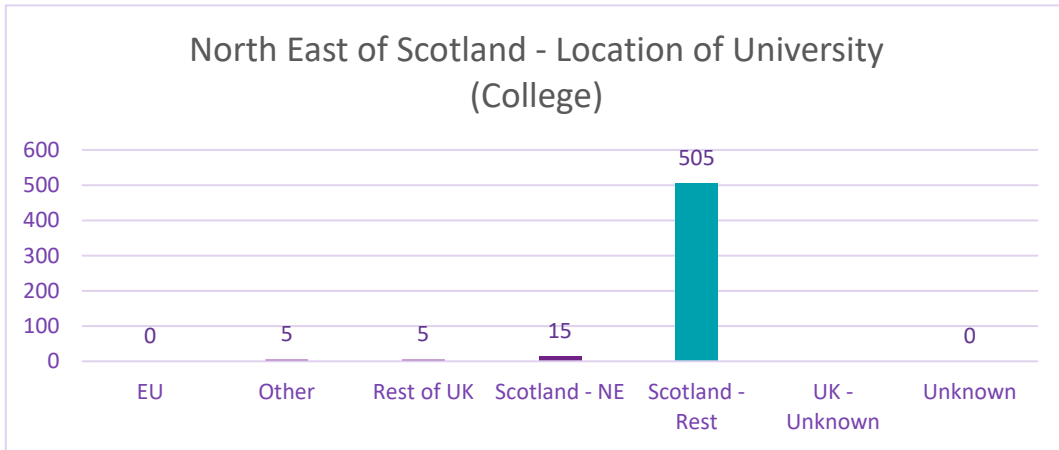
93. In the North East of Scotland, 52.5% of students continued studying within the college sector, whereas 47.5% left (either for study at university, work or other). This is lower than the rest of Scotland, with 58.5% remaining to study within the college sector.



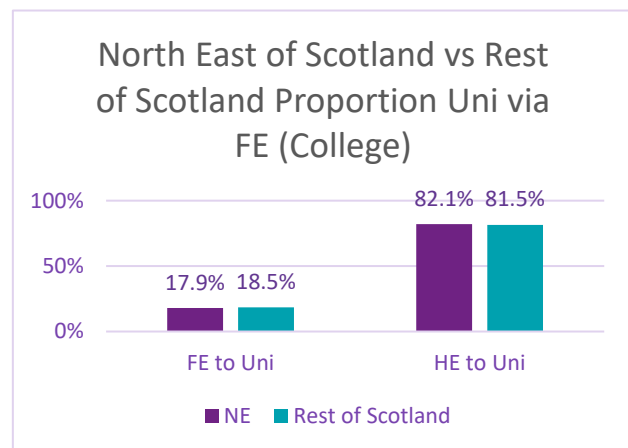
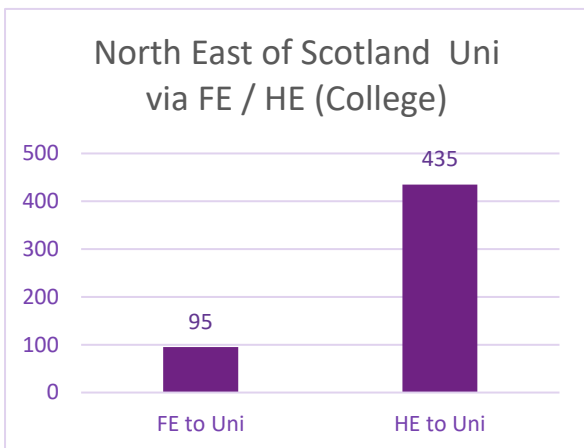
94. For those that stayed in the college sector, 94.5% remained within the region, with 5.2% moving to a college in Scotland but out with the region.



95. The main reason that students left the college sector in this region was due to employment (54.8%) whereas 38% continued studying at university. In the rest of Scotland, a higher proportion appears to enter university (41.9%), with a smaller proportion heading into employment (48.8%).
96. Of those Scottish domiciled students who continue to study at a university, 2.8% stay within the region with, 95.3% attending universities throughout the rest of Scotland and a small proportion attend universities in the rest of the UK (0.9%).

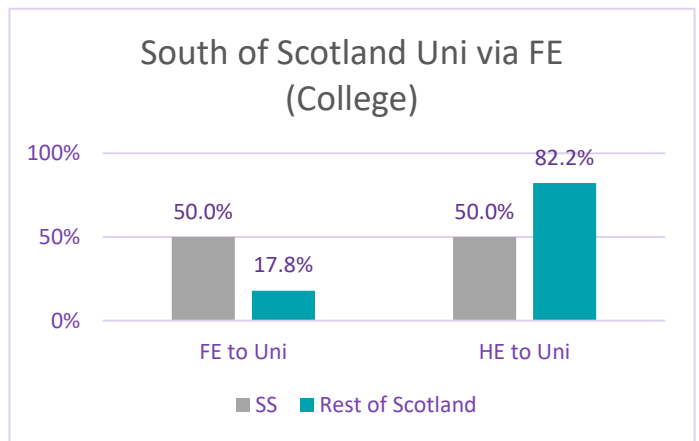
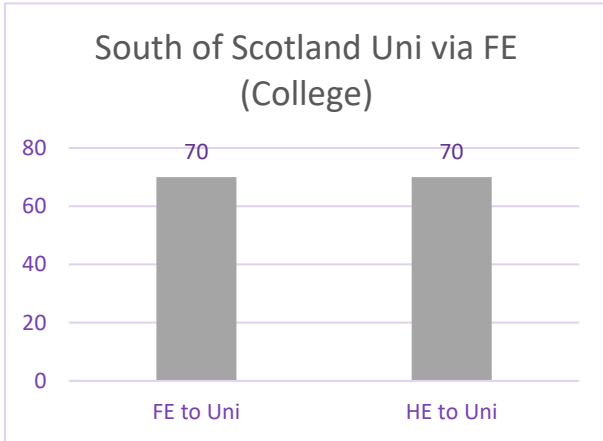


97. Of those that went to university, the majority were studying at an HE level (82.1%), which is just slightly above the proportion for the rest of Scotland (81.5%).

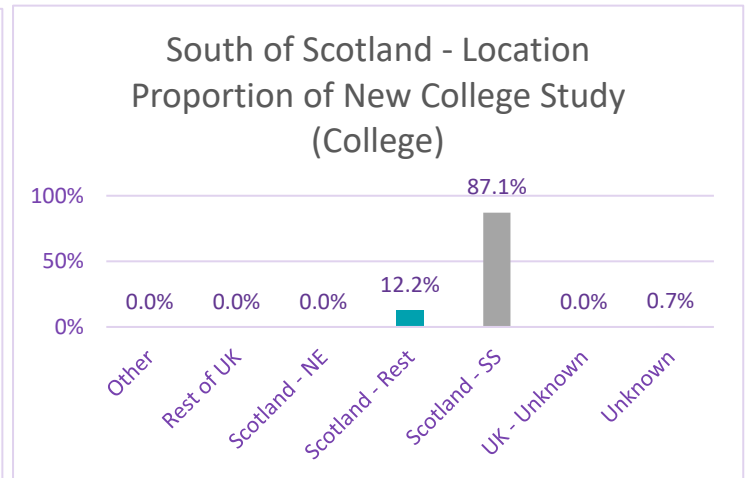
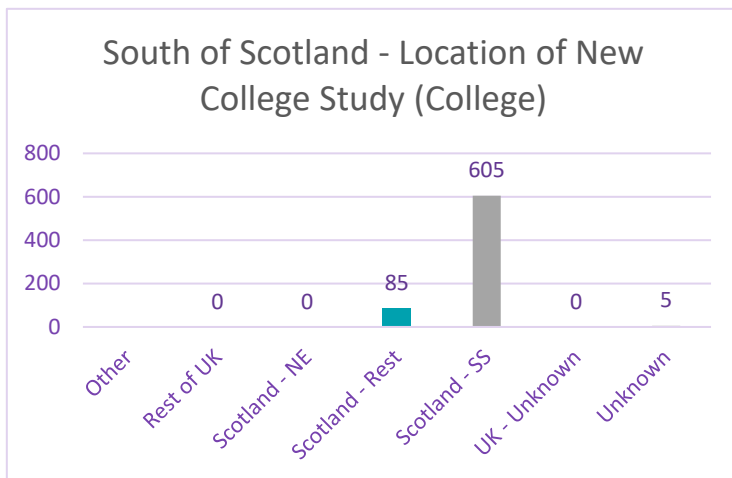


South of Scotland

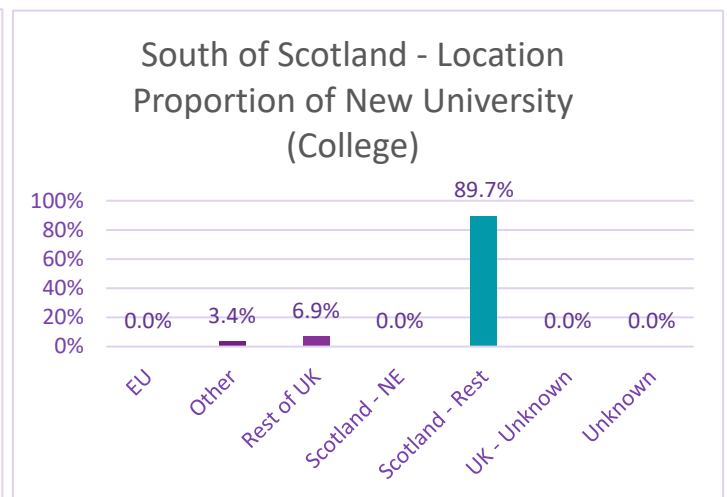
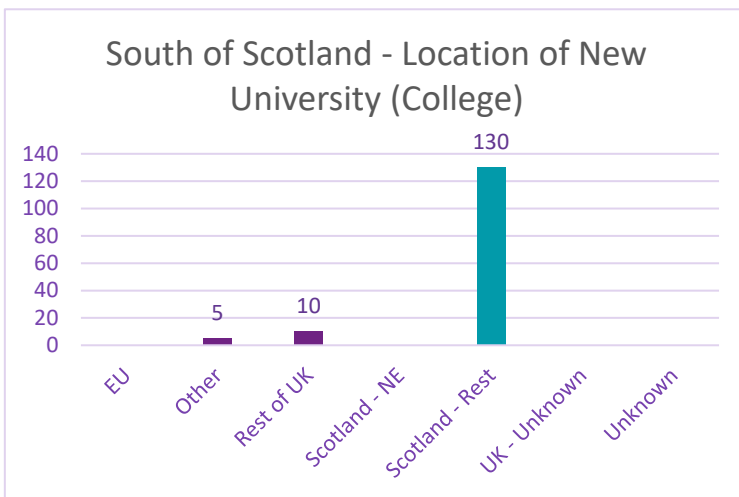
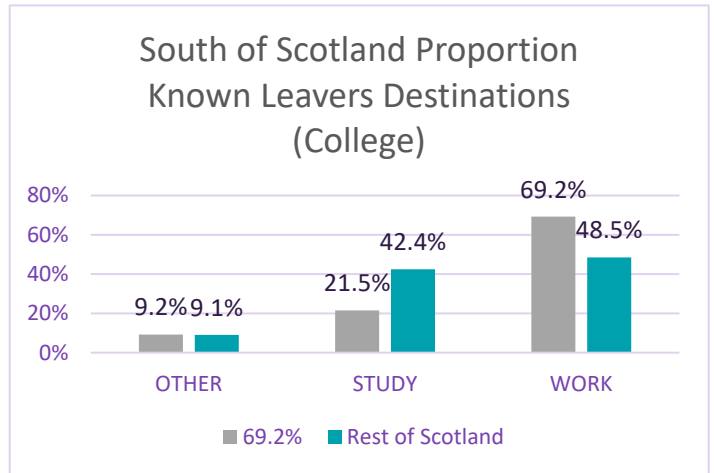
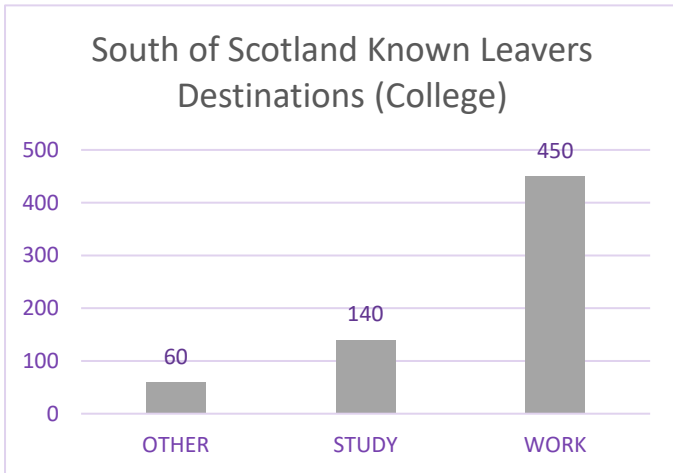
98. In the South of Scotland, 51.9% of students stayed within the college sector, whereas 48.1% left (either for Study at University, Work or Other). This is lower than the rest of Scotland, which reports that 58.3% remain within the college sector.



99. For those that stayed in the college sector, 87.1% remained within the region, with 12.1% moving to a college in the rest of Scotland.



100. The reason students who left the sector gave in this region was employment (69.2%), whereas 21.5% continued to study at university. In the rest of Scotland, a higher proportion enter university (42.4%), with a much lower proportion heading into employment (48.5%). As there is a limited university presence within the region with satellite campuses of central belt institutions, the majority are noted as attending university in the rest of Scotland (89.7%), with 6.9% attending a university in the rest of the UK.



101. Of those that went to university, 50% were studying FE and 50% HE. The proportion of FE is much higher than the rest of Scotland (17.8%).

