

Statistical Fact Sheet 5

Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions by country of institution and subject area – 2016/17

Of the 54,570 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2016/17:

- 13,920 (25.5%) were enrolled on Narrow STEM¹ related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 26.8%, 29.5% and 30.3% respectively.
- 26,680 (48.9%) were enrolled on Broad STEM² related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 45.4%, 49.0% and 46.8% respectively.
- the three most popular subject areas studied in NI HEIs were ‘Subjects allied to medicine’ (8,515), ‘Business and administrative studies’ (7,520) and ‘Education’ (6,310).

Enrolments at UK HEIs by subject area and country of institution– 2016/17

Subject Area	Country of Institution			
	England	NI	Wales	Scotland
Biological Sciences	183,615	3,565	16,285	22,935
Physical Sciences	75,810	1,705	5,885	11,770
Mathematical Sciences	37,350	570	1,630	4,330
Computer Science	79,905	4,240	5,400	11,600
Engineering and technology	130,685	3,835	10,015	20,620
Total Narrow STEM¹ related subjects	507,365	13,920	39,215	71,250
Medicine and dentistry	52,020	2,085	3,370	7,640
Subjects allied to medicine	237,615	8,515	14,480	30,165
Veterinary Science	5,605	0	0	1,545
Agriculture and related subjects	14,605	585	1,345	2,125
Architecture, building & planning	41,760	1,575	2,110	5,820
Total Broad STEM² related subjects	858,960	26,680	60,515	118,540
Social studies	185,455	4,625	11,295	20,335
Law	74,915	2,250	4,140	8,425
Business and administrative studies	276,855	7,520	16,590	32,460
Mass communications & documentation	43,655	805	2,470	3,495
Languages	86,070	1,795	7,405	11,770
Historical and philosophical studies	68,390	1,280	4,500	11,285
Creative arts and design	152,940	2,155	8,390	12,215
Education	119,435	6,310	10,070	15,240
Combined	25,305	1,145	4,020	8,165
All subject Areas	1,891,980	54,570	129,395	241,935
% Narrow STEM¹ related subject	26.8%	25.5%	30.3%	29.5%
% Broad STEM² related subject	45.4%	48.9%	46.8%	49.0%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Narrow STEM related courses include: Biological sciences; Physical sciences; Mathematical sciences; Computer science; and Engineering & Technology.
2. Broad STEM related courses include: Medicine & Dentistry; Subjects allied to Medicine; Biological sciences; Veterinary Science; Agriculture & related subjects; Physical sciences; Mathematical sciences; Computer science; Engineering & Technology; and Architecture, Building & Planning.
3. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, in line with HESA rounding strategy, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
4. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the total shown.
5. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/higher-education-statistics>