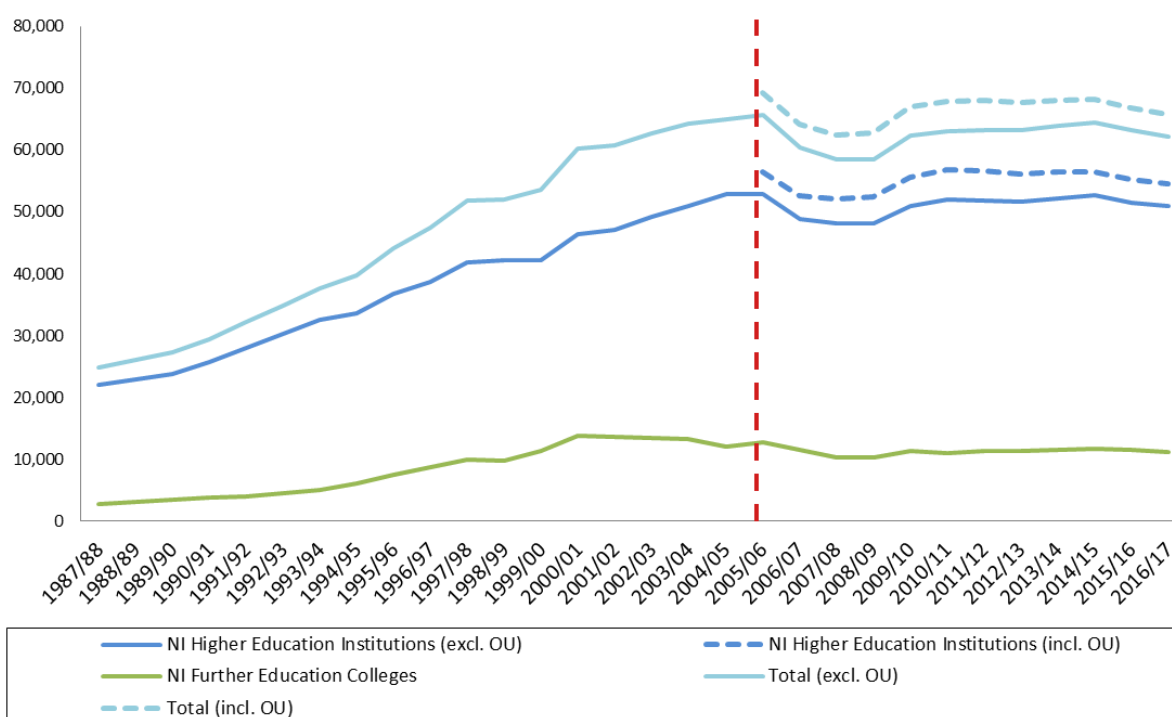


Statistical Fact Sheet 7

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education Colleges - 1987/88 to 2016/17

- Over the past 30 years, enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have more than doubled, from 22,140 in 1987/88 to 54,570 in 2016/17. [\(Footnote\)](#)
- Between 2015/16 and 2016/17, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs decreased by 1.2%, from 55,245 to 54,570. [\(Footnote\)](#)

Enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI FE colleges - 1987/88-2016/17



Footnote: From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE has changed the methodology used to allocate the enrolments of Open University (OU) students. This is to align with changes made by HESA to the student record for the 2013/14 academic year. Please see [notes 6 and 7](#) for more details. The figures above have been backdated to include OU (where the national centre is located in NI) from 2005/06 onwards.

- Over the 30-year period between 1987/88 and 2016/17, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges increased four-fold, from 2,775 to 11,175.
- Between 2015/16 and 2016/17, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges decreased from 11,631 to 11,175, a decrease of 3.9%.
- Between 1986/87 and 2016/17, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI Further Education colleges have more than doubled, from 23,645 to 65,745.
- Between 2015/16 and 2016/17, the total number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education colleges decreased by 1.7%, from 66,875 to 65,743.

Enrolment on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (excluding Open University) and NI FE Colleges –1986/87 to 2016/17

	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total		NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
1987/88	22,140	2,775	24,915	2002/03	49,125	13,515	62,640
1988/89	22,880	3,175	26,060	2003/04	51,025	13,330	64,355
1989/90	23,815	3,445	27,255	2004/05	52,930	12,000	64,930
1990/91	25,725	3,770	29,495	2005/06	52,845	12,790	65,635
1991/92	28,035	4,095	32,130	2006/07	48,860	11,625	60,485
1992/93	30,255	4,585	34,840	2007/08	48,200	10,245	58,440
1993/94	32,610	5,055	37,665	2008/09	48,240	10,280	58,525
1994/95	33,575	6,135	39,715	2009/10	50,990	11,400	62,390
1995/96	36,720	7,450	44,170	2010/11	52,000	11,005	63,005
1996/97	38,665	8,715	47,380	2011/12	51,905	11,315	63,220
1997/98	41,880	9,950	51,830	2012/13	51,715	11,453	63,170
1998/99	42,135	9,880	52,015	2013/14	52,260	11,576	63,835
1999/00	42,255	11,385	53,640	2014/15	52,650	11,722	64,370
2000/01	46,400	13,780	60,180	2015/16	51,505	11,631	63,135
2001/02	47,155	13,650	60,805	2016/17	50,960	11,175	62,135

Sources: Various – see notes below

Enrolment on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (including Open University NI) and NI FE Colleges –2005/06 to 2015/16

	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total		NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2005/06	56,525	12,790	69,315	2011/12	56,720	11,315	68,035
2006/07	52,615	11,625	64,240	2012/13	56,155	11,453	67,610
2007/08	52,155	10,245	62,400	2013/14	56,395	11,576	67,970
2008/09	52,450	10,280	62,730	2014/15	56,445	11,722	68,165
2009/10	55,600	11,400	67,000	2015/16	55,245	11,631	66,875
2010/11	56,860	11,005	67,865	2016/17	54,570	11,175	65,743

Sources: Various – see notes below

Notes:

1. 1987/88 to 1993/94 information obtained from the Digest of Northern Ireland Higher Education Statistics 1985/86-1993/94, and Statistical News Releases and Bulletins published by the Department for Education, the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department for the Economy.
2. From 2000/01, HE statistics are based on full year Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data. FE statistics were based on full year Further Education Statistical Return (FESR) data until 2013/14, when the FESR changed to the Consolidated Data Return (CDR). Prior to 2000/01, FESR data were based on a snapshot of enrolments.
3. Detailed footnotes relevant to all data should be obtained from the relevant published sources.
4. Some early data may have changed over time due to changes in data coding and variable definitions.
5. The definition of the HESA Standard Registration Population at UK HEIs changed for 2007/08 enrolments. Writing up and sabbatical students are now excluded from this population, whereas they were previously included in published enrolment data. In order to maintain time series accuracy, all historical data between 2000/01 and 2006/07 have been updated to include the 2007/08 definition of the Standard Registration Population.
6. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE no longer counts Open University (OU) as a wholly English institution, but splits it between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, depending on the location of the national centre. Any historical statistics affected by this change in methodology (going back to 2005/06) now reflect the new allocation method for OU.
7. Although figures for 2004/05 backwards and 2005/06 onwards are not directly comparable because of this change in OU allocation, we believe this comparison provides a close approximation to the overall trends in the last 30 years as a whole and so make comparisons between these years.
8. 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.
9. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the totals shown.
10. 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>