

Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet 5: Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions by country of institution and subject area – 2018/19

Of the 55,755 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2018/19:

- 14,465 (25.9%) were enrolled on Narrow STEM¹ related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were higher, at 27.3%, 30.2% and 31.0% respectively.
- 28,145 (50.5%) were enrolled on Broad STEM² related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were lower, at 45.6%, 49.6% and 48.0% respectively.
- The three most popular subject areas studied in NI HEIs were ‘Subjects allied to medicine’ (9,525), ‘Business and administrative studies’ (7,745) and ‘Education’ (6,025).

Enrolments at UK HEIs by subject area and country of institution – 2018/19

Subject Area	Country of Institution			
	England	NI	Scotland	Wales
Biological Sciences	195,705	3,745	24,765	17,545
Physical Sciences	75,130	1,710	11,810	6,190
Mathematical Sciences	38,635	585	5,040	1,650
Computer Science	90,195	4,440	13,960	6,135
Engineering and technology	130,855	3,980	20,855	9,490
Total Narrow STEM¹ related subjects	530,515	14,465	76,430	41,015
Medicine and dentistry	54,625	2,130	7,795	3,210
Subjects allied to medicine	234,005	9,525	31,175	15,750
Veterinary Science	6,770	0	1,630	0
Agriculture and related subjects	15,150	510	2,370	1,290
Architecture, building and planning	45,235	1,515	6,380	2,215
Total Broad STEM² related subjects	886,295	28,145	125,775	63,475
Social studies	198,700	4,735	21,710	12,335
Law	79,080	2,480	9,280	4,415
Business and administrative studies	300,685	7,745	34,030	16,015
Mass communications and documentation	44,395	970	3,405	2,540
Languages	77,930	1,590	12,620	7,230
Historical and philosophical studies	65,110	1,145	11,650	4,060
Creative arts and design	158,475	2,055	12,575	8,725
Education	112,280	6,025	16,365	8,155
Combined	19,580	870	6,065	5,255
All subject Areas	1,942,535	55,755	253,475	132,205
% Narrow STEM¹ related subject	27.3%	25.9%	30.2%	31.0%
% Broad STEM² related subject	45.6%	50.5%	49.6%	48.0%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Narrow STEM related courses include: Biological Sciences; Physical Sciences; Mathematical Sciences; Computer Science; and Engineering and Technology.
2. Broad STEM related courses include: Medicine and Dentistry; Subjects allied to Medicine; Biological Sciences; Veterinary Science; Agriculture and related subjects; Physical Sciences; Mathematical Sciences; Computer Science; Engineering and Technology; and Architecture, Building and 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 totals shown.
5. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Links:

Data from this fact sheet, and for the years up to and including 2014/15, are available in open data format at the following link:

[Higher Education Statistical Factsheets](#)

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

[Higher Education Statistics and Research](#)