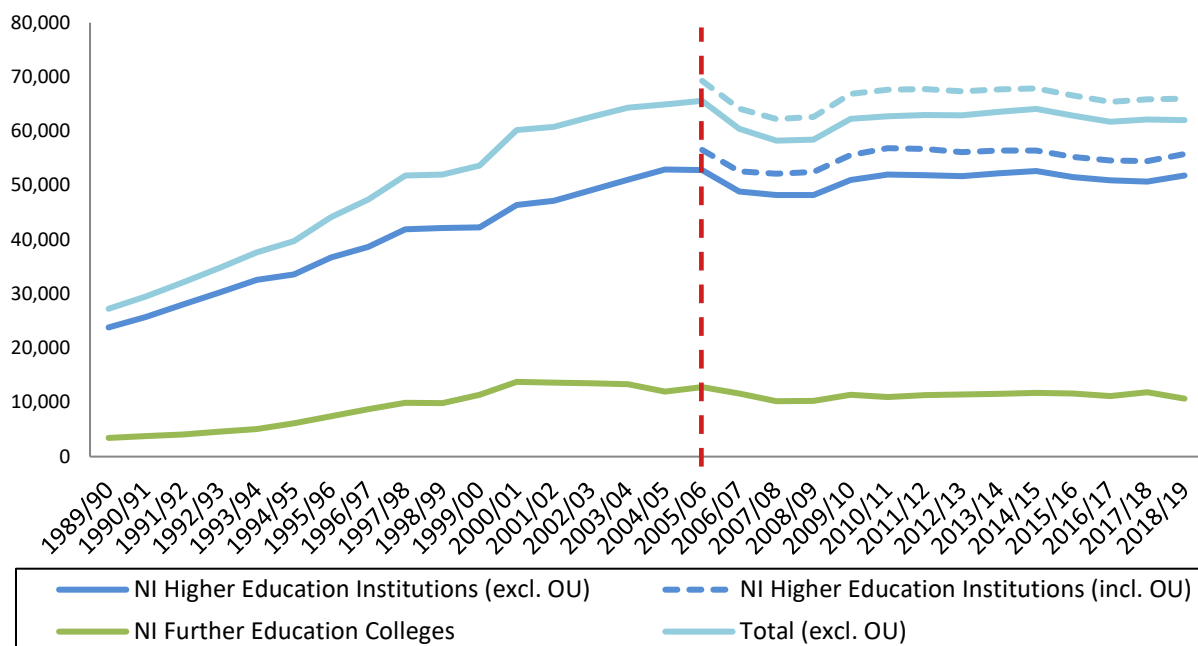


Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet 7: Enrolments Time Series: 1989/90 to 2018/19

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education Colleges - 1989/90 to 2018/19

- Over the past 30 years, enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have more than doubled, from 23,815 in 1989/90 to 55,755 in 2018/19. [\(Footnote\)](#)
- Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs increased by 2.4%, from 54,460 to 55,755. [\(Footnote\)](#)

Enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI FE colleges - 1989/90-2018/19



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 1989/90 and 2018/19, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges increased over three-fold, from 3,445 to 10,704.
- Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges decreased from 11,848 to 10,704, a decrease of 9.7%.
- Between 1989/90 and 2018/19, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI Further Education colleges more than doubled, from 27,255 to 65,995.
- Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the total number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education colleges increased by 0.2%, from 65,870 to 65,995.

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (excluding Open University) and NI FE Colleges – 1989/90 to 2018/19

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
1989/90	23,815	3,445	27,255
1990/91	25,725	3,770	29,495
1991/92	28,035	4,095	32,130
1992/93	30,255	4,585	34,840
1993/94	32,610	5,055	37,665
1994/95	33,575	6,135	39,715
1995/96	36,720	7,450	44,170
1996/97	38,665	8,715	47,380
1997/98	41,880	9,950	51,830
1998/99	42,135	9,880	52,015
1999/00	42,255	11,385	53,640
2000/01	46,400	13,780	60,180
2001/02	47,155	13,650	60,805
2002/03	49,125	13,515	62,640
2003/04	51,025	13,330	64,355

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2004/05	52,930	12,000	64,930
2005/06	52,845	12,790	65,595
2006/07	48,860	11,625	60,420
2007/08	48,200	10,245	58,280
2008/09	48,240	10,280	58,415
2009/10	50,990	11,400	62,255
2010/11	52,000	11,005	62,760
2011/12	51,905	11,315	62,965
2012/13	51,715	11,453	62,905
2013/14	52,260	11,576	63,565
2014/15	52,650	11,722	64,070
2015/16	51,505	11,631	62,835
2016/17	50,960	11,175	61,760
2017/18	50,725	11,848	62,135
2018/19	51,810	10,704	62,045

Sources: Various – see notes below

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (including Open University NI) and NI FE Colleges – 2005/06 to 2018/19

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2005/06	56,525	12,790	69,275
2006/07	52,615	11,625	64,180
2007/08	52,155	10,245	62,235
2008/09	52,450	10,280	62,625
2009/10	55,600	11,400	66,865
2010/11	56,860	11,005	67,620
2011/12	56,720	11,315	67,780

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2012/13	56,155	11,453	67,350
2013/14	56,395	11,576	67,700
2014/15	56,445	11,722	67,865
2015/16	55,245	11,631	66,570
2016/17	54,570	11,175	65,370
2017/18	54,460	11,848	65,870
2018/19	55,755	10,704	65,995

Sources: Various – see notes below (in particular [Note 8](#) on removing duplicate Foundation Degrees)

Notes:

1. 1988/89 to 1993/94 information has been obtained from the Digest of Northern Ireland Higher Education Statistics 1988/89-1993/94, and Statistical News Releases and Bulletins published by the Department of Education.
2. From 2000/01, Higher Education statistics are based on full year Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data. Further Education 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 are contained in 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, within DfE publications, Open University students are counted within the country where the national centre is located. 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. Some students on Foundation Degrees have been included in both the HEI and FEC figures, as they were registered at and awarded qualifications from HEIs, but were taught at FECs. This duplication has been removed from the overall total figure for HE and FE combined from 2005/06 onwards.
9. 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.
10. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the totals shown.
11. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Links:

Data from this fact sheet are available in open data format at the following link:

[Higher Education Statistical Factsheets](#)

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

[Higher Education Statistics](#)