

Statistical Fact Sheet 4

Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories - 2013/14 to 2017/18

- In 2017/18, 10.4% of students enrolled at NI HEIs self-reported as having a disability; an increase from 9.6% in 2016/17.
- In 2017/18, of those NI domiciled students enrolled at NI HEIs who were asked to provide the religion they were brought up in, 30.4% of students stated 'Protestant', 48.9% stated 'Roman Catholic' and the remainder were categorised as 'Other' (5.2%), 'No Religion' (6.8%) or 'Unknown' (8.7%).

Disability ⁽¹⁾	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Disability	4,160	4,550	5,140	5,250	5,650
No disability/unknown	52,235	51,895	50,100	49,320	48,810
Total	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460

Religion ^{(2) (3) (4)}	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Protestant	13,800	13,655	13,125	12,955	12,695
Roman Catholic	21,325	21,210	20,595	20,535	20,425
Other	4,665	5,170	5,640	3,580	2,190
Unknown	4,350	4,265	4,055	3,675	3,615
No Religion	-	-	-	1,765	2,830
Total	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755

Age	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
20 and under	19,995	20,610	19,810	19,395	19,190
21 to 24	15,115	14,870	15,185	15,360	15,810
25 and over	21,280	20,960	20,250	19,815	19,460
Unknown	5	0	0	0	0
Total	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460

Sex	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Male	24,400	24,670	23,865	23,540	23,180
Female	31,995	31,775	31,380	31,030	31,280
Total	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460

Ethnicity ⁽¹⁾	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
White	48,415	49,150	49,575	48,625	48,040
Irish Traveller	15	15	10	15	10
Black	330	455	360	370	340
Indian	315	285	300	295	275
Pakistani	135	235	195	185	150
Bangladeshi	150	100	115	115	55
Chinese	900	550	350	355	370
Other Asian	385	360	295	300	280
Mixed	340	325	340	380	405
Other	190	235	220	235	200
Unknown	5,220	4,740	3,480	3,695	4,330
Total	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570	54,460

Marital Status⁽²⁾	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Single (never married or never in civil partnership)	36,645	37,230	36,515	35,920	34,560
Married or in civil partnership	4,940	4,660	4,360	4,120	3,875
Separated (but still legally married or in civil partnership)	290	275	260	245	235
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	260	245	260	225	215
Widowed	50	55	55	45	40
Co-habiting	740	725	700	685	650
Unknown	1,210	1,105	1,260	1,265	2,180
Total	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755

Dependants⁽²⁾	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Young people/children (YP/C)	4,570	4,530	4,330	4,140	3,980
Other relative/friends (OR/F)	395	375	315	290	280
Both YP/C & OR/F	595	550	470	405	375
No dependants	37,270	37,655	36,965	36,330	35,735
Unknown	1,310	1,185	1,340	1,345	1,380
Total	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505	41,755

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Information on disability and ethnicity is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
2. Information on religion, marital status and dependants is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI HE institutions.
3. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
4. A new coding framework was added to the HESA data collection for the Religion question in 2016/17, which includes an additional category for 'No Religion'. More information can be found at: www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c16051/n/religion
5. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE no longer counts the Open University as a wholly English institution, but splits it between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, depending on where the national centre is located. Figures for the previous academic years have been updated to reflect this change.
6. Enrolments at the OU (where the national centre is located in NI) have been removed from the figures for religion, marital status and dependants due to high levels of unknowns.
7. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures in the attached table are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0. Due to rounding, the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown.
8. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

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

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/he-fact-sheets-open-data-tables>

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

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