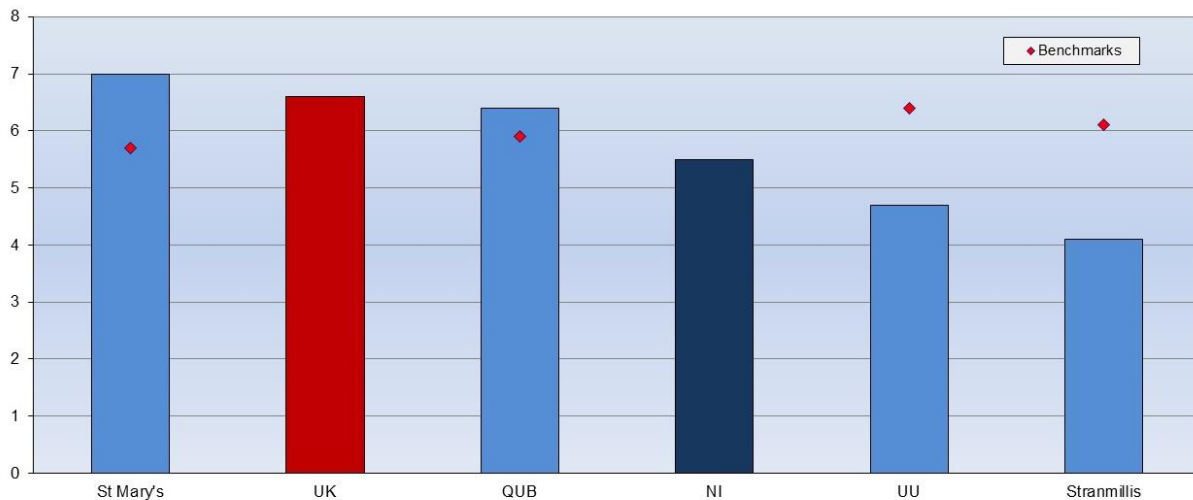


Performance Indicators in Higher Education: Widening Participation fact sheet

Participation of students who were in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA): All undergraduate students - 2016/17

This indicator is designed to provide information about the percentage of disabled students in the sector. For this indicator, a value higher than the benchmark¹ indicates that an institution was performing better than the sector average.

Figure 1: Percentage of full-time undergraduate students who were in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance - 2016/17



On average, NI HEIs were performing below the UK average of 6.6%, with 5.5% of all full-time undergraduates in receipt of DSA in 2016/17.

St Mary's University College and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) were both performing above their benchmarks, but not significantly so, with 7.0% (benchmark 5.7%) and 6.4% (benchmark 5.9%) of full-time undergraduates in receipt of DSA respectively in 2016/17.

Ulster University (UU) and Stranmillis University College were both performing below their benchmarks, but not significantly so, with 4.7% (benchmark 6.4%) and 4.1% (benchmark 6.1%) of full-time undergraduates in receipt of DSA respectively in 2016/17. The Open University (OU) NI campuses did not have a percentage for this Performance Indicator as all entrants for 2016/17 were part-time.

For part-time undergraduates, NI HEIs were performing higher than the UK average of 3.3%, with 4.8% in receipt of DSA.

¹ The benchmark is a sector average, adjusted to take account of the subject and entry profile of the institution's students. For more information, see page 4 of the [Contextual Information](#) document.

Table 1: Percentage of students in higher education who were in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) - 2016/17

	Full-time first degree		Full-time all undergraduate		Part-time all undergraduate	
	Percentage in receipt of DSA (%)	Benchmark (%)	Percentage in receipt of DSA (%)	Benchmark (%)	Percentage in receipt of DSA (%)	Benchmark (%)
Total UK	6.6		6.6		3.3	
Total Northern Ireland	5.6		5.5		4.8	
Queen's University Belfast	6.4	6.0	6.4	5.9	9.2	6.8
St Mary's University College	7.0	5.8	7.0	5.7
Stranmillis University College	4.9	6.2	4.1	6.1	1.7	4.3
Ulster University	4.7	6.5	4.7	6.4	4.4	4.8
Open University (NI campuses)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.4	

Notes:

1. Percentages are not subject to rounding, but those calculated on populations containing fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed and represented as '..'
2. The symbols '+/-' show that the indicator is significantly better/worse than its benchmark.
3. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, within DfE publications, Open University students are counted within the country where their national centre is located.
4. Open University has been excluded from the Northern Ireland part-time total.

Participation of under-represented groups in Higher Education: Young full-time entrants - 2016/17

Following a fundamental review of the UK Performance Indicators, the use of National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) as a measure has been discontinued across the UK, following concerns about the quality of the data collected for this variable.

More information on this review and its findings can be found at the following link:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators/widening-participation>

Participation of under-represented groups in Higher Education – mature and part-time entrants - 2016/17

This indicator looks at the percentage of entrants who came from low participation neighbourhoods and have no previous HE qualification. This indicator is not applicable in NI due to the methodological issues around the calculation of low participation areas at the NI institutional level (further information on this is contained in the 'Contextual information' document, which is published alongside this factsheet on the DfE website).