

# Statistical First Release

Enrolments and Qualifications at UK Higher Education  
Institutions: Northern Ireland – 2014/15



## **Enrolments and Qualifications at UK Higher Education Institutions: Northern Ireland Statistical First Release – 2014/15**

This Statistical First Release (SFR), produced by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), is based on an SFR produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in collaboration with statisticians from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Government and the Department for Employment and Learning. It provides information on the number of NI students enrolling and qualifying at UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the number of students enrolling and qualifying at NI HEIs.

This SFR provides high-level figures and will be supported by a more detailed analysis due for publication on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

From 2013/14, HESA have changed the allocation of The Open University (OU) students to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Previously all OU enrolments and qualifications were counted as being within England, where the OU has its administrative centre. From 2013/14 onwards enrolments and qualifications, and as an extension destinations of leavers, registered at one of the OU's national centres in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will contribute to the totals in those countries where statistics are shown by country of HE provider in HESA publications.

A full public consultation of NI users of Higher Education statistics was undertaken in terms of this change to the method of allocating OU students. The results of this publication consultation can be found on the [DEL website](#). As a result of HESA's changes and this public consultation, this SFR and the planned detailed NI publications on Enrolments and Qualifications gained at UK Higher Education Institutions: Northern Ireland Analysis due to issue on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February will adopt the new methodology.

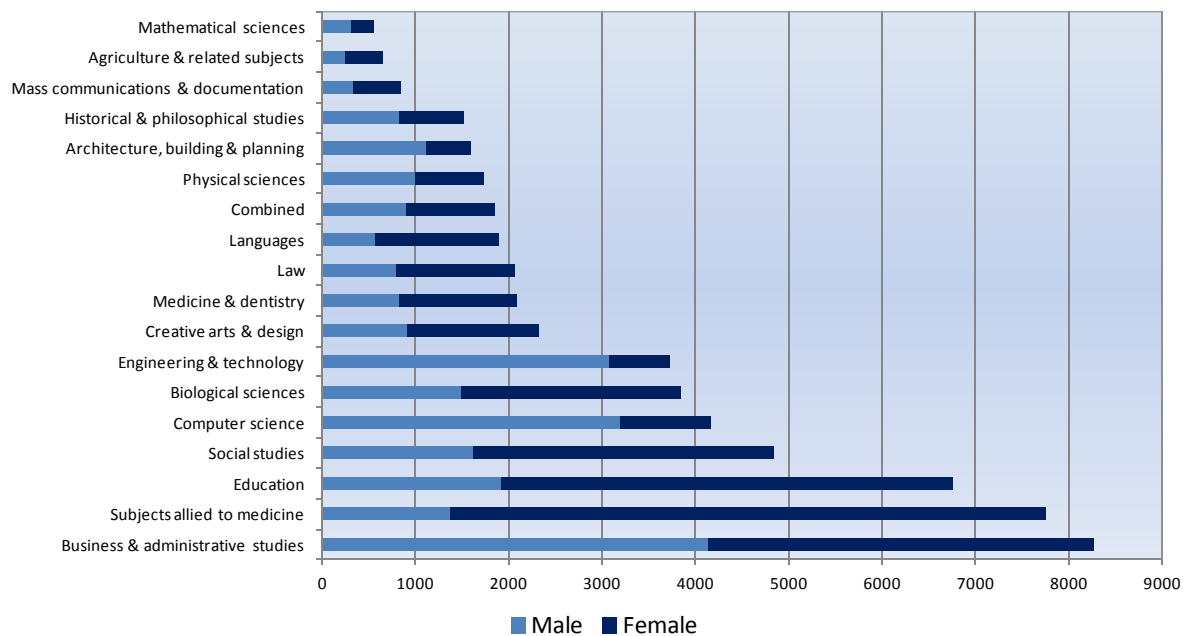
## **Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions** **Key Points - 2014/15**

- Enrolments at NI HEIs have remained fairly stable over the period from 2010/11 to 2014/15. The number fell slightly from 56,860 in 2010/11 to 56,720 in 2011/12 and 56,155 in 2012/13 before increasing to 56,395 in 2013/14. Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the total number of students enrolled at NI HEIs increased by 0.1%, from 56,395 to 56,445.
- Of the 56,445 students enrolled at NI HEIs in 2014/15, 85.2% were from NI, 5.0% from Great Britain (GB), 4.8% from other EU countries and 5.0% from non EU countries.
- In 2014/15, 67.8% of enrolments were full-time and 32.2% were part-time. In comparison to 2013/14, full-time enrolments have increased by 2.1% (from 37,505 to 38,280) and part time enrolments have decreased by 3.8% (from 18,890 to 18,165).
- Females accounted for 56.3% of students enrolled at NI HEIs in 2014/15. A higher proportion of males (71.4%) were studying full-time in comparison to females (65.0%).
- The number of full-time first year undergraduate enrolments at NI HEIs increased by 3.1%, from 11,145 in 2013/14 to 11,490 in 2014/15.
- In 2014/15, 24.8% of NI HEIs students were studying a Narrow STEM related subject and 46.2% studying a Broad STEM related subject. This compares to 23.9% and 45.3% respectively in 2013/14.

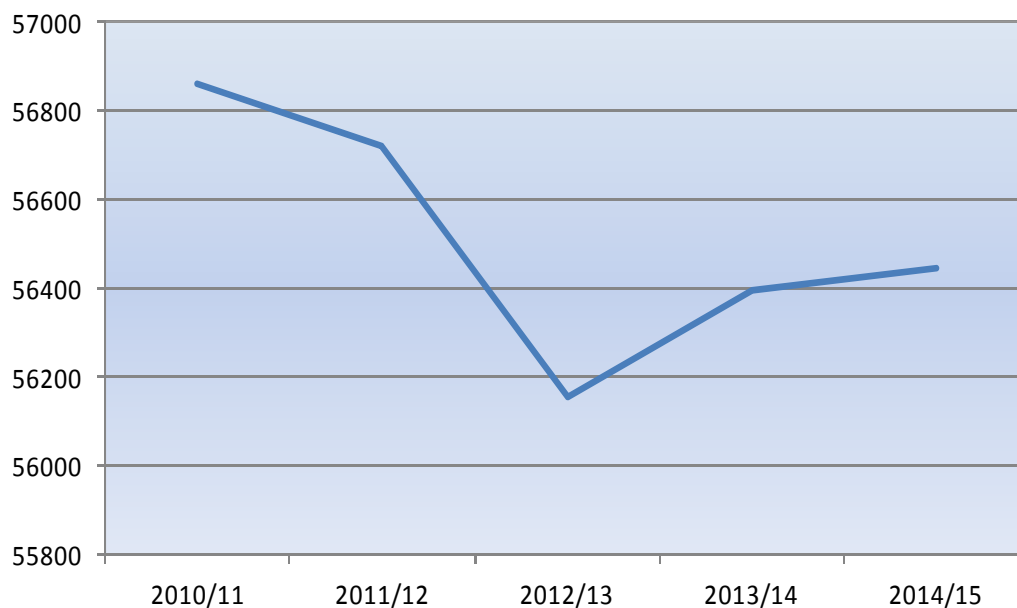
## **Northern Ireland Domiciled Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions** **Key Points - 2014/15**

- Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the number of NI students enrolled at HEIs in NI, England, Scotland and Wales decreased by 0.9% from 64,570 to 63,965. From 2010/11, the number has fallen by 2.4% from 65,560.
- Of the 63,965 NI students enrolled at UK HEIs in 2014/15, 75.2% were enrolled at an NI HEI, 17.5% at a HEI in England, 6.5% at a HEI in Scotland and 0.9% at a HEI in Wales.
- In 2014/15, 25.5% of NI students at UK HEIs were studying a Narrow STEM related subject and 47.1% studying a Broad STEM related subject. This compares to 24.5% and 46.4% respectively in 2013/14.

**Figure 1: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by gender and subject area - 2014/15**



**Figure 2: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions – 2010/11 to 2014/15**



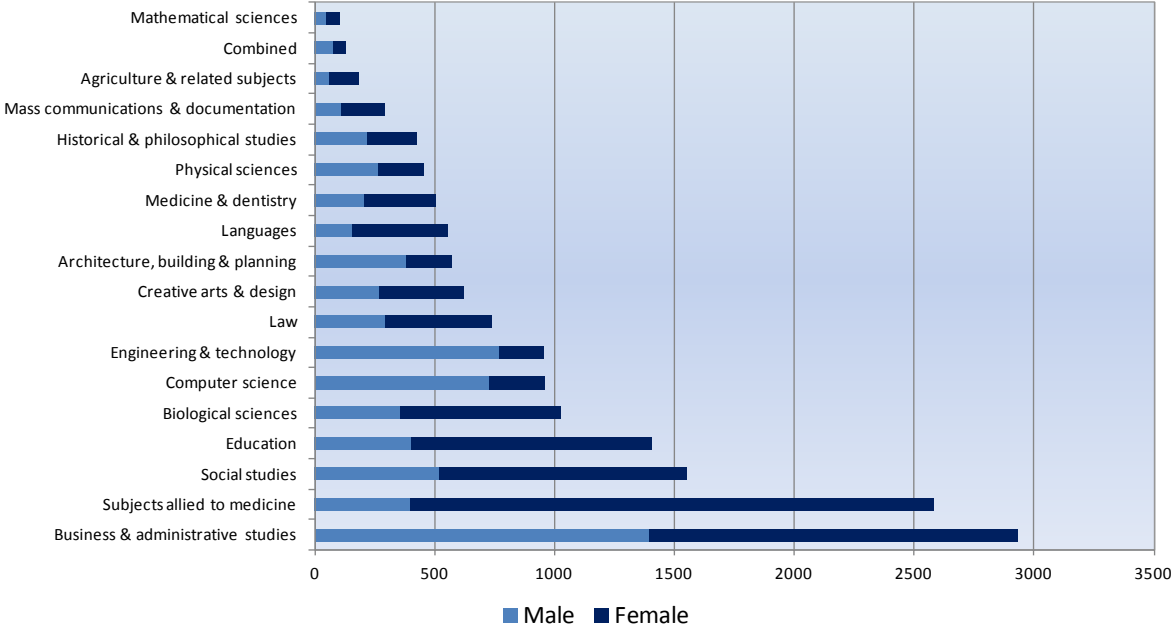
## **Qualifications gained by students at NI Higher Education Institutions** **Key Points - 2014/15**

- Over the last five years the total number of qualifications gained by students at NI HEIs has increased by 2.2% from 15,665 to 16,010. The number of qualifications gained at NI HEIs has increased by 0.6% from 15,910 in 2013/14 to 16,010 in 2014/15.
- Of the 16,010 qualifications gained in 2014/15, 72.8% were through full-time study and 27.2% through part-time study.
- Of the 16,010 qualifications gained by students at NI HEIs, 9,285 (58.0%) obtained a 'first degree' qualification, 1,975 (12.3%) an 'other undergraduate' qualification and 4,750 (29.7%) obtained a 'postgraduate' qualification.
- In 2014/15, of students gaining qualifications at NI HEIs, 58.3% were female and 41.7% were male. Of male students gaining a qualification, 76.6% were studying full-time compared to 70.1% of females.
- During 2014/15, 45.9% of qualifications gained by students at NI HEIs were in a Broad STEM related subject. Just over a fifth (21.9%) of qualifications gained by students at NI HEIs, were in a Narrow STEM related subject. This compares to 44.9% and 20.7% respectively in 2013/14.
- In 2014/15, 71.2% of 'first degree' graduates (excluding those attaining an unclassified 'first degree') achieved either a first class or upper second class honours degree.
- Females (74.1%) were more likely than males (67.5%) to achieve a first class or upper second class honours degree.

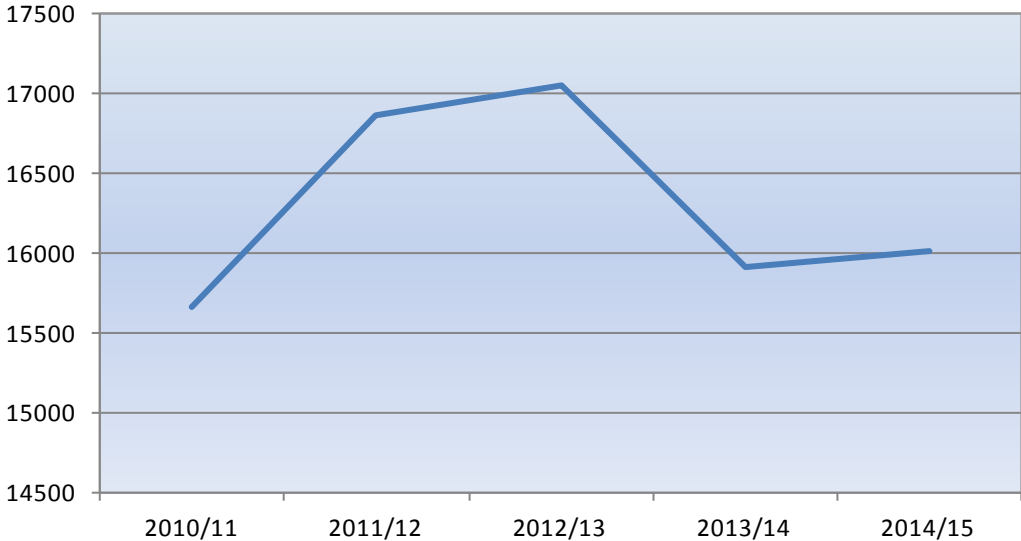
## **Qualifications gained by Northern Ireland Domiciled students at UK Higher Education Institutions Key Points - 2014/15**

- Over the last five years the total number of qualifications gained by NI domiciled students at UK HEIs increased by 2.0%, from 17,710 to 18,065. The number of NI domiciled qualifiers from UK HEIs decreased by 0.5%, from 18,150 in 2013/14 to 18,065 in 2014/15.
- Of the 18,065 qualifications gained in 2014/15, 76.8% were through full-time study and 23.2% through part-time study.
- During 2014/15, 46.1% of qualifications gained by NI domiciled students at UK HEIs were in a Broad STEM related subject. Just over a fifth (22.3%) of qualifications gained by NI domiciled students at UK HEIs were in a Narrow STEM related subject. This compares to 44.8% and 21.3% respectively in 2013/14.

**Figure 3: Qualifications gained by students at NI Higher Education Institutions by gender and subject area - 2014/15**



**Figure 4: Qualifications gained by students at NI Higher Education Institutions – 2010/11 to 2014/15**



## Notes and Definitions:

### Notes:

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are well explained and readily accessible; are produced according to sound methods, and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest. Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.
2. The data presented in this Statistical First Release are based on data supplied by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). HESA is the official agency for the collection of information on publicly funded Higher Education (HE) institutions in the UK. It was set up in 1993 following the White Paper 'Higher Education: a new framework', which called for more coherence in HE statistics. HE institutions include all publicly-funded universities. The HESA data presented in this statistical first release relate to students at HE institutions in the UK and therefore do not include HE enrolments at FE colleges in NI or GB, or at institutions in the Republic of Ireland.
3. The 2014/15 Enrolment and Qualification data includes all those students whose study was full-time or part-time reported to HESA for the reporting period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.
4. All figures have been rounded by HESA to the nearest '5' students, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.

### Definitions:

5. **Broad STEM** includes the following subject areas: Medicine & dentistry, Subjects allied to medicine, Biological sciences, Veterinary sciences, Agriculture & related subjects, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science, Engineering & technology and Architecture, building and planning.
6. **Narrow STEM** is a subset of Broad STEM and includes the following subject areas: Biological sciences, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences, Computer science and Engineering & technology.
7. **First year students** are based on the HESA standard registration population who commenced their instance in the reporting period relevant to the data collection year.

8. **Domicile** refers to a student's permanent place of residence prior to enrolment on an HE course.
9. **Full-time students** are those normally required to attend an Institution for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of study, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their institution. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week.
10. **Part-time students** are those recorded as studying part-time, or studying full-time on courses lasting less than 24 weeks, on block release, or studying during the evenings only.
11. **Postgraduate** programmes of study are those leading to higher degrees, diplomas and certificates (including Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) and professional qualifications) and usually require that entrants are already qualified to degree level (i.e. already qualified at level 6 of the QCA National Qualifications Framework).
12. **Undergraduate** programmes of study include, but are not limited to, first degrees, enhanced first degrees (including those leading towards obtaining eligibility to register to practice with a health or social care or veterinary statutory regulatory body), first degrees obtained concurrently with a diploma and intercalated first degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, foundation degrees, Higher National Diploma (HND), Higher National Certificate (HNC), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), foundation courses at higher education level, National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels 4 and 5, post-degree diplomas and certificates at undergraduate level, professional qualifications at undergraduate level and other undergraduate diplomas and certificates including pre- and post-registration health and social care and veterinary courses.
13. **Classification of a first degree** indicates the qualification class that the student obtained. Certain qualifications obtained at first degree level are not subject to classification of the award, notably medical and general degrees. These, together with ordinary degrees and aegrotat qualifications, have been included within the 'unclassified' category. Third class honours, fourth class honours and the pass category have been aggregated as 'third class/pass'. Lower second and undivided second class honours have been aggregated as 'second class, lower division'.

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# **ANNEX A: Tables**

**Table 1: Enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions by mode of study and gender from 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Academic year	Full-time			Part-time			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2010/11	20,810	15,715	36,520	12,450	7,885	20,335	33,260	23,600	56,860
2011/12	20,515	16,470	36,985	12,145	7,595	19,740	32,660	24,060	56,720
2012/13	20,215	16,630	36,845	11,925	7,385	19,310	32,140	24,015	56,155
2013/14	20,335	17,170	37,505	11,665	7,230	18,890	31,995	24,400	56,395
2014/15	20,660	17,620	38,280	11,120	7,050	18,165	31,775	24,670	56,445

**Table 2: NI Domiciled enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions by mode of study and gender from 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Academic year	Full-time			Part-time			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2010/11	26,390	19,890	46,280	11,450	7,825	19,280	37,840	27,720	65,560
2011/12	26,325	20,390	46,715	11,100	7,775	18,875	37,425	28,160	65,590
2012/13	25,655	20,135	45,790	11,015	7,595	18,610	36,665	27,730	64,400
2013/14	25,680	20,560	46,245	10,965	7,360	18,325	36,645	27,925	64,570
2014/15	25,730	20,695	46,430	10,360	7,175	17,535	36,090	27,875	63,965

**Table 3: Qualifications gained by students at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions by mode of study and gender from 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Academic year	Full-time			Part-time			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2010/11	6,020	4,055	10,070	3,725	1,870	5,595	9,745	5,925	15,665
2011/12	6,425	4,605	11,030	3,810	2,020	5,830	10,235	6,625	16,860
2012/13	6,555	4,830	11,385	3,800	1,870	5,670	10,355	6,700	17,055
2013/14	6,430	4,980	11,410	2,910	1,595	4,500	9,335	6,575	15,910
2014/15	6,540	5,115	11,660	2,790	1,560	4,350	9,330	6,675	16,010

**Table 4: Qualifications gained by NI Domiciled students at UK Higher Education Institutions by mode of study and gender from 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Academic year	Full-time			Part-time			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2010/11	7,600	5,220	12,825	3,185	1,700	4,885	10,785	6,920	17,710
2011/12	8,130	5,680	13,810	3,140	1,800	4,940	11,270	7,480	18,750
2012/13	8,105	5,870	13,975	2,990	1,785	4,780	11,095	7,655	18,750
2013/14	7,990	5,905	13,895	2,630	1,625	4,255	10,620	7,530	18,150
2014/15	7,985	5,895	13,880	2,590	1,595	4,185	10,575	7,490	18,065

**Notes:**

1. 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.
2. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the totals shown.