

Students Entering Higher Education Institutions with Access Qualifications 2000/01

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Introduction

The following analyses are taken from the HESA Student Record (July return) for the academic year ending 31 July 2001. These analyses include registrations on undergraduate HE programmes at HE institutions in England and Wales. Figures for both full-time and part-time programmes are shown, though data for the University of North London is excluded from all analyses.

The HESA Student Record for 2000/01 collects 'Highest qualification on entry' for every student. The highest qualification on entry is not necessarily the qualification *for* entry to that specific programme of study, though this distinction is not felt to be statistically significant in the following analyses.

The HESA data for 2000/01 does not distinguish between access courses validated via the QAA Access Recognition scheme and other access courses. Changes are in place for the 2002/03 HESA student record to make this distinction.

'Not known' entry qualifications are included in the 'Other' category in the following analyses.

In line with the Agency's rounding strategy, all numbers shown in this paper will be rounded to the nearest five.

Access Entrants to Higher Education

In the year 2000/01 there were over 34 thousand students on undergraduate programmes who had entered with an access qualification. Table 1 breaks these down by mode and level of qualification.

Table 1: Registrations on HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2000/01

First Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	8,600	675	9,275
Other UG	3,495	650	4,145
First Years Total	12,095	1,325	13,420
All Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	23,870	2,700	26,570
Other UG	6,875	1,000	7,875
All Years Total	30,745	3,695	34,440

Undergraduate entrants with access qualifications represent a relatively small proportion of all undergraduate entrants; Table 2 shows the proportion in each of the categories in Table 1.

Table 2: Proportion of Registrations on HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2000/01

First Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	3.1%	2.3%	3.0%
Other UG	6.5%	0.3%	1.5%
First Years Total	3.6%	0.5%	2.3%
All Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
Other UG	6.4%	0.3%	1.6%
All Years Total	3.5%	0.8%	2.5%

The full-time other undergraduate area has the most significant proportion of entrants with an access qualification. Analysis of this category by subject (Table 3) reveals that approximately three quarters of these students with an access qualification are studying in the area of "Subjects allied to medicine". The group "Social, economic and political studies" also shows a significant number of access entrants.

Table 3: Full-time Other Undergraduate Registrations by Subject Group and Entry Qualification 2000/01

Subject Group	Access	Other	Total	% with Access Qualification
Medicine & dentistry	0	185	185	0.0%
Subjects allied to medicine	5,080	47,460	52,540	9.7%
Biological sciences	45	1,565	1,610	2.9%
Veterinary science	0	70	70	0.0%
Agriculture & related subjects	20	2,820	2,840	0.7%
Physical sciences	20	750	770	2.3%
Mathematical sciences	20	350	370	4.9%
Computer science	245	9,530	9,780	2.5%
Engineering & technology	85	4,595	4,680	1.8%
Architecture, building & planning	5	1,765	1,770	0.3%
Social, economic & political studies	555	3,290	3,845	14.4%
Law	25	420	445	5.9%
Business & administrative studies	220	12,670	12,890	1.7%
Librarianship & information science	20	760	780	2.4%
Languages	165	1,910	2,080	8.0%
Humanities	15	125	135	9.6%
Creative arts & design	185	5,920	6,105	3.0%
Education	45	1,875	1,920	2.4%
Combined	125	4,110	4,235	3.0%
Total	6,875	100,170	107,045	6.4%

Table 4 summarises the subjects studied by all access entrants.

Table 4: Registrations with Access Entry Qualification by Mode, Level and Subject Group 2000/01

Level Mode	First Degree		Other UG		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Medicine & dentistry	30	0	0	0	35
Subjects allied to medicine	2,930	190	5,080	130	8,330
Biological sciences	1,685	200	45	20	1,950
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	90	5	20	10	125
Physical sciences	550	40	20	5	615
Mathematical sciences	80	15	20	0	115
Computer science	1,790	170	245	90	2,295
Engineering & technology	620	50	85	25	785
Architecture, building & planning	210	35	5	20	270
Social, economic & political studies	3,890	335	555	165	4,945
Law	985	310	25	15	1,335
Business & administrative studies	1,260	170	220	75	1,725
Librarianship & information science	470	30	20	0	520
Languages	1,125	130	165	50	1,470
Humanities	1,170	130	15	60	1,370
Creative arts & design	1,505	310	185	40	2,040
Education	2,730	55	45	35	2,865
Combined	2,755	520	125	260	3,655
Total	23,870	2,700	6,875	1,000	34,440

Access entrants to undergraduate programmes during 2000/01 were concentrated in the post-1992 universities with Birmingham and Salford being the only pre-1992 universities to recruit more than 200 access entrants that year.

Table 5: Access entrants (first-years) by Mode and Institution 2000/01
(Institutions with more than 200 Access entrants)

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Middlesex University	530	30	560
University of the West of England, Bristol	360	30	390
The University of Wolverhampton	335	45	380
The University of Birmingham	350	5	355
South Bank University	295	25	315
The University of Westminster	285	30	310
University of Hertfordshire	265	45	310
The University of Central England in Birmingham	285	20	300
The University of Greenwich	265	25	290
Thames Valley University	265	20	285
The University of Salford	255	20	275
Sheffield Hallam University	235	35	270
The University of Teesside	250	25	270
Liverpool John Moores University	240	20	260
The University of East London	225	30	255
Kingston University	240	10	250
The University of Plymouth	225	20	245
The Manchester Metropolitan University	225	15	240
Anglia Polytechnic University	200	20	225
London Guildhall University	145	75	215
Coventry University	185	15	200

Access Entrants – Student Characteristics

Table 6 shows the gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes in 2000/01.

Table 6: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Gender 2000/01

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
Female	66.8%	53.3%	78.7%	63.5%	58.4%
Male	33.2%	46.7%	21.3%	36.5%	41.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows that, across both full-time and part-time modes, there are more females than males entering undergraduate programmes in 2000/01. Access entrants show a higher proportion of females than other entry qualifications at both first-degree and Other UG levels. The proportions at the Other UG level are skewed heavily by the relative dominance of nursing in the access category.

Table 7: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Entry Qualification, Mode and Age 2000/01

Entry Qualification	Access		Other		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Under 18	0.1%	0.1%	1.1%	0.4%	0.8%
18 to 20	6.2%	1.4%	73.5%	5.6%	43.3%
21 to 24	22.2%	11.1%	13.3%	11.1%	12.6%
25 to 29	21.5%	20.5%	4.8%	15.1%	9.6%
30 and over	50.0%	66.2%	7.1%	64.2%	32.2%
Unknown	0.1%	0.7%	0.1%	3.6%	1.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7 analyses the age of entrants to undergraduate programmes. Access entrants to full-time programmes are most prominent in the 30 and over category, with roughly equal numbers in the early and late twenties. Access entrants to part-time programmes are skewed further towards the 30 and over category, at the expense of the under 25 categories. Table 1 showed that the part-time access entrant numbers are relatively low.

By comparison, the other entry qualifications show a more 'traditional' profile of ages. Three quarters of entrants to full-time undergraduate programmes are under 21 and almost two thirds of the entrants to part-time programmes are 30 and over (the latter category being skewed by 'continuing education' registrations).

Table 8 shows that the entrants with access qualifications have a higher representation from ethnic minority groups than entrants with other qualifications, though there are interesting differences between the various ethnic categories.

Table 8: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Ethnicity 2000/01

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
White	68.8%	73.1%	58.6%	70.1%	71.5%
Black Caribbean	4.2%	1.0%	4.9%	1.2%	1.2%
Black African	6.5%	2.0%	12.2%	2.2%	2.3%
Black other	2.5%	0.6%	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Indian	1.9%	4.5%	1.4%	1.7%	3.1%
Pakistani	1.7%	2.2%	1.5%	1.0%	1.7%
Bangladeshi	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%
Chinese	1.2%	2.2%	0.4%	1.0%	1.6%
Asian other	1.6%	1.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.6%
Other	3.0%	2.1%	1.8%	1.4%	1.8%
Not known	8.1%	9.6%	16.4%	19.3%	14.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Care should be taken when analysing ethnic groupings due to the relatively high proportion of 'not known' values. The 'not known' category includes cases where the student has refused to supply the information.

Table 9 below analyses disability for undergraduate entrants in 2000/01. Although the figures within each of the disability categories are low the relatively high proportion of access entrants with dyslexia is worthy of note.

Table 9: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Disability 2000/01

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
No known disability	89.6%	93.5%	93.8%	90.4%	92.0%
Dyslexia	3.5%	2.0%	1.6%	0.8%	1.5%
Blind/Partially sighted	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Deaf/Hearing impairment	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Wheelchair user/Mobility difficulties	0.8%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Personal care support	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Mental health difficulties	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
An unseen disability (*)	1.9%	1.3%	1.0%	0.8%	1.1%
Multiple disabilities	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%
A disability not listed above	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Not known	0.9%	1.8%	1.7%	6.3%	3.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(* = e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma)

Access Students - Qualifications Awarded

In 2000/01, 7650 qualifications were awarded to undergraduate students for whom an access qualification was their highest qualification on entry. A breakdown of these awards is shown below.

Table 10: Qualifications Awarded in 2000/01 to students who entered HE with an Access Qualification

	First-degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & dentistry	5	0	5
Subjects allied to medicine	570	755	1,320
Biological sciences	525	25	550
Agriculture & related subjects	20	10	30
Physical sciences	150	10	160
Mathematical sciences	25	0	25
Computer science	320	100	420
Engineering & technology	150	25	175
Architecture, building & planning	45	15	60
Social, economic & political studies	1,045	240	1,285
Law	260	25	285
Business & administrative studies	315	90	405
Librarianship & information science	130	10	140
Languages	350	10	360
Humanities	335	10	340
Creative arts & design	475	75	550
Education	675	20	695
Combined	785	45	830
Total	6,180	1,470	7,650

Table 11 shows the proportion of first-degrees awarded by classification and qualification on entry. It shows that proportionately fewer first and upper-second class degrees are awarded to students who enter with an access qualification.

Table 11: Classification of First-degree by Entry Qualification 2000/01

	Access	Other	Total
First class	6.5%	9.1%	9.0%
Upper second class	42.5%	44.2%	44.2%
Lower second class	38.4%	34.0%	34.1%
Third class	7.9%	5.8%	5.9%
Other (*)	4.7%	6.9%	6.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(* Includes unclassified, general, undivided second, ordinary and pass)