

Students Entering Higher Education Institutions with Access Qualifications 2001/02

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Introduction

The following analyses are taken from the HESA Student Record for the academic year ending 31 July 2002. 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.

The HESA Student Record for 2001/02 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 2001/02 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.

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

Access Entrants to Higher Education

In the year 2001/02 there were almost 36 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 Undergraduate HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2001/02

First Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	8,800	720	9,520
Other UG	3,285	865	4,150
First Years Total	12,085	1,585	13,670
All Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	23,805	3,040	26,845
Other UG	7,740	1,340	9,080
All Years Total	31,545	4,380	35,925

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 2001/02

First Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	3.1%	2.5%	3.1%
Other UG	6.9%	0.4%	1.7%
First Years Total	3.7%	0.7%	2.5%
All Years	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	3.1%	3.7%	3.1%
Other UG	8.0%	0.4%	2.1%
All Years Total	3.6%	1.0%	2.8%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

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 over 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 2001/02

Subject Group	Access	Other	Not Known	Total	% with Access Qualification *
Medicine & dentistry	5	180	55	235	1.6%
Subjects allied to medicine	6,470	40,175	8,075	54,720	13.9%
Biological sciences	20	1,250	115	1,385	1.4%
Veterinary science	0	85	40	125	0.0%
Agriculture & related subjects	15	2,360	335	2,710	0.6%
Physical sciences	15	670	110	795	2.5%
Mathematical sciences	5	350	15	370	1.1%
Computer science	235	8,820	900	9,960	2.6%
Engineering & technology	80	4,325	465	4,870	1.9%
Architecture, building & planning	10	1,520	190	1,725	0.6%
Social, economic & political studies	465	2,770	615	3,845	14.3%
Law	5	570	65	640	0.5%
Business & administrative studies	170	11,645	1,175	12,990	1.4%
Librarianship & information science	25	945	68	1,035	2.4%
Languages	0	1,370	858	2,230	0.1%
Humanities	10	130	45	180	5.8%
Creative arts & design	150	5,625	910	6,685	2.6%
Education	20	1,980	245	2,245	1.1%
Combined	50	3,745	835	4,630	1.3%
Total	7,740	88,515	15,125	111,380	8.0%

** Excludes unknown qualification on entry*

Table 4 summarises the subjects studied by all access entrants.

Table 4: Entrants with Access Qualification by Mode, Level and Subject Group 2001/02

Level Mode	First Degree		Other UG		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Medicine & dentistry	5	0	5	0	10
Subjects allied to medicine	1,540	85	2,630	115	4,370
Biological sciences	565	45	10	10	630
Veterinary science	20	0	0	0	20
Agriculture & related subjects	35	0	10	0	45
Physical sciences	160	15	10	10	190
Mathematical sciences	25	5	5	0	35
Computer science	726	40	135	50	955
Engineering & technology	250	5	40	15	310
Architecture, building & planning	50	5	10	10	75
Social, economic & political studies	1,305	95	210	115	1,725
Law	390	65	0	10	465
Business & administrative studies	415	50	100	75	640
Librarianship & information science	170	5	10	0	190
Languages	420	35	0	90	545
Humanities	385	35	5	25	450
Creative arts & design	455	65	70	20	615
Education	875	30	10	55	970
Combined	1,005	140	35	260	1,440
Total	8,800	720	3,285	865	13,670

Access entrants to undergraduate programmes during 2001/02 were concentrated in the post-1992 universities with Salford University being the only pre-1992 universities to recruit more than 250 access entrants that year. Table 5 shows the institutions that recruited the largest number of students with an Access qualification.

Table 5: Access entrants by Mode and Institution 2001/02
(Number of entrants and percentage of entrants with known qualification on entry)

	Full-time		Part-time		Total	
Middlesex University	410	8.4%	115	5.9%	525	7.7%
University of the West of England, Bristol	437	8.9%	30	1.1%	467	6.2%
The University of Wolverhampton	309	5.7%	43	1.6%	352	4.4%
London South Bank University	276	8.7%	75	2.5%	351	5.7%
The University of Teesside	277	9.2%	70	1.3%	347	4.1%
Thames Valley University	288	9.3%	32	0.7%	320	4.2%
Kingston University	290	6.1%	12	3.2%	302	5.9%
The University of Greenwich	277	6.4%	22	1.0%	299	4.6%
University of Hertfordshire	250	4.9%	44	2.6%	294	4.3%
The University of Central England in Birmingham	274	6.0%	17	0.4%	291	3.4%
The University of Salford	269	6.1%	17	2.2%	286	5.5%
Anglia Polytechnic University	229	5.6%	41	0.5%	270	2.2%
The Manchester Metropolitan University	252	3.6%	12	0.9%	264	3.2%
Sheffield Hallam University	236	3.5%	26	1.6%	262	3.1%
Liverpool John Moores University	220	3.8%	28	1.0%	248	2.9%
Coventry University	206	5.1%	39	1.8%	245	4.0%
The University of Westminster	211	5.4%	30	0.8%	241	3.2%

Access Entrants – Student Characteristics

Table 6 shows the gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes in 2001/02.

Table 6: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Gender 2001/02

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
Female	68.1%	53.8%	82.3%	63.4%	58.4%
Male	31.9%	46.2%	17.7%	36.6%	41.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

The table shows that, across both full-time and part-time modes, there are more females than males entering undergraduate programmes in 2001/02. 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 2001/02

Entry Qualification	Access		Other		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Under 18	0.1%	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%
18 to 20	4.5%	1.2%	74.3%	5.0%	44.8%
21 to 24	20.1%	11.4%	13.4%	11.5%	12.7%
25 to 29	21.0%	18.2%	4.5%	14.9%	9.1%
30 and over	54.3%	68.6%	6.8%	65.7%	31.6%
Unknown	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	2.3%	1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

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. Ethnicity data in the HESA student record is only collected for UK domiciled students.

Table 8: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Ethnicity 2001/02

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
White	68.8%	77.2%	61.9%	75.5%	76.2%
Black Caribbean	4.9%	1.3%	6.3%	1.4%	1.4%
Black African	7.4%	2.3%	15.3%	2.3%	2.5%
Black other	1.3%	0.4%	1.2%	0.5%	0.5%
Indian	1.5%	5.1%	1.4%	1.8%	3.5%
Pakistani	1.8%	2.7%	1.2%	1.1%	2.0%
Bangladeshi	0.8%	0.9%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%
Chinese	0.5%	1.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Asian other	1.5%	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%
Other	3.8%	2.6%	2.8%	1.7%	2.2%
Not known	7.8%	5.1%	8.1%	13.8%	9.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

Data only covers UK domiciled students

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 2001/02. 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 2001/02

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
No known disability	89.7%	94.1%	92.5%	94.3%	94.1%
Dyslexia	3.8%	2.5%	2.3%	1.0%	1.9%
Blind/Partially sighted	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Deaf/Hearing impairment	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Wheelchair user/Mobility difficulties	0.7%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Personal care support	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Mental health difficulties	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
An unseen disability (*)	2.1%	1.4%	1.8%	0.8%	1.1%
Multiple disabilities	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
A disability not listed above	1.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Not known	0.3%	0.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

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

Access Students - Qualifications Awarded

In 2001/02, 7725 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 2001/02 to students who entered HE with an Access Qualification

	First-degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & dentistry	10	0	10
Subjects allied to medicine	660	1,105	1,765
Biological sciences	395	20	420
Agriculture & related subjects	35	5	40
Physical sciences	135	10	145
Mathematical sciences	10	0	15
Computer science	330	115	440
Engineering & technology	145	40	185
Architecture, building & planning	60	10	70
Social, economic & political studies	940	285	1,225
Law	215	20	235
Business & administrative studies	310	90	400
Librarianship & information science	140	10	150
Languages	310	10	325
Humanities	310	40	350
Creative arts & design	460	80	540
Education	660	30	690
Combined	650	70	720
Total	5,775	1,950	7,725

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 2001/02

	Access	Other	Total
First class	7.1%	10.0%	9.9%
Upper second class	43.8%	45.7%	45.7%
Lower second class	37.1%	32.8%	32.9%
Third class / Pass	8.7%	7.0%	7.0%
Other	3.3%	4.6%	4.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes unknown qualification on entry