

Students Entering Higher Education Institutions with Access Qualifications 2005/06

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Introduction

The following analyses are taken from the HESA Student Record for the academic year ending 31 July 2006. 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 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 2005/06 does distinguish between QAA-recognised Access to HE certificates and other "access" certificates. This distinction is only made for students who began their current programme of study on or after 1 August 2002. Analyses of students that began their current programme before 1 August 2002 do not 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 2005/06 12,630 students entered an undergraduate programme with a QAA-recognised Access to HE certificate (2004/05:10,725 2003/04:11,830). Table 1 breaks these down by mode and level of qualification.

Table 1: Entrants to Undergraduate HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2005/06

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	7920	520	8440
Other UG	3430	760	4190
Total	11350	1280	12630

Undergraduate entrants with Access qualifications represent 2.0% of all undergraduate entrants (2004/05:1.8% 2003/04:2.0%). Table 2 shows the proportion in each of the categories in Table 1.

Table 2: Proportion of Entrants to HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2005/06

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	2.4%	0.9%	2.1%
Other UG	6.8%	0.4%	1.7%
Total	2.9%	0.5%	2.0%

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 88% of these students with an Access qualification are studying in the area of "Subjects allied to medicine".

Table 3: Full-time Other Undergraduate Entrants by Subject Area and Entry Qualification 2005/06

	Access (QAA recognised)	Access (other)	Other	Unknown	Total
Medicine & dentistry	10	0	80	80	170
Subjects allied to medicine	3045	205	18020	1320	22590
Biological sciences	20	5	1880	150	2055
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	5	10	1275	35	1330
Physical sciences	5	10	505	65	580
Mathematical sciences	0	0	310	10	320
Computer science	70	25	2870	175	3140
Engineering & technology	40	5	2330	260	2630
Architecture, building & planning	5	15	1240	205	1465
Social studies	30	15	1500	200	1745
Law	5	5	670	75	755
Business & administrative studies	60	30	5740	520	6355
Mass communications & documentation	10	5	695	60	765
Languages	10	5	1525	340	1880
Historical and philosophical studies	0	5	185	390	585
Creative arts & design	80	20	4715	490	5305
Education	30	5	1930	210	2175
Combined	5	0	1160	70	1230
Total	3430	355	46630	4660	55075

Table 4 summarises the subjects studied by all Access entrants.

Table 4: Entrants with Access Qualification by Mode, Level and Subject Area 2005/06

Level	First Degree		Other UG		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Medicine & dentistry	30	0	10	0	35
Subjects allied to medicine	2015	140	3045	175	5375
Biological sciences	830	50	20	20	920
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	30	0	5	0	40
Physical sciences	165	5	5	0	175
Mathematical sciences	30	5	5	0	35
Computer science	330	15	70	55	465
Engineering & technology	155	0	40	15	210
Architecture, building & planning	55	5	5	10	80
Social studies	1575	75	30	90	1765
Law	395	55	5	10	460
Business & administrative studies	530	30	60	35	655
Mass communications & documentation	160	5	10	5	180
Languages	345	25	10	60	440
Historical & philosophical studies	275	30	0	10	315
Creative arts & design	410	40	80	50	580
Education	540	30	30	205	810
Combined	50	10	5	25	85
Total	7920	520	3430	760	12630

Access entrants to undergraduate programmes during 2005/06 were concentrated in the post-1992 universities. Table 5 shows the institutions that recruited more than 200 students with an Access qualification.

Table 5: Access entrants by Mode and Institution 2005/06
(Number of entrants and percentage of entrants with known qualification on entry)

	Full-time		Part-time		Total		% unknown qualification on entry
The University of Teesside	355	10.8%	80	1.1%	435	4.3%	4.1%
The University of Salford	395	8.1%	25	1.8%	420	6.7%	3.0%
The University of Wolverhampton	360	6.7%	45	1.6%	410	4.9%	0.0%
The University of East London	315	8.7%	55	3.0%	370	6.9%	6.7%
London South Bank University	320	7.9%	25	1.1%	345	5.4%	16.5%
Kingston University	320	4.7%	10	1.5%	330	4.5%	0.4%
University of Hertfordshire	300	4.6%	25	1.4%	320	4.0%	2.8%
The University of Greenwich	275	5.4%	45	2.0%	320	4.3%	5.7%
University of Central England in Birmingham	295	5.7%	15	0.4%	310	3.5%	6.4%
University of the West of England, Bristol	255	4.0%	35	1.2%	290	3.2%	9.7%
Anglia Ruskin University	240	5.1%	50	0.7%	290	2.5%	6.4%
The Manchester Metropolitan University	260	2.9%	15	1.1%	275	2.7%	4.5%
De Montfort University	240	3.8%	30	1.3%	270	3.2%	2.4%
University of Chester	250	8.4%	15	0.6%	260	5.1%	5.7%
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	245	3.7%	20	0.7%	260	2.8%	9.7%
Thames Valley University	185	4.7%	70	1.4%	255	2.9%	10.8%
Coventry University	240	5.2%	10	0.2%	245	3.1%	0.0%
Liverpool John Moores University	195	3.4%	25	1.1%	225	2.7%	4.0%
The University of Brighton	205	4.1%	15	0.7%	220	3.1%	3.2%
Brunel University	200	6.0%	5	2.0%	205	5.7%	0.7%
Sheffield Hallam University	190	3.1%	15	0.7%	205	2.4%	1.2%
London Metropolitan University	180	2.8%	20	0.5%	200	1.9%	0.5%

Access Entrants – Student Characteristics

Table 6 shows the gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes in 2005/06.

Table 6: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Gender 2005/06

Level Entry Qualification	First-degree			Other UG			Total
	Access	Other	% Access	Access	Other	% Access	
Female	6035	211930	2.8%	3600	155185	2.3%	376750
Male	2405	174300	1.4%	590	83485	0.7%	260780
Total	8440	386230	2.1%	4190	238670	1.7%	637530

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

The table shows that there are more females than males entering undergraduate programmes in 2005/06 and proportionately more females than males entering with an Access qualification. The difference is especially stark at the Other undergraduate level though the proportions at this 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 2005/06

Entry Qualification Mode	Access		Other		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Under 18	5	0	3855	3570	7435
18 to 20	915	30	275630	14950	291530
21 to 24	2495	120	50295	31990	84900
25 to 29	2300	215	18310	38130	58955
30 and over	5630	910	27480	158665	192685
Unknown	5	5	90	1930	2030
Total	11350	1280	375660	249240	637530

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 similar 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.

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 2005/06

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
White	5485	263960	2740	178875	451065
Black or Black British - Caribbean	375	5410	180	3680	9645
Black or Black British - African	885	11980	740	7385	20995
Other Black background	120	1365	50	980	2510
Asian or Asian British - Indian	135	14735	45	4345	19260
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	170	8730	50	2560	11505
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	65	3360	10	720	4160
Chinese	30	3400	10	1235	4675
Other Asian background	145	4575	40	3225	7985
Other	450	12475	105	4570	17600
Not known	300	12200	130	14715	27345
Total	8165	342190	4100	222290	576745

*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 shows disability for undergraduate entrants in 2005/06. Entrants with Access qualifications are proportionately twice as likely to report dyslexia than entrants with other qualifications, though the relatively high proportion of "not known" records in the Other category might be masking a different pattern.

Table 9: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Disability 2005/06

Level	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
No known disability	7450	332535	3805	186765	530550
Dyslexia	445	13040	195	4120	17805
Blind/Partially sighted	25	585	5	365	975
Deaf/Hearing impairment	35	940	15	990	1980
Wheelchair user/Mobility difficulties	55	675	10	850	1595
Personal care support	0	40	0	25	65
Mental health difficulties	65	1120	20	780	1985
An unseen disability (*)	130	4090	60	2400	6680
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	5	305	10	75	395
Multiple disabilities	95	2045	15	1425	3585
A disability not listed above	105	2855	30	1695	4680
Not known	25	28000	25	39185	67235
Total	8440	386230	4190	238670	637530

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

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

Access Students - Qualifications Awarded

Note: Since this section is likely to include students who began their HE programme before 1 August 2002, it includes all types of "Access" entry qualification except those specifically identified as not being QAA recognised.

In 2005/06, 7275 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 2005/06 to students who entered HE with an Access Qualification

	First-degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & dentistry	10	0	10
Subjects allied to medicine	980	1985	2960
Biological sciences	405	45	450
Veterinary sciences	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	20	5	25
Physical sciences	90	10	95
Mathematical sciences	30	5	35
Computer science	270	60	330
Engineering & technology	85	25	110
Architecture, building & planning	30	10	40
Social studies	740	105	845
Law	180	25	205
Business & administrative studies	280	90	370
Mass communications and documentation	85	15	100
Languages	350	40	390
Historical and philosophical studies	250	20	270
Creative arts & design	285	85	370
Education	525	80	605
Combined	40	15	55
Total	4650	2620	7275

Table 11 shows the number 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 2005/06

	Access	Other	Total
First class	410	30855	31265
Upper second class	1985	121550	123530
Lower second class	1700	84655	86355
Third class / Pass	440	21375	21815
Unclassified	120	14920	15040
Total	4650	273350	278000

Excludes unknown qualification on entry