

Students Entering Higher Education Institutions with Access Qualifications 2006/07

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Introduction

The following analyses are taken from the HESA Student Record for the academic year ending 31 July 2007. 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 2006/07 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, though there are relatively few such students in the 2006/07 dataset.

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 2006/07 12,275 students entered an undergraduate programme with a QAA-recognised Access to HE certificate (2005/06:12,630). Table 1 breaks these down by mode and level of qualification.

Table 1: Entrants to Undergraduate HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2006/07

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	8260	405	8660
Other UG	2805	810	3615
Total	11060	1215	12275



Undergraduate entrants with Access qualifications represent 1.9% of all undergraduate entrants (2005/06: 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 2006/07

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	2.5%	0.7%	2.3%
Other UG	5.9%	0.4%	1.4%
Total	3.0%	0.5%	1.9%

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 89% 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 2006/07

	Access (QAA recognised)	Access (other)	Other	Unknown	Total
Medicine & dentistry	5	0	90	75	170
Subjects allied to medicine	2505	155	14245	2990	19895
Biological sciences	15	20	1950	180	2160
Veterinary science	0	0	20	0	20
Agriculture & related subjects	15	15	1235	70	1340
Physical sciences	10	20	615	35	675
Mathematical sciences	5	0	380	45	425
Computer science	30	30	2360	175	2595
Engineering & technology	30	10	2890	175	3105
Architecture, building & planning	10	5	1370	165	1555
Social studies	30	20	1890	215	2160
Law	0	0	675	60	740
Business & administrative studies	40	30	5255	365	5695
Mass communications and documentation	5	10	685	60	760
Languages	10	10	1600	325	1940
Historical and philosophical studies	0	0	235	60	295
Creative arts & design	65	30	5145	435	5670
Education	20	15	2130	360	2525
Combined	0	0	1260	50	1305
Total	2805	370	44025	5835	53030



Table 4 summarises the subjects studied by all Access entrants.

Table 4: Entrants with Access Qualification by Mode, Level and Subject Area 2006/07

Level Mode	First Degree		Other UG		
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Medicine & dentistry	30	0	5	0	40
Subjects allied to medicine	1910	100	2505	185	4705
Biological sciences	960	40	15	10	1025
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	20	0	15	5	40
Physical sciences	185	5	10	5	205
Mathematical sciences	30	0	5	0	35
Computer science	280	10	30	40	365
Engineering & technology	150	0	30	10	190
Architecture, building & planning	65	5	10	10	95
Social studies	1580	50	30	80	1745
Law	430	55	0	10	500
Business & administrative studies	585	30	40	50	710
Mass communications and documentation	165	10	5	5	185
Languages	405	20	10	45	480
Historical and philosophical studies	270	15	0	55	345
Creative arts & design	390	30	65	25	510
Education	735	25	20	230	1005
Combined	65	5	0	35	105
Total	8260	405	2805	810	12275



Access entrants to undergraduate programmes during 2006/07 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 2006/07
(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	410	12.5%	75	1.0%	485	4.7%	5.9%
The University of Greenwich	355	6.7%	75	3.2%	430	5.9%	8.8%
Sheffield Hallam University	410	6.1%	15	0.6%	430	4.8%	1.0%
The University of East London	365	9.5%	55	2.9%	420	7.8%	7.2%
Kingston University	305	4.3%	5	1.1%	310	4.3%	0.6%
Liverpool John Moores University	265	4.8%	25	0.9%	290	3.5%	2.4%
London South Bank University	270	7.5%	20	1.0%	290	5.6%	22.6%
University of Hertfordshire	265	4.5%	20	1.4%	285	4.1%	0.8%
Anglia Ruskin University	260	7.2%	5	0.2%	270	3.8%	3.6%
University of the West of England, Bristol	235	3.8%	30	0.9%	270	2.9%	6.1%
The Manchester Metropolitan University	250	3.1%	10	0.5%	260	2.8%	4.7%
The University of Westminster	240	5.3%	15	0.5%	260	3.4%	3.4%
Edge Hill University	200	8.4%	55	1.3%	255	3.8%	2.7%
Birmingham City University	240	5.1%	10	0.4%	255	3.3%	6.6%
Coventry University	235	5.5%	15	0.5%	250	3.5%	0.0%
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	230	3.5%	15	0.4%	245	2.6%	5.0%
The University of Brighton	215	4.5%	25	1.1%	240	3.5%	4.3%
Middlesex University	180	4.4%	60	3.3%	235	4.2%	15.3%
University of Chester	210	6.9%	10	0.5%	220	4.4%	7.0%
Thames Valley University	165	5.6%	45	1.0%	210	3.0%	20.5%
Brunel University	195	5.7%	5	1.8%	200	5.8%	0.5%



Access Entrants – Student Characteristics

Table 6 shows the gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes in 2006/07.

Table 6: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Gender 2006/07

Level	First-degree			Other UG			Total
	Access	Other	% Access	Access	Other	% Access	
Female	6135	205050	2.9%	3130	159200	1.9%	373515
Male	2525	168865	1.5%	480	87580	0.5%	259455
Total	8660	373915	2.3%	3615	246780	1.4%	632970

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

The table shows that there are more females than males entering undergraduate programmes in 2006/07 and proportionately more females than males entering with an Access qualification. The difference is significant at both the First-degree and the Other undergraduate levels.

Table 7: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Entry Qualification, Mode and Age 2006/07

Entry Qualification	Access		Other		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Under 18	15	0	4020	4230	8270
18 to 20	1100	35	266680	18890	286705
21 to 24	2795	145	48680	34000	85620
25 to 29	2185	200	17615	40315	60315
30 and over	4960	835	24795	159885	190480
Unknown	0	0	80	1505	1580
Total	11060	1215	361870	258820	632970

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. There has been a slight shift towards the younger categories of full-time entrants compared with 2005/06.

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 dominated by entrants to 'continuing education' courses).



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 2006/07

Level Entry Qualification	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
White	5550	250095	2380	183550	441575
Black Caribbean	425	5470	185	3510	9595
Black African	1000	12060	595	7140	20795
Black other	100	1340	35	880	2355
Indian	160	14420	35	4520	19135
Pakistani	210	8800	20	2550	11580
Bangladeshi	80	3325	15	845	4265
Chinese	35	3190	10	1180	4410
Asian other	130	4540	35	3060	7770
Other	465	12385	120	4905	17870
Not known	225	11380	115	14980	26700
Total	8380	327000	3545	227120	566045

*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 2006/07. 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 2006/07

Level Entry Qualification	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
No known disability	7590	320135	3235	188365	519320
Dyslexia	485	12975	200	4495	18160
Blind/Partially sighted	25	625	5	340	995
Deaf/Hearing impairment	40	975	15	925	1955
Wheelchair user/Mobility difficulties	40	700	15	750	1500
Personal care support	0	30	0	20	55
Mental health difficulties	105	1260	20	825	2210
An unseen disability (*)	140	3570	55	2255	6025
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	5	295	0	70	370
Multiple disabilities	100	3340	10	1890	5340
A disability not listed above	110	3045	40	1810	5010
Not known	20	26965	15	45030	72030
Total	8660	373915	3615	246780	632970

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

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



Access Students - Qualifications Awarded

In 2006/07, 7230 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 2006/07 to students who entered HE with an Access Qualification

	First-degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & dentistry	25	0	25
Subjects allied to medicine	1090	2145	3235
Biological sciences	375	75	450
Veterinary sciences	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	10	5	15
Physical sciences	80	15	95
Mathematical sciences	35	5	35
Computer science	190	70	260
Engineering & technology	60	30	95
Architecture, building & planning	30	10	40
Social studies	715	125	840
Law	160	30	190
Business & administrative studies	300	80	380
Mass communications and documentation	75	25	100
Languages	250	35	290
Historical and philosophical studies	190	15	210
Creative arts & design	260	90	350
Education	460	130	590
Combined	30	0	35
Total	4340	2895	7230

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 2006/07

	Access	Other	Total
First class	380	31525	31905
Upper second class	1865	120075	121935
Lower second class	1555	79935	81490
Third class / Pass	385	19155	19540
Unclassified	155	13180	13335
Total	4340	263870	268210

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

Note: In a change to previous years' reports, tables 10 and 11 now only include students who entered their current programme with a QAA recognised-Access qualification.

