

Students Entering Higher Education Institutions with Access Qualifications 2007/08

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Introduction

The following analyses are taken from the HESA Student Record for the academic year ending 31 July 2008. 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 2007/08 makes a clear distinction between QAA-recognised Access to HE certificates and other "access" certificates. In this paper the term Access refers specifically to QAA-recognised Access to HE certificates.

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 2007/08 12,080 students entered an undergraduate programme with a QAA-recognised Access to HE certificate (2006/07:12,275). Table 1 breaks these down by mode and level of qualification.

Table 1: Entrants to Undergraduate HE Programmes with Access Entry Qualifications 2007/08

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	7870	485	8355
Other UG	2755	965	3725
Total	10630	1450	12080



Undergraduate entrants with Access qualifications represent 1.8% of all undergraduate entrants (2006/07: 1.9%). 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 2007/08

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
First Degree	2.3%	0.9%	2.1%
Other UG	5.1%	0.5%	1.4%
Total	2.7%	0.5%	1.8%

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 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 2007/08

	Access	Other	Unknown	Total
Medicine & dentistry	5	110	45	160
Subjects allied to medicine	2425	13845	1620	17890
Biological sciences	20	2085	90	2195
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	10	1445	130	1585
Physical sciences	15	695	95	805
Mathematical sciences	0	410	25	440
Computer science	45	2290	150	2485
Engineering & technology	30	3065	155	3250
Architecture, building & planning	20	1730	45	1790
Social studies	45	3125	255	3420
Law	0	915	45	965
Business & administrative studies	50	5805	430	6285
Mass communications and documentation	10	845	40	895
Languages	5	1795	295	2095
Historical and philosophical studies	0	255	60	320
Creative arts & design	55	5660	240	5950
Education	25	6515	345	6885
Combined	0	885	160	1045
Total	2755	51475	4225	58460



Table 4 summarises the subjects studied by all Access entrants.

Table 4: Entrants with Access Qualification by Mode, Level and Subject Area 2007/08

Level	First Degree		Other UG		Total
Mode	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Medicine & dentistry	15	0	5	0	25
Subjects allied to medicine	1845	115	2425	250	4635
Biological sciences	900	55	20	5	975
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	15	0	10	0	30
Physical sciences	155	5	15	5	180
Mathematical sciences	30	0	0	0	35
Computer science	270	10	45	15	340
Engineering & technology	135	5	30	15	185
Architecture, building & planning	70	5	20	10	105
Social studies	1540	45	45	85	1715
Law	455	55	0	30	540
Business & administrative studies	630	55	50	50	785
Mass communications and documentation	165	10	10	5	185
Languages	390	25	5	55	475
Historical and philosophical studies	210	25	0	40	275
Creative arts & design	385	35	55	30	505
Education	615	35	25	300	975
Combined	35	5	0	75	115
Total	7870	485	2755	965	12080



Access entrants to undergraduate programmes during 2007/08 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 2007/08
(Number of entrants and percentage of entrants with known qualification on entry)

	Full-time		Part-time		Total		% unknown qualification on entry
Sheffield Hallam University	435	5.9%	20	0.7%	455	4.4%	0.3%
The University of Teesside	305	9.5%	120	1.3%	425	3.5%	6.4%
Birmingham City University	380	7.0%	20	0.6%	405	4.4%	0.7%
The University of Salford	375	8.7%	15	1.3%	390	7.4%	9.2%
The University of Greenwich	300	5.1%	80	2.3%	380	4.1%	4.9%
London South Bank University	330	8.0%	45	2.3%	375	6.2%	17.1%
The University of Wolverhampton	315	6.2%	55	2.1%	370	4.8%	1.8%
Anglia Ruskin University	330	7.9%	15	0.3%	345	3.9%	1.6%
The University of East London	305	6.0%	30	1.9%	335	5.0%	1.2%
Edge Hill University	235	8.6%	100	2.0%	330	4.4%	1.1%
Kingston University	300	4.2%	10	1.5%	305	4.1%	0.0%
The Manchester Metropolitan University	295	3.5%	15	0.8%	305	3.1%	5.1%
Thames Valley University	260	8.3%	50	1.0%	305	3.8%	10.5%
University of Hertfordshire	285	4.9%	10	0.6%	295	3.9%	1.0%
Middlesex University	225	5.2%	55	2.8%	275	4.5%	15.3%
London Metropolitan University	195	4.2%	75	1.6%	270	2.9%	0.2%
The University of Westminster	220	4.8%	45	1.5%	265	3.5%	3.7%
University of the West of England, Bristol	235	3.7%	20	0.7%	250	2.8%	11.8%
Coventry University	215	4.4%	5	0.2%	220	2.8%	0.2%
University of Derby	210	5.6%	10	0.6%	220	4.1%	6.2%
The University of Huddersfield	195	3.8%	20	0.8%	215	2.7%	0.3%
University of Chester	200	7.0%	10	0.6%	210	4.6%	8.2%
The University of Northampton	200	6.4%	10	0.7%	210	4.6%	14.0%
De Montfort University	190	3.8%	20	1.6%	205	3.3%	1.1%
University of Bedfordshire	190	5.4%	10	0.4%	200	3.3%	2.3%



Access Entrants – Student Characteristics

Table 6 shows the gender split for entrants to undergraduate programmes in 2007/08.

Table 6: Entrants to Undergraduate Programmes by Level, Entry Qualification and Gender 2007/08

Level	First-degree			Other UG			Total
	Access	Other	% Access	Access	Other	% Access	
Female	5920	214430	2.7%	3200	165570	1.9%	389120
Male	2435	178145	1.3%	520	92555	0.6%	273655
Total	8355	392585	2.1%	3725	258160	1.4%	662825

Excludes unknown qualification on entry. Total includes indeterminate gender.

The table shows that there are more females than males entering undergraduate programmes in 2007/08 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 2007/08

Entry Qualification	Access		Other		Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Under 18	5	0	4330	6095	10430
18 to 20	1110	60	284225	18745	304145
21 to 24	2730	220	53300	34330	90575
25 to 29	2265	250	19275	41775	63560
30 and over	4520	920	26375	161190	193000
Unknown	0	5	45	1075	1120
Total	10630	1450	387540	263205	662825

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.

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 2007/08

Level Entry Qualification	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
White	5130	261320	2345	192710	461510
Black Caribbean	485	5705	230	4080	10500
Black African	1030	13525	615	8310	23475
Black other	110	1310	55	1005	2475
Indian	150	14230	35	5135	19550
Pakistani	210	9020	45	2920	12195
Bangladeshi	90	3420	15	1065	4585
Chinese	30	3680	10	1270	4990
Asian other	125	4695	45	3375	8240
Other	520	14035	155	6210	20915
Not known	235	10330	90	12395	23055
Total	8110	341270	3635	238470	591485

*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 2007/08. 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 2007/08

Level Entry Qualification	First-degree		Other UG		Total
	Access	Other	Access	Other	
No known disability	7235	336140	3265	196225	542860
Blind/partially sighted	20	550	5	345	915
Deaf/hearing impairment	35	950	15	990	1995
Wheelchair user/mobility difficulties	55	755	15	900	1730
Personal care support	0	45	0	60	105
Mental health difficulties	110	1620	35	955	2720
An unseen disability(*)	140	3900	55	2570	6665
Multiple disabilities	100	2440	15	2000	4550
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	5	405	0	110	520
A specific learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia	540	14495	230	5260	20530
A disability not listed above	95	3250	40	2305	5685
Information refused	10	505	5	550	1065
Not known	10	27535	45	45885	73480
Total	8355	392585	3725	258160	662825

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 2007/08 to students who entered HE with an Access Qualification

	First-degree	Other UG	Total
Medicine & dentistry	20	10	25
Subjects allied to medicine	1515	2280	3795
Biological sciences	470	70	545
Veterinary sciences	0	0	0
Agriculture & related subjects	15	10	25
Physical sciences	100	20	115
Mathematical sciences	25	0	30
Computer science	170	60	230
Engineering & technology	70	20	90
Architecture, building & planning	35	20	55
Social studies	995	135	1130
Law	180	55	235
Business & administrative studies	300	105	405
Mass communications and documentation	85	10	100
Languages	280	35	315
Historical and philosophical studies	205	20	220
Creative arts & design	285	95	380
Education	445	110	555
Combined	30	5	35
Total	5230	3060	8285

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 2007/08

	Access	Other	Total
First class	485	35645	36130
Upper second class	2140	129370	131515
Lower second class	1860	83280	85140
Third class / Pass	565	21215	21780
Unclassified	175	14495	14670
Classification not applicable	0	30	30
Total	5230	284040	289265

Excludes unknown qualification on entry

