Key Statistics 2024-25

This summary of 2024-25 key statistics demonstrates the continued success of the Access to HE Diploma in enabling adults to enter and succeed in higher education, and to support local and national skills needs.

The Access to HE Diploma is a widely recognised Level 3 qualification that provides opportunities for adults to transition to enter higher education. It also offers chances for adults wishing to retrain for a second graduate-entry profession by delivering locally-devised, flexible courses across the UK.

In 2024-25:

16,540
Access to HE students entering higher education in September 2024
2023-24: 18,320

Source: HESA/Jisc

34,790
Students registered on an Access to HE Diploma
2023-24: 36,185

15,095
Access to HE students applying to higher education who were accepted for September 2025 entry
2023-24: 18,285

Source: UCAS

17,500 Registered to complete in one academic year
2023-24: 16,570

17,285 Registered to complete in more than one academic year
2023-24: 19,610

Source: AVAs

Students with an Access to HE Diploma accepted for undergraduate programmes for September 2024 entry



Source: HESA/Jisc

What do they study in higher education?

	Entrants with an Access to HE Diploma	% of all AHE student registrations
Subjects allied to medicine – including all forms of nursing	8,580	51.9%
Social sciences	1,610	9.7%
Business and management	935	5.6%
Psychology	925	5.6%
Computing	710	4.3%

Source: HESA/Jisc

74%
of Access to HE students stayed in their local area to study in higher education

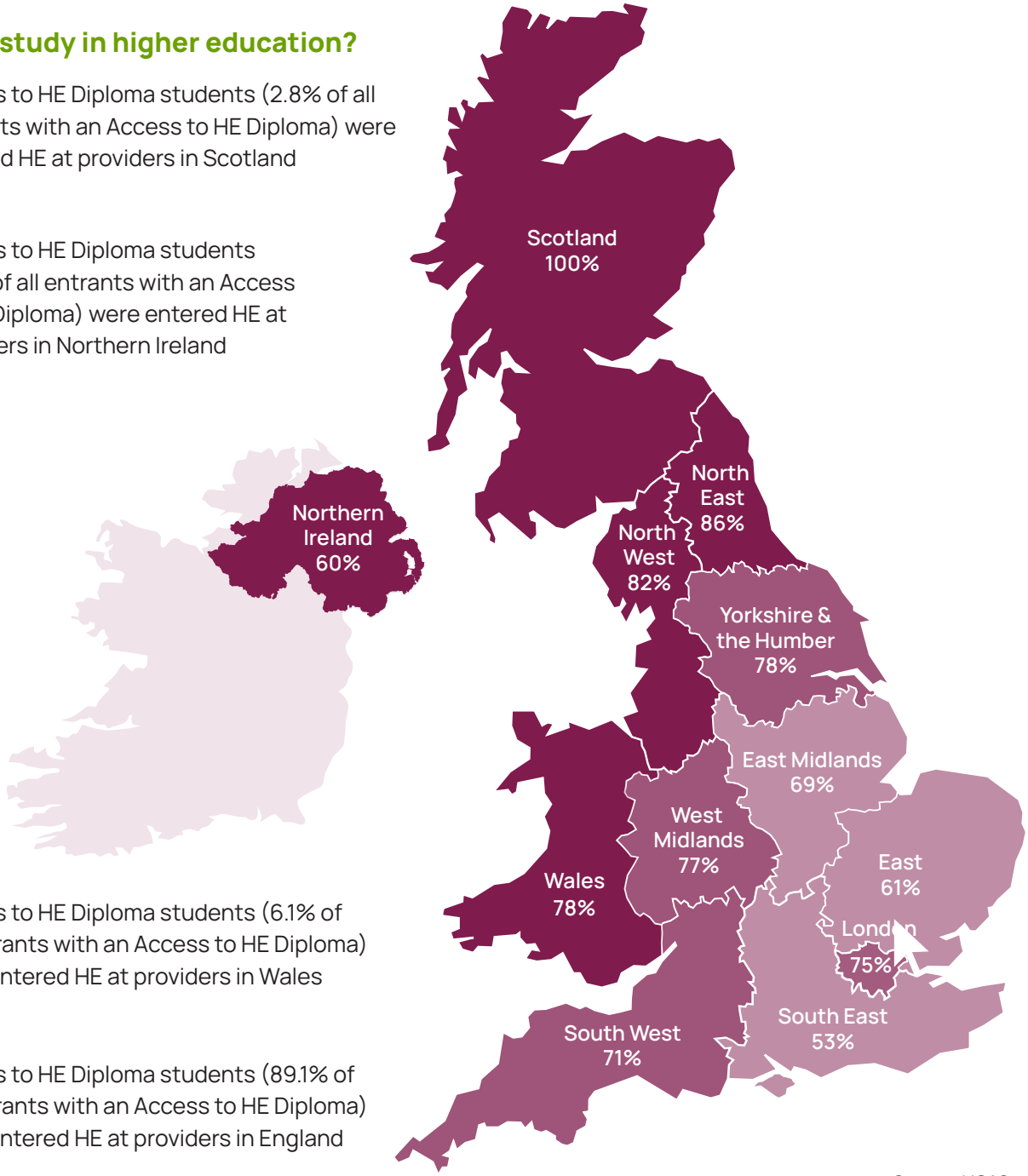
The Scottish Wider Access Programme runs the access to HE scheme in Scotland. The map shows individuals resident in Scotland who studied a QAA-recognised Access to HE Diploma and were accepted to a higher education provider in Scotland.

Source: UCAS

Where do they study in higher education?

460
Access to HE Diploma students (2.8% of all entrants with an Access to HE Diploma) were entered HE at providers in Scotland

340
Access to HE Diploma students (2.1% of all entrants with an Access to HE Diploma) were entered HE at providers in Northern Ireland



1,010
Access to HE Diploma students (6.1% of all entrants with an Access to HE Diploma) were entered HE at providers in Wales

14,730
Access to HE Diploma students (89.1% of all entrants with an Access to HE Diploma) were entered HE at providers in England

Source: HESA

Source: UCAS

15%
of students domiciled in the South East are accepted at higher education providers in London.

Read Ellie's story

Source: UCAS

How well are they retained in higher education?

	AHE as % all entrants by qualification	Other as % all entrants by qualification
Continue or qualify at same HE provider	87.1%	87.7%
No longer in HE	10.5%	9.1%
Transfer to another HE provider	2.4%	3.1%

Source: HESA /Jisc

Students with an Access to HE Diploma are as likely to continue or qualify at the same HE provider as students with other qualifications. However, they are more likely to leave their studies than move to another HE provider.

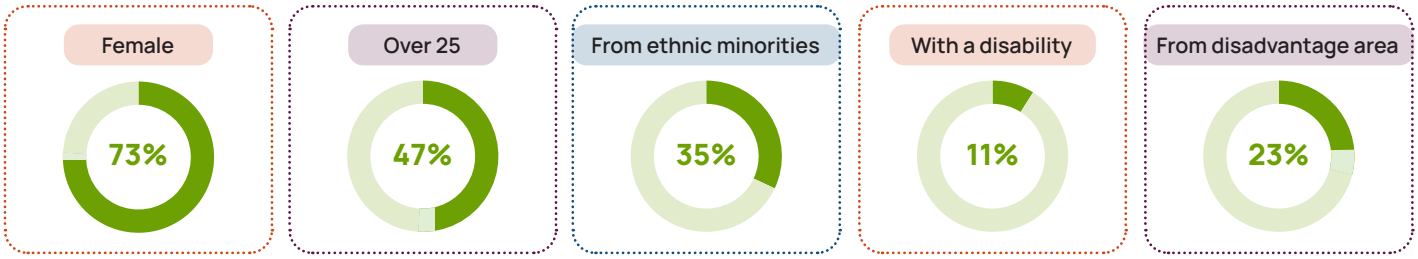
How well do they do in their undergraduate studies?

Class of first degree	Other	Access to HE Diploma
First class honours	22.7%	24.5%
Upper second class honours	37.9%	33.2%
Lower second class honours	15.8%	19.3%
Third class honours/Pass	2.5%	4.6%
Unclassified	5.4%	4.0%

Source: HESA/Jisc

A higher proportion of graduates with an Access to HE Diploma were awarded a first class honours degree in 2024-25 than graduates with other qualifications.

Students registered to study on an Access to HE Diploma in 2024-25



Source: AVAs

What do they study as their Access to HE Diploma?

In 2024-25 students studied on **155** different Diploma titles

Take a look at our course search

Access to HE student registrations		% of all Access to HE student registrations
20,245	Health, Public Services and Care	58%
4,365	Science and Mathematics	13%
2,755	Social Sciences	8%
2,475	Business, Administration and Law	7%
1,105	Digital Technology	3%

Source: AVAs

58% were in subjects in Health, Public Services and Care

Read Nicola's story

Where do they study their Access to HE Diploma?

- **33,290** Access to HE students (95.7% of all registrations) are studying at providers in England
- **1,435** Access to HE students (4.1% of all registrations) are studying at providers in Wales
- **55** Access to HE students (0.2% of all registrations) are studying at providers in Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man

- **58.4%** study within a further education college
- **40.3%** study within a private training provider or other education provider
- **1.2%** study within a higher education provider

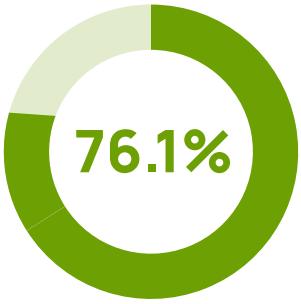
Source: AVAs

What results did they get?



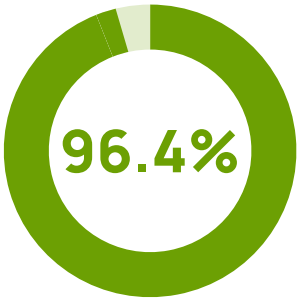
Students registered to start and complete their Diploma within the reporting academic year (Full time students)

Source: AVAs



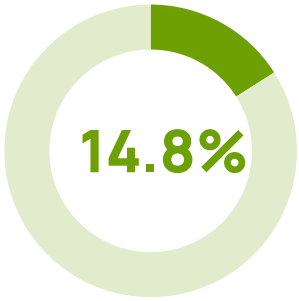
Full time students certificated as a percentage of full time students starting in the academic year (achievement rate)

Source: AVAs



Full time students certificated as a percentage of full time students who completed in the academic year (pass rate)

Source: AVAs



All Distinction grade profile

Source: AVAs

How well are they retained on their Access to HE Diploma?

79%

full time students who completed their Diploma as a percentage of full time students starting a Diploma (Retention rate)

Source: AVAs

Full-time students are those registered to start their Diploma on or after 1 August 2024 and to finish by 31 July 2025

Making sense of the figures

The data used in this publication is provided from a variety of sources, as detailed below.

HESA

HESA - students entering undergraduate programmes who took an Access to HE course. The data includes full and part-time students registered on the first year of undergraduate courses but excludes those enrolled on directly-funded HE courses in FE institutions. Data relates to students who took an Access to HE course before 2024-25 – a different cohort from that reported elsewhere. (Copyright Jisc 2026.)

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QAA

QAA - full and part-time students on QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas in England and Wales. Data is provided by the AVAs that award the Diploma. Data relates to the 2024-25 academic year.

UCAS

UCAS – applicants and accepted applicants to full-time HE courses. It includes applicants to HE courses provided by FE institutions but does not include applicants to part-time HE courses. Data relates to the September 2025 entry cycle.

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