Key Statistics 2020-21

This summary of 2020-21 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 2020-21:

- **23,865** Access to HE students entered higher education (2019-20: 22,635)
- **43,420** students registered to study an Access to HE Diploma (2019-20: 40,550)
- **23,725** Access to HE students applying to higher education accepted for Sept 2020 entry (2019-20: 24,465)

Access to HE students

- **Entering higher education with an Access to HE Diploma in September 2020**
  - Female: 75%
  - Over 25: 55%
  - From ethnic minorities: 32%
  - With a disability: 25%
  - From disadvantaged area: 23%

Registered to study an Access to HE Diploma in 2020-21

- Female: 61%
- Over 25: 72%
- From ethnic minorities: 25%

Going to university

- 77% of Access to HE students stayed in their local area to study in higher education.

What do they study?

- 56.3% of Access to HE registrations were on Health courses.

Top 5 HE subjects studied by students with an Access to HE Diploma:

- Nursing
- Social Sciences and Psychology
- Business
- Biological and Sports Science
- Education

19% of students entering HE with an Access to HE Diploma studied Adult nursing, compared with 2% with other Level 3 qualifications.
What results do they get?

Access to HE

- 92.4% of students completing their course in 2020-21 were awarded the Diploma.
- 63.6% of all registered students completed their Diploma by August 2021.

At University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Access to HE</th>
<th>Other qualifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:1</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:2</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

11.7% of mature entrants with an Access to HE Diploma were no longer in higher education study the following year compared to 12.2% of mature entrants with other Level 3 qualifications.

Data from the Graduate Outcomes Survey shows that 70.6% of graduates with an Access to HE Diploma completing the survey were in employment compared to 60.8% of graduates with other qualifications. The Graduate Outcomes Survey collects information about graduate employment.

Fastest growing occupations 2022-2027

A number of occupations for those graduating from higher education are predicted to grow over the next five years including:

- Information Technology: +17,034
- Sales and Marketing: +9,021
- Teaching: +8,387
- Nursing and Midwifery: +19,779
- Business and Finance: +10,491

Source: Emsi 2022 data

Making sense of the figures

The data used in this publication is provided from a variety of sources, as detailed below. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

- QAA - full and part-time students on QAA-recognised Access to HE Diplomas in England and Wales. Data is provided by the 11 AVAs that award the Diploma and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for publicly-funded Diplomas in England. Data relates to the 2020-21 academic year.
- 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 2020-21 entry cycle.
- 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 2020-21 - a different cohort from that reported elsewhere.