

Care Experienced Students in College and University

1. Data on Care Experienced students has been collected in the college and university sectors from 2013-14 so there are three available years of data on these students.

Colleges

2. In the initial years of collection it was expected that the data under-represented the numbers of Care Experienced (CE) students in colleges. This has been confirmed by a large increase in numbers between 2014-15 and 2015-16. Further years of data are required before the figures can be considered robust and trend analysis is possible.
3. Table 1 shows the figures for CE students in each year by college region. In 2013-14 and 2014-15 there were a number of regions where no students disclosed a CE background, which was an initial indication that the figures were under-reported. In 2015-16 all regions reported CE students. A number of regions: Borders, Edinburgh, Tayside and West saw large increases in their number of disclosed CE students.
4. In 2015-16 there were 2,138 students from a CE background representing 18,654 credits which is 0.8% of the sectors enrolments and 1.0% of overall activity. The percentage of each region's enrolments varies – Borders reported 4.3% of their enrolments were CE students and West College Scotland had the second highest at 2.3%. Edinburgh (1.6%), Forth Valley (1.4%) and Tayside (1.0%) were the only others above the sector figure.

Table 1: Care Experienced Enrolments by College Region 2013-14 to 2015-16

	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Aberdeen &	0	0%	*	0.02	66	0.3%
Ayrshire	*	0.01	5	0.03	8	0.05
Borders	0	0%	0	0%	223	4.3%
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0%	0	0%	29	0.5%
Edinburgh	0	0%	0	0%	320	1.6%
Fife	0	0%	0	0%	9	0.05
Forth Valley	239	1.7%	236	1.6%	204	1.4%
Glasgow	342	0.5%	92	0.2%	240	0.4%
Highlands & Islands	0	0%	60	0.2%	77	0.2%
Lanarkshire	166	0.5%	154	0.5%	146	0.7%

Land-based	0	0%	0	0%	*	0.06
Tayside	0	0%	0	0%	187	1.0%
West	*	0.01	98	0.3%	607	2.3%
West Lothian	0	0%	0	0%	18	0.3%
Total	750		647		2,138	0.8%

* indicates the number of CE students is lower than 5 (data protection)

Universities

5. Table 2 shows the figures for CE undergraduate entrants in each year by university. The numbers have fluctuated over the three years at sector, and at institution level.

Table 2: Care Experienced Undergraduate Entrants by Institution 2013-14 to 2015-16

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Aberdeen, University of	9	*	15
Abertay Dundee, University of	*	*	*
Dundee, University of	5	0	0
Edinburgh Napier University	6	15	13
Edinburgh, University of	36	54	16
Glasgow Caledonian University	0	17	17
Glasgow School of Art	0	0	0
Glasgow, University of	22	18	21
Heriot-Watt University	*	*	*
Highlands & Islands, University of the	35	36	33
Open University in Scotland	44	46	35
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	10	7	11
Robert Gordon University	10	16	16
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	0	*	*
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)	*	*	*
St Andrews, University of	*	*	10
Stirling, University of	8	45	39
Strathclyde, University of	10	11	16
West of Scotland, University of the	61	30	33
Total	266	311	286

* indicates the number of CE students is lower than 5 (data protection)

6. In 2015-16, the 286 CE students were studying at either First Degree or sub-degree level. This represents 0.4% of the total students at university studying at that level.

Level of study

7. The majority of CE students at college study at Further Education (FE) level, but the proportion studying Higher Education (HE) has increased. 5.6% of CE students studied at HE level in 2013-14 and this increased to 11.0% in 2015-16. At university, no CE students were studying higher than first degree level (i.e. post-graduate level).

Table 3: Level of Study in College and University 2013-14 to 2015-16

College Care Experienced Students				University Care Experienced Students			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Further Education	708	588	1902	First Degree	205	231	210
Higher Education	42	59	236	Other Undergraduate	61	80	76
Total	750	647	2,138	Total	266	311	286

Age

8. CE enrolments at college from all age groups increased between 2014-15 and 2015-16, but the greatest increase came from the '25 and over' age group. This age group increased from making up 25% of total CE students in 2014-15 to 33% in 2015-16.
9. The majority of CE students at university were aged 18 to 19 or were over the age of 25, although both groups saw their proportion of total students decline. This was mostly due to the increase in those under 18 between 2013-14 and 2015-16.

Table 4: Care Experienced Students in College and University by Age Group 2013-14 to 2015-16¹

College Care Experienced Students				University Care Experienced Students			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Under 16	155	70	117	Under 18	32	34	39
Age 16-17	180	174	516	Age 18-19	98	102	103
Age 18-19	134	138	440	Age 20-21	18	30	23
Age 20-24	105	105	367	Age 22-24	20	31	30
25 and over	176	160	698	25 and over	98	114	91
Total	750	647	2,138	Total	266	311	286

¹ Different age groups are shown for each sector since the college sector has more students of a younger age.

Gender

10. Table 5 shows that during 2015-16 the majority of CE students across all age groups at both college and university are female. There is a particularly high number of females aged 25 and over studying at college (80%) and university (70%).

Table 5: Care Experienced Students in College and University by Gender 2015-16²

College Care Experienced Students					University Care Experienced Students				
	Male	Female	% <i>Female</i>	Total		Male	Female	% <i>Female</i>	Total
Under 16	83	116	58%	199	Under 18	7	32	82%	39
Age 16-17	240	299	55%	539	Age 18-19	32	71	69%	103
Age 18-19	181	201	53%	382	Age 20-21	11	12	52%	23
Age 20-24	112	234	68%	346	Age 22-24	14	16	53%	30
25 and over	137	534	80%	671	25 and over	27	64	70%	91
Total	753	1384	65%	2137	Total	91	195	68%	286

Disability

11. In 2015-16, 14.0% of college students from non-care experienced backgrounds reported a disability. CE students had a higher rate of disability with 22.6% of students declaring a disability.
12. The comparison of disability disclosure over three years within the CE group is not particularly useful due to the small numbers but they have broadly been stable between 22% and 25%. In 2015-16, most CE college students reported having Dyslexia or Mental Health Difficulties, when looking at one disability per student.
13. In 2015-16, 12.0% of First Degree and sub-degree level university students from non-care experienced backgrounds had a declared disability. As in the college sector, CE students had a higher comparable rate of 25.7% of students declaring a disability. Again, trends between the years are not advisable due to small numbers.

Subject studied

14. In 2015-16, the largest subject areas for CE students in colleges were Care subjects with 28.4% of CE enrolments and Special Programmes with 11.4%. Special Programmes are courses specifically designed for students that need more support in their learning.

² Students who have identified their gender as 'Other' are excluded due to small numbers meaning totals will differ here.

15. CE students were strongly over-represented in Care subjects compared to the total student population. CE students were particularly under-represented in Engineering and Computing and ICT subjects. This is shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Care Experienced Students in college by Subject Area 2015-16

Subject Area	Care Experienced Students	Sector Total	Difference
Care	28.4%	15.2%	13.2%
Special Programmes	11.4%	8.5%	2.9%
Business, management and administration	6.8%	7.4%	-0.6%
Engineering	6.0%	12.2%	-6.2%
Education and training	5.9%	2.3%	3.6%
Hairdressing, Beauty and Comp. Therapies	5.4%	5.1%	0.3%
Languages and ESOL	5.3%	6.5%	-1.2%
Hospitality and tourism	5.0%	6.2%	-1.2%
Construction	5.1%	6.3%	-1.2%
Social subjects	4.1%	2.6%	1.5%
Sport and Leisure	3.6%	3.1%	0.5%
Computing and ICT	3.1%	8.4%	-5.3%
Art and design	3.0%	4.3%	-1.2%
Science	2.5%	3.6%	-1.1%
Land-based industries	1.6%	2.7%	-1.1%
Performing arts	1.5%	1.9%	-0.4%
Media	1.4%	1.7%	-0.2%
Nautical studies	0.0%	2.1%	-2.1%

16. Table 7 looks at all CE students that were studying in university in 2015-16, as opposed to early tables that focussed on only those students who entered university in a particular year. This gives a better overall picture of the subjects studied by CE Students.
17. In 2015-16, the largest Jacs Group subject areas for CE students at university were Social Studies, Business and Administrative studies, Subjects Allied to Medicine and Biological Sciences. These subjects made up 55.1% of all CE students.
18. CE students were particularly over-represented in Social Studies compared to the total student population. Within the Social Studies subject area, 55% of CE

students were studying Social Work courses, compared to 22% of all students studying Social Studies.³

19. As in colleges, CE students at university were particularly under-represented in Engineering subjects.

Table 7: Care Experienced Students in university by Subject Area 2015-16⁴

Subject Area	Care Experienced Students	Sector Total	Difference
Business and Administrative studies	15.4%	13.6%	1.8%
Subjects allied to Medicine	14.7%	13.8%	0.9%
Social studies	13.3%	8.6%	4.7%
Biological Sciences	11.5%	9.2%	2.4%
Combined	9.1%	7.7%	1.4%
Creative Arts and Design	5.9%	5.3%	0.7%
Computer Sciences	5.6%	4.8%	0.8%
Historical and Philosophical studies	4.2%	5.3%	-1.1%
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	3.5%	2.4%	1.1%
Law	2.8%	2.7%	0.1%
Engineering	2.4%	7.6%	-5.2%
Education	2.1%	3.4%	-1.3%
Physical Sciences	2.1%	4.0%	-1.9%
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects	1.7%	3.0%	-1.3%
Mass Communications and Documentation	1.4%	1.1%	0.3%
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%
Technologies	1.0%	0.2%	0.8%
Architecture, Building and Planning	0.7%	1.9%	-1.2%
Medicine and Dentistry	0.7%	2.0%	-1.3%
Mathematical Sciences	0.3%	1.7%	-1.4%
Non-European Languages, Literature & related subjects	0.0%	0.1%	-0.1%

Success and destinations

20. There is less data available on the completion, retention and destinations of CE students across both sectors. Where data is available it is often only available for one year, or based on very small numbers. Caution must be taken when analysing this data.

³ Further information on the HESA Jacs subject groups can be found here:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/jacs/jacs3-principal>

⁴ At First Degree and sub-degree level

College successful completion⁵

21. Completion rates for the CE group are lower than the comparable Performance Indicators (PIs) for the sector and have been across all three years of collected data. Table 8 shows the PIs from 2015-16 since they are based on a larger, more meaningful number of students. A comparison between years is not shown because there are large fluctuations between years and this may say more about the available data than the student experience.
22. CE students studying at FE level, which makes up the majority of the group, are 17.5 percentage points less likely to successfully complete their course. CE students at HE level are 9.8 percentage points less likely to successfully complete their course.

Table 8: PI Outcomes 2015-16

PI Outcome	FE		HE	
	Care Experienced Students	Sector	Care Experienced Students	Sector
Completed Partial Success	20.9%	13.9%	12.1%	11.0%
Completed Successful	53.9%	71.4%	64.1%	73.9%
Early Withdrawal	10.0%	5.1%	6.8%	4.1%
Further Withdrawal	15.2%	9.6%	17.0%	10.9%

University retention

23. There are two years of available data, 2014-15 and 2015-16, of Scottish domiciled full-time undergraduates who have progressed to year 2 of their course as shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Retention of Care Experienced students at University

Year	Care Experienced students	Retention average in sector
2014-15	82.7%	90.5%
2015-16	84.3%	90.6%

24. The difference between the two groups in 2015-16 is 6.3% which is an improvement since 2014-15 (7.8%). Although there is a considerable difference

⁵For further information on how this data is collected please see SFC College Performance Indicators Publication <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/statistical-publications-2017/SFCST012017.aspx>

between the two groups the numbers should be treated with caution as the overall CE student numbers are low and as such further trend data is not possible.

College Leaver Destinations⁶

25. 2014-15 is the only available year of data for CE students in the College Leaver Destinations survey (CLD) with 2015-16 data available in October 2017. Table 10 shows a summarised comparison between the national destination figures for leavers and the destinations of CE students.
26. There are 148 CE students in the CLD which is only a fraction of the 50,198 students collected in the survey. Of these 148, destination data was confirmed for 137 and the data in the table relates to that figure.
27. The figures show that CE students are more likely to continue on to further study than the total group. CE students are less likely to go into work, and more likely to have negative destinations. The negative destinations category for CE students is split between 'Unemployed and Looking for Work' (4.1%) and 'Temporarily sick or unable to work/Looking after the home or family' (0.7%).

Table 10: CLD for Care Experienced Students 2014-15

Destination of Leaver	National	Care Experienced Students
Further Study	79.4%	88.3%
Work	16.2%	6.6%
Negative Destination	4.4%	5.1%

Further information

28. Contact: Cathy Mitchell, Senior Policy / Analysis Officer, 0131 313 6699, cmitchell@sfc.ac.uk

⁶ For further information on how this data is collected please see SFC College Leaver Destinations Publication <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/statistical-publications-2016/SFCST072016.aspx>