



SFC Statistical publication



Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2016-17

Issue date: 20 March 2018

Reference: SFC/ST/04/2018

Summary: This release contains information on HE provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland from 2006-07 to 2016-17.

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's colleges and universities

Further information: **Contact:** Cathy Mitchell / Jannette Allingham
Job title: Senior Policy/Analyst Officer / Policy/Analysis Officer
Department: Finance Directorate
Email: cmitchell@sfc.ac.uk / jallingham@sfc.ac.uk



The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Scottish Funding Council
Apex 2
97 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD
T 0131 313 6500
F 0131 313 6501
www.sfc.ac.uk



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education

Contents

Contents	2
Key points	4
Introduction	5
Student Numbers and Characteristics	6
Total Student Numbers	6
Mode of Study and Gender	9
Age	11
Entrant Numbers and Characteristics	14
Total Entrants	14
Subject Area and Gender	16
Domicile of Entrants	18
Access and Equalities	21
Socio-economic Deprivation (SIMD)	21
Ethnicity	22
Disability	23
Qualifier Numbers and Characteristics	24
Gender, Age and Domicile of Qualifiers	27
Participation Rates for Entrants to Higher Education in Scotland	30
Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)	30
Annex A	32
Notes to Tables	32
Annex B	34
Methodology, Data Definitions, and Quality Information	34
Data Sources	34
Coverage	34
Student Instances	34
Full-time Equivalent	35
Open University	35
Domicile	35
Level of Study	35
Subject Tables	35

Data Presentation	36
Data Quality Information	36
Relevance	36
Accuracy	36
Accessibility and Clarity	37
Comparability	37
Associate students by gender, age and deprivation quintile, 2016-17	37
Complete list of tables available on SFC website	39

Key points

- There were 292,620 students in higher education in Scotland in 2016-17. This is an increase of 7,170 (2.5%) from 2015-16, with the largest increase in students at first degree level.
- In 2016-17, HE entrants at colleges accounted for 27.5% of all HE entrants in Scotland. For the undergraduate population, the proportion of HE entrants to colleges increases to 36.9% of the total HE undergraduate population, and the proportion of Scottish domiciled undergraduate entrants to HE at college increases further to 43.3%.
- In 2016-17, females made up 57.0% of the total number of HE students and this proportion has been increasing since 2010-11. Females account for 58.4% of the students at HEIs and 50.4% of students at HE level in colleges.
- Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, students aged under 25 increased by 3,615 (1.9%) and students aged 25 to 29 increased by 980 (2.8%). Those aged 30 and over increased by 2,590 (4.0%).
- In 2016-17, the number of new entrants at HEIs was 101,135 and the number of new entrants at colleges was 38,495. These represent increases of 4,160 (4.3%) and 540 (1.4%) respectively.
- The number of Scottish domiciled first degree entrants has increased by 1.2% between 2015-16 and 2016-17. In the same time period the number of Scottish domiciled sub-degree entrants increased by 2.7% and the number of Scottish domiciled postgraduate entrants increased by 7.8%.
- There were 101,755 higher education qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2016-17, the highest level since 2006-07. There was an increase of 4,355 qualifiers (4.5%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Of all qualifiers, 66.4% achieved graduate level qualifications (first degree level or above) in 2016-17.
- In 2016-17, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 69.6% of all HE qualifiers.

Introduction

1. This report contains information on higher education (HE) provision and attainment in higher education institutions (HEIs) and colleges in Scotland. Student data from both Scottish HEIs and Scottish colleges has been combined to allow reporting on all HE provision delivered across all Scottish institutions.
2. This report shows data on a number of different HE student populations, including the total number of students; the number of entrants; and the numbers qualifying from HE study. These populations are shown across multiple breakdowns including level of study, mode of study, domicile, age and protected characteristics.
3. This report follows on from the [HESA First Statistical Release](#) of UK Higher Education Student Statistics for 2016-17 but focuses on Scottish institutions, or on Scottish-domiciled students. The Scottish Funding Council has also published the [College Statistics Report](#) for 2016-17 that includes details of further and higher education students at colleges in Scotland.
4. This report covers the period 2006-07 to 2016-17. The publication is accompanied by an Excel workbook which includes additional tables and further detail that is not included within the body of this report.

Student Numbers and Characteristics

5. This section looks at the number of students studying higher education at all levels of study across HEIs and colleges. The term 'student numbers' refers here to student enrolments (or instances of study). This section also looks at the characteristics of these students, mainly; age, gender and mode of study. This data is shown in each year since 2006-07 allowing trends and changes in student numbers to be identified.

Total Student Numbers

6. There were 292,620 students in higher education in Scotland in 2016-17, as shown in Table A below. This is an increase of 7,170 (+ 2.5%) from 2015-16, of which 3,635 was an increase of students at first degree level.
7. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 the number of first degree students increased by 3,635 (+2.3%), the number of research postgraduates increased by 135 (+1.0%) and the number of taught postgraduates increased by 1,980 (+4.5%). At sub-degree level, the number of HNC/HND students increased by 1,600 (+3.9%) whereas the number of other sub-degree students fell by 180 (-0.6%).
8. The decline at other sub-degree level continues a downward trend since 2008-09. This is mainly a reduction in student numbers within the HEIs. Whilst other sub-degree provision has reduced considerably, all other levels of students are now at the highest level over the reporting period. The trend in levels of activity since 2006-07 is also show in Figure 1.
9. The total number of students at HEIs increased by 6,370 (+2.7%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The total number of students at college increased by 795 (+1.6%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
10. HEIs accounted for 82.7% of all students enrolled in HE in Scotland in 2016-17, with the remaining 17.3% studying at colleges. The proportion of HE delivered at colleges rises to 21.7% when looking specifically at undergraduate provision.
11. The majority of those at HEIs (66.6%) were studying at first degree level and the majority of HE students studying at colleges (74.0%) were studying at HNC/D level.

Table A: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17

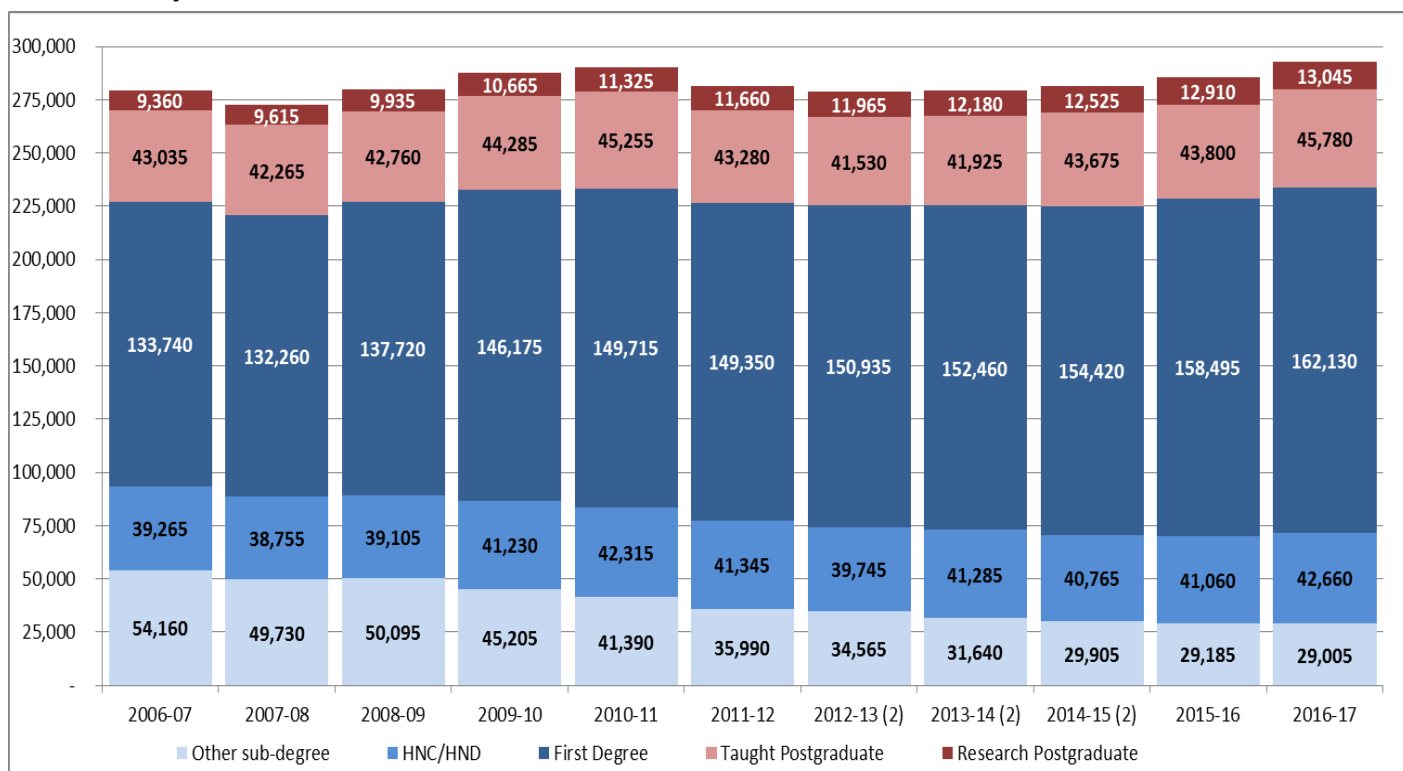
Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
Total						
2006-07	279,560	9,360	43,035	133,740	39,265	54,160
2007-08	272,625	9,615	42,265	132,260	38,755	49,730
2008-09	279,615	9,935	42,760	137,720	39,105	50,095
2009-10	287,565	10,665	44,285	146,175	41,230	45,205
2010-11	290,000	11,325	45,255	149,715	42,315	41,390
2011-12	281,630	11,660	43,280	149,350	41,345	35,990
2012-13 (2)	278,745	11,965	41,530	150,935	39,745	34,565
2013-14 (2)	279,495	12,180	41,925	152,460	41,285	31,640
2014-15 (2)	281,285	12,525	43,675	154,420	40,765	29,905
2015-16	285,450	12,910	43,800	158,495	41,060	29,185
2016-17	292,620	13,045	45,780	162,130	42,660	29,005
All students at HEIs						
2006-07	230,100	9,360	42,880	133,180	4,345	40,330
2007-08	224,855	9,615	42,115	131,645	5,085	36,395
2008-09	231,260	9,935	42,660	137,040	4,745	36,875
2009-10	237,765	10,665	44,165	145,535	4,540	32,855
2010-11	238,645	11,325	45,155	148,770	4,120	29,275
2011-12	233,010	11,660	43,245	148,425	3,875	25,800
2012-13 (2)	230,950	11,965	41,515	149,860	3,605	24,005
2013-14 (2)	230,805	12,180	41,925	151,325	4,905	20,470
2014-15 (2)	232,570	12,525	43,675	153,325	4,955	18,090
2015-16	235,565	12,910	43,800	157,440	4,930	16,480
2016-17	241,935	13,045	45,780	161,125	5,135	16,850
All students at colleges						
2006-07	49,460	-	155	555	34,920	13,830
2007-08	47,770	-	150	615	33,670	13,335
2008-09	48,355	-	100	680	34,360	13,215
2009-10	49,800	-	120	640	36,690	12,355
2010-11	51,355	-	100	945	38,195	12,115
2011-12	48,620	-	35	925	37,465	10,190
2012-13 (2)	47,795	-	15	1,075	36,140	10,560
2013-14 (2)	48,690	-	-	1,135	36,380	11,175
2014-15 (2)	48,715	-	-	1,095	35,810	11,810
2015-16	49,890	-	-	1,055	36,130	12,705
2016-17	50,685	-	-	1,005	37,525	12,155

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

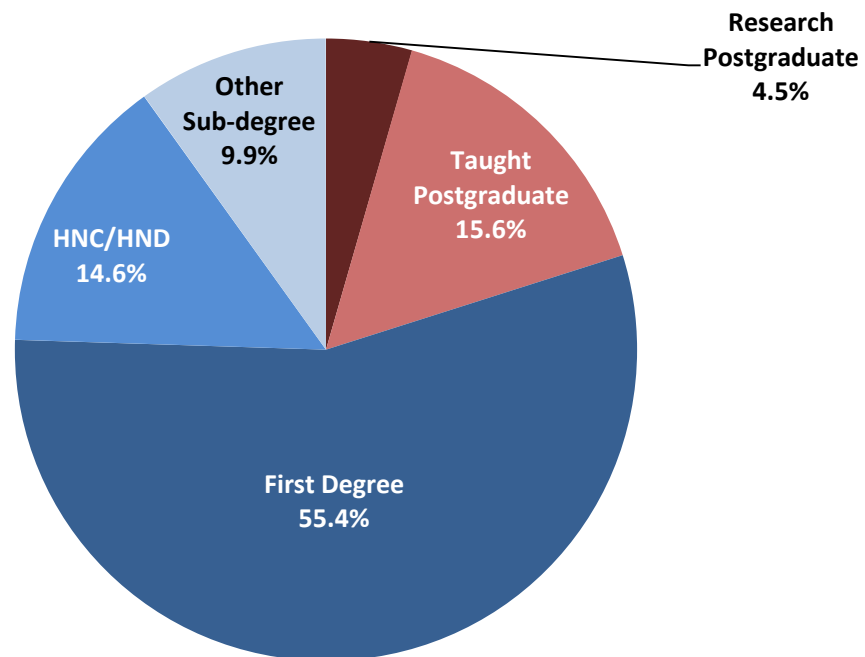
12. Figure 1 below shows the total HE activity in Scotland by level of study in each academic year since 2006-07. This data is from Table 1 above. The blue colours indicate undergraduate provision and the red colours represent postgraduate provision.

Figure 1: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17



13. Figure 2 below shows the proportion of HE activity across both HEIs and colleges in Scotland by level of study. Across all higher education, students on first degrees account for 55.4% and students on HNC/D programmes account for 14.6%. Post-graduate students account for 20.1%, and those on other sub-degree programmes make up the remaining 9.9% of HE students.

Figure 2: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2016-17



Mode of Study and Gender

14. Table B below shows students at HEIs by mode of study, providing the breakdown between those studying full-time and those studying part-time. The number of full-time HE students increased by 4,380 (+2.1%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17, due to an increase of 2.4% and 0.1% at HEIs and colleges respectively. The number of part-time HE students increased by 2,790 (+3.8%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17, due to an increase of 3.6% and 4.4% at HEIs and colleges respectively.
15. Overall, 74.0% of HE students in 2016-17 studied full-time. Students at HEIs were more likely to study full-time, with 76.0% doing so compared to 64.7% of students at college.
16. Table B also shows the breakdown of students by gender across mode of study. Figure 3 below also shows these trends graphically. Females make up a larger proportion of HE students, accounting for 57.0% in 2016-17. This proportion has been increasing since 2010-11, when females accounted for 55.6% of all HE students.
17. The gender balance varies between HEIs and colleges, with the over representation of females largely at HEIs. Females at HEIs accounted for 58.4% of students, compared to 50.4% at colleges in 2016-17.

18. At HEIs, males were more likely to study full-time with 77.6% doing so, compared to 74.8% of females. The pattern was reversed for HE in colleges where 59.7% of males studied full-time, compared to 69.6% of females.

Table B: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Mode of Study and Gender, 2006-07 to 2016-17

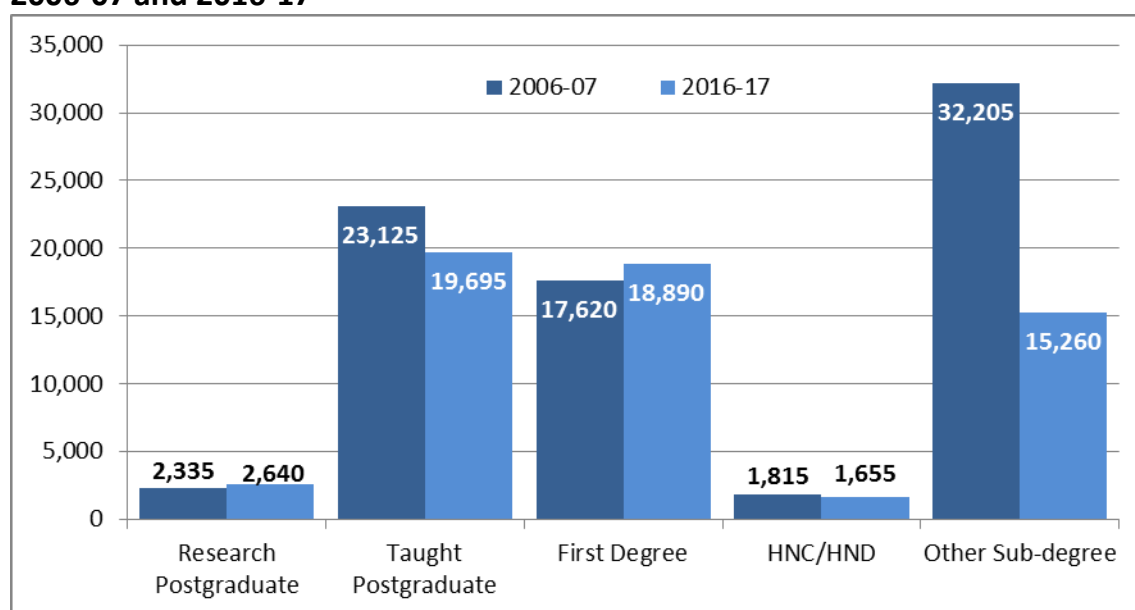
Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total									
2006-07	279,560	119,795	159,760	178,680	79,000	99,680	100,875	40,795	60,080
2007-08	272,625	118,250	154,375	174,805	77,795	97,010	97,820	40,455	57,365
2008-09	279,615	122,415	157,195	182,780	81,450	101,330	96,830	40,965	55,865
2009-10	287,565	126,995	160,565	191,615	86,465	105,150	95,950	40,535	55,415
2010-11	290,000	128,900	161,100	197,490	89,165	108,325	92,505	39,735	52,770
2011-12	281,630	124,100	157,525	199,430	89,150	110,280	82,200	34,950	47,245
2012-13 (2,21)	278,745	122,465	156,050	198,405	88,245	110,160	80,340	34,220	45,890
2013-14 (2,21)	279,495	121,970	157,485	202,700	89,490	113,180	76,795	32,480	44,305
2014-15 (2,21)	281,285	122,910	158,270	207,305	90,745	116,500	73,980	32,165	41,770
2015-16 (2,21)	285,450	123,905	161,410	212,215	92,095	120,000	73,235	31,805	41,410
2016-17 (2,21)	292,620	125,615	166,755	216,595	92,975	123,470	76,025	32,640	43,285
All students at HEIs									
2006-07	230,100	96,455	133,640	152,800	66,765	86,040	77,295	29,695	47,605
2007-08	224,855	95,375	129,480	149,625	65,940	83,680	75,235	29,435	45,795
2008-09	231,260	98,495	132,765	156,830	69,075	87,755	74,430	29,420	45,010
2009-10	237,765	102,270	135,495	162,970	72,700	90,270	74,790	29,570	45,225
2010-11	238,645	103,250	135,395	166,350	73,870	92,480	72,295	29,380	42,910
2011-12	233,010	99,995	133,010	167,365	73,545	93,820	65,640	26,450	39,190
2012-13 (2,21)	230,950	98,640	132,080	167,065	73,190	93,880	63,885	25,450	38,205
2013-14 (2,21)	230,805	97,830	132,935	170,800	74,380	96,390	60,000	23,450	36,545
2014-15 (2,21)	232,570	98,775	133,690	174,840	75,790	98,990	57,730	22,985	34,700
2015-16 (2,21)	235,565	98,905	136,545	179,460	76,925	102,445	56,105	21,980	34,105
2016-17 (2,21)	241,935	100,515	141,205	183,795	77,980	105,685	58,140	22,535	35,520
All students at colleges									
2006-07	49,460	23,340	26,120	25,880	12,240	13,640	23,580	11,100	12,475
2007-08	47,770	22,875	24,895	25,185	11,855	13,330	22,585	11,020	11,565
2008-09	48,355	23,925	24,430	25,955	12,375	13,580	22,400	11,550	10,855
2009-10	49,800	24,730	25,075	28,640	13,765	14,880	21,160	10,965	10,195
2010-11	51,355	25,650	25,705	31,140	15,295	15,845	20,215	10,355	9,860
2011-12	48,620	24,105	24,515	32,065	15,605	16,460	16,555	8,500	8,055
2012-13 (2)	47,795	23,825	23,970	31,340	15,055	16,280	16,455	8,770	7,690
2013-14 (2)	48,690	24,140	24,550	31,900	15,110	16,790	16,795	9,035	7,760
2014-15 (2)	48,715	24,135	24,580	32,465	14,955	17,510	16,250	9,180	7,070
2015-16 (2)	49,890	25,000	24,865	32,755	15,175	17,555	17,135	9,825	7,310
2016-17 (2)	50,685	25,100	25,550	32,800	14,995	17,785	17,885	10,105	7,765

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

19. Table B above show a general downward trend in part-time HE students since 2006-07. The increases in part-time students in colleges and HEIs in 2016-17 move against the trend.
20. Figure 3 below shows the change in numbers of part-time students between 2006-07 and 2016-17. This figure shows that the largest decrease has been at sub-degree level, where the number of students has decreased by 16,943 (-52.6%) since 2006-07.

Figure 3: Part-time Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs by Level of Study, 2006-07 and 2016-17



Age

21. Table C below shows that the number of HE students at HEIs and colleges by age group. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of students aged under 25 increased by 3,615, a 1.9% increase. The largest increase at HEIs was in the 21-24 age group which increased by 1,600 (+2.4%). There was a corresponding decrease of 125 students (-1.5%), from this age group in colleges. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, students aged 30 and over increased by 2,590 (+4.0%).
22. The number of students aged 30 and over has reduced by 22,380 (-25.1%) from 2006-07, whilst the number of younger students has increased by 35,595 (+18.7%) in this time.

Table C: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Age, 2006-07 to 2016-17

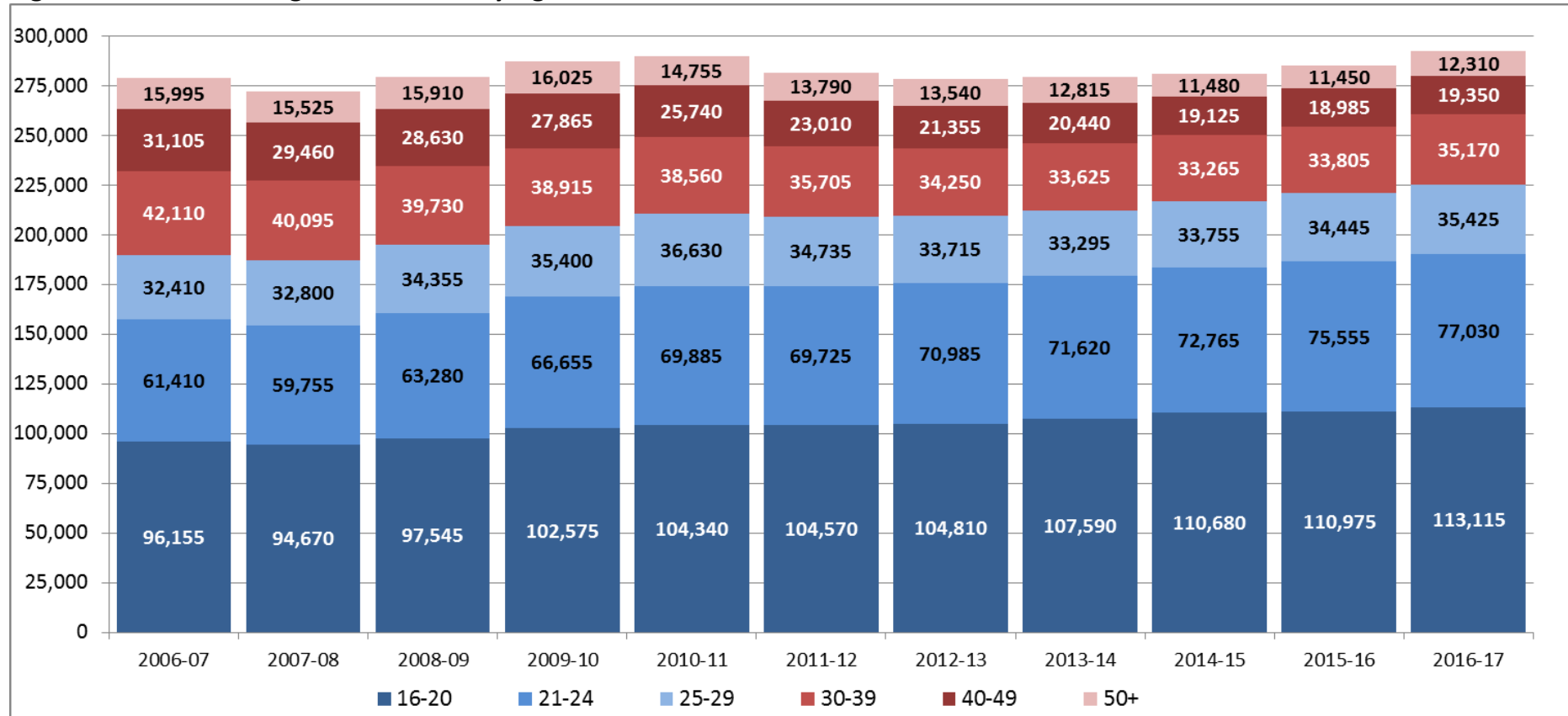
Institution type / Academic session	Total (6)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Total									
2006-07	279,560	39,770	56,385	61,410	32,410	42,110	31,105	11,805	4,190
2007-08	272,625	38,585	56,085	59,755	32,800	40,095	29,460	11,325	4,200
2008-09	279,615	40,450	57,095	63,280	34,355	39,730	28,630	11,020	4,890
2009-10	287,565	43,330	59,245	66,655	35,400	38,915	27,865	10,855	5,170
2010-11	290,000	41,925	62,415	69,885	36,630	38,560	25,740	10,100	4,655
2011-12	281,630	41,735	62,835	69,725	34,735	35,705	23,010	9,225	4,565
2012-13	278,745	42,370	62,440	70,985	33,715	34,250	21,355	8,995	4,545
2013-14	279,495	42,985	64,605	71,620	33,295	33,625	20,440	8,710	4,105
2014-15	281,285	44,070	66,610	72,765	33,755	33,265	19,125	8,175	3,305
2015-16	285,450	44,680	66,295	75,555	34,445	33,805	18,985	8,245	3,205
2016-17	292,620	45,330	67,785	77,030	35,425	35,170	19,350	8,605	3,705
All students at HEIs									
2006-07	230,100	28,735	47,530	54,140	26,960	33,655	24,835	9,940	3,960
2007-08	224,855	27,940	47,215	52,750	27,395	32,370	23,590	9,390	3,930
2008-09	231,260	29,290	48,105	55,895	28,895	32,175	22,970	9,190	4,615
2009-10	237,765	31,330	49,825	58,705	29,540	31,780	22,395	9,205	4,900
2010-11	238,645	29,955	52,180	60,935	30,475	31,430	20,730	8,425	4,440
2011-12	233,010	29,515	52,605	61,630	29,030	29,280	18,705	7,780	4,395
2012-13	230,950	30,370	51,905	62,970	28,060	28,115	17,500	7,625	4,350
2013-14	230,805	30,755	53,690	63,375	27,675	27,550	16,695	7,120	3,860
2014-15	232,570	31,590	55,435	64,470	28,225	27,365	15,675	6,660	3,055
2015-16	235,565	32,140	55,650	67,050	28,855	27,315	15,130	6,445	2,835
2016-17	241,935	32,630	56,900	68,650	29,615	28,400	15,570	6,775	3,320
All students at colleges									
2006-07	49,460	11,035	8,855	7,270	5,445	8,450	6,270	1,865	230
2007-08	47,770	10,645	8,865	7,000	5,405	7,725	5,870	1,935	270
2008-09	48,355	11,160	8,990	7,385	5,460	7,555	5,660	1,835	275
2009-10	49,800	12,000	9,420	7,945	5,860	7,140	5,475	1,650	270
2010-11	51,355	11,970	10,240	8,945	6,155	7,130	5,010	1,675	215
2011-12	48,620	12,220	10,230	8,095	5,705	6,430	4,305	1,445	170
2012-13	47,795	12,000	10,535	8,015	5,655	6,135	3,855	1,370	200
2013-14	48,690	12,225	10,915	8,245	5,620	6,075	3,745	1,590	245
2014-15	48,715	12,480	11,175	8,295	5,530	5,900	3,450	1,515	250
2015-16	49,890	12,540	10,645	8,505	5,590	6,490	3,850	1,800	370
2016-17	50,685	12,700	10,885	8,380	5,810	6,770	3,780	1,830	385

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

23. Figure 4 below shows the total HE student figures above by age. The blue colour represents those in the age groups under 30 and the red colours represent those aged 30 and over.

Figure 4: Students in Higher Education by Age, 2006-07 to 2016-17



Entrant Numbers and Characteristics

24. This section looks only at students beginning a higher education course in that academic year, rather than the total student population shown in the previous section. Table D below shows this total number of entrants, in each year from 2006-07 to 2016-17, by institution type and level of study.

Total Entrants

25. Table D shows that the number of HE entrants at Scottish institutions increased by 4,695 between 2015-16 and 2016-17. This is equivalent to a 3.5% rise in the number of students and was made up of an increase of 4,160 entrants at HEIs and 540 at colleges.
26. Although the number of HE students is at the highest level, as shown in Section 2 above, the number of entrants to HE has been higher in earlier years. In these years students at sub-degree level, particularly other sub-degree, made up a greater share of student numbers. These courses are shorter in duration which helps explain why there is the highest number of students but not the same number of entrants.
27. In 2016-17, 48.9% of HE entrants at HEIs were on First Degree programmes and in colleges 68.3% of HE entrants were on HNC or HND programmes.
28. In 2016-17, HE entrants at colleges accounted for 27.5% of all HE entrants in Scotland. For the undergraduate population, the proportion of HE entrants to college increases to 36.9% of the total HE undergraduate population. Table 22 in the Background Tables online provides additional information on the domicile of entrants at each level. Using this data and the data shown below in Table D, the proportion of Scottish domiciled undergraduate entrants to HE at colleges increases further to an estimated 43.3%.

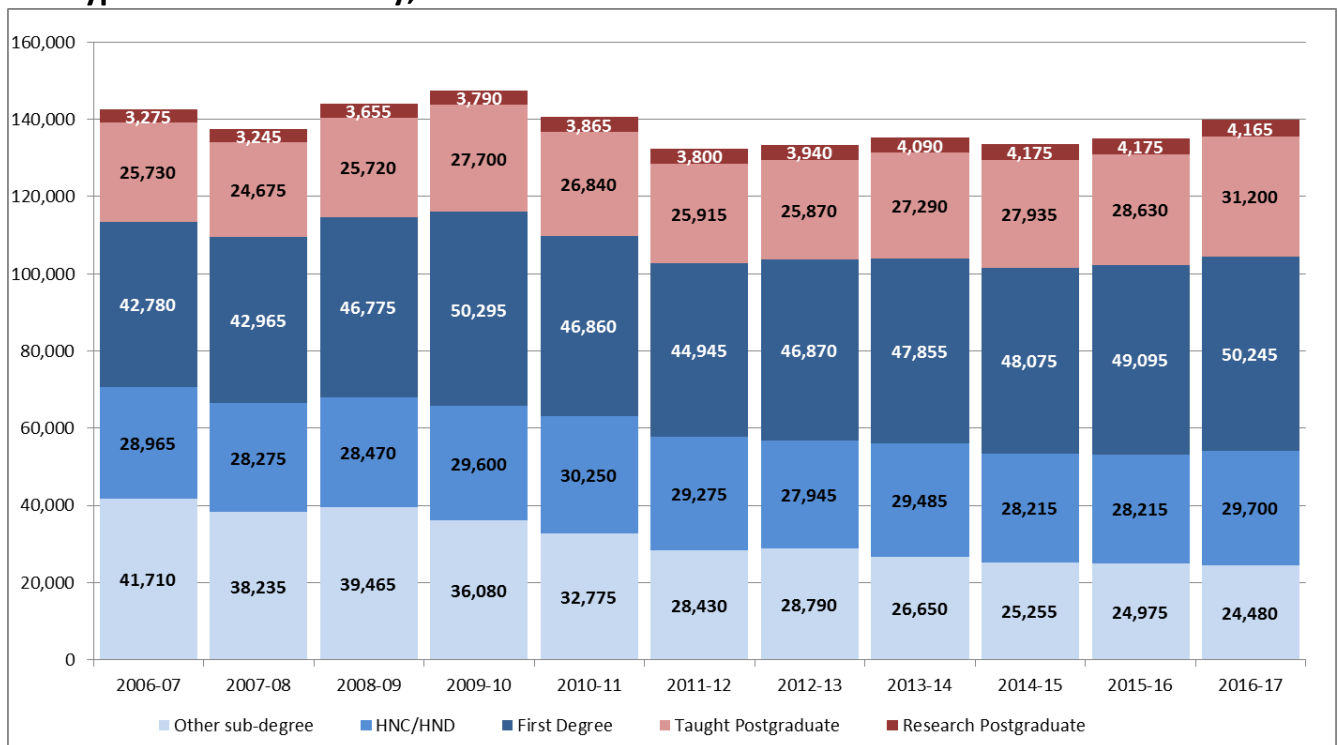
Table D: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other sub-degree
Total						
2006-07	142,460	3,275	25,730	42,780	28,965	41,710
2007-08	137,495	3,245	24,675	42,965	28,275	38,235
2008-09	144,130	3,655	25,720	46,775	28,470	39,465
2009-10	147,465	3,790	27,700	50,295	29,600	36,080
2010-11	140,590	3,865	26,840	46,860	30,250	32,775
2011-12	132,365	3,800	25,915	44,945	29,275	28,430
2012-13	133,415	3,940	25,870	46,870	27,945	28,790
2013-14	135,365	4,090	27,290	47,855	29,485	26,650
2014-15	133,660	4,175	27,935	48,075	28,215	25,255
2015-16	135,090	4,175	28,630	49,095	28,215	24,975
2016-17	139,785	4,165	31,200	50,245	29,700	24,480
All students at HEIs						
2006-07	103,575	3,275	25,575	42,400	3,470	28,855
2007-08	100,115	3,245	24,535	42,520	3,765	26,050
2008-09	105,975	3,655	25,645	46,255	3,290	27,125
2009-10	108,840	3,790	27,610	49,765	3,110	24,570
2010-11	101,080	3,865	26,765	46,070	2,885	21,500
2011-12	95,350	3,800	25,905	44,140	2,465	19,040
2012-13 (2)	96,970	3,940	25,870	45,970	2,410	18,780
2013-14 (2)	97,900	4,090	27,290	46,920	3,465	16,135
2014-15	96,875	4,175	27,935	47,230	3,410	14,125
2015-16	97,135	4,175	28,630	48,300	3,285	12,745
2016-17	101,295	4,165	31,200	49,575	3,420	12,940
All students at colleges						
2006-07	38,885	-	155	380	25,495	12,855
2007-08	37,380	-	140	445	24,510	12,185
2008-09	38,150	-	80	515	25,175	12,340
2009-10	38,625	-	90	535	26,490	11,505
2010-11	39,510	-	75	790	27,370	11,275
2011-12	37,015	-	10	805	26,810	9,385
2012-13 (2)	36,445	-	-	900	25,535	10,010
2013-14 (2)	37,465	-	-	935	26,020	10,510
2014-15 (2)	36,780	-	-	845	24,805	11,135
2015-16	37,955	-	-	795	24,930	12,230
2016-17	38,495	-	-	670	26,280	11,540

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

Figure 5: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Institution Type and Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17



Subject Area and Gender

29. Table E below shows entrants to higher education in HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender. Some HE subject areas have tightly controlled student intakes which influence profile of subjects delivered. Our controlled subjects sector communication outlines these numbers and can be found on [the SFC website](#).
30. The HE courses with the largest overall numbers of entrants in 2016-17 were Business & Administrative Studies with 23,395 entrants followed by Subjects allied to Medicine with 15,035 entrants, Social Studies with 13,920 entrants, and Engineering and Technology with 13,150 entrants.
31. The subjects with the highest proportions of female entrants were Subjects allied to Medicine (83.0%), Veterinary Science (82.5%) and Psychology (76.9%). The subjects with the highest proportion of male entrants were Engineering and Technology (84.5%) and Computer Science (80.5%).
32. The imbalances, with the exception of Psychology, were all greater at First Degree and Sub-degree level. The gender imbalance in Engineering and Technology, for example, increased to 91.1% at Sub-degree level. Subjects with a high gender imbalance at first degree and sub-degree level are being targeted in SFC's [Gender Action Plan](#).

Table E: Entrants to Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, Subject and Gender, 2016-17

Subject Area	All levels			Postgraduate			First degree			Sub-degree		
	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Total (21)	139,625	42.5%	57.5%	35,315	40.5%	59.5%	50,230	41.1%	58.9%	54,085	45.1%	54.9%
Medical Studies												
Subjects allied to Medicine	15,035	17.0%	83.0%	4,020	21.5%	78.5%	6,705	15.6%	84.4%	4,315	15.1%	84.9%
Medicine and Dentistry	2,310	37.7%	62.3%	930	35.5%	64.5%	1,295	37.5%	62.5%	85	64.7%	35.3%
Total	17,345	19.8%	80.2%	4,950	24.1%	75.9%	8,000	19.1%	80.9%	4,400	16.0%	84.0%
Science and Engineering												
Agriculture & related subjects	1,340	39.6%	60.4%	470	43.6%	56.4%	215	27.9%	72.1%	655	40.5%	59.5%
Architecture, building and planning	3,950	67.3%	32.7%	1,140	45.6%	54.4%	1,120	61.2%	38.8%	1,685	86.4%	13.6%
Biological Sciences	9,460	36.2%	63.8%	1,990	34.9%	65.1%	5,465	35.2%	64.8%	2,010	40.0%	60.0%
Engineering and Technology	13,150	84.5%	15.5%	2,595	74.0%	26.0%	4,410	81.5%	18.5%	6,145	91.1%	8.9%
Computer Science	7,440	80.5%	19.5%	1,550	70.6%	29.4%	2,995	82.0%	18.0%	2,900	84.1%	15.9%
Mathematical Sciences	1,645	62.3%	37.7%	435	59.8%	40.2%	1,025	59.5%	40.5%	185	83.8%	16.2%
Physical Sciences	4,060	54.6%	45.4%	1,405	54.4%	45.6%	2,225	54.6%	45.4%	430	54.7%	45.3%
Veterinary Science	400	17.5%	82.5%	80	31.3%	68.8%	290	15.5%	84.5%	40	12.5%	87.5%
Total	41,445	65.2%	34.8%	9,665	56.8%	43.2%	17,745	59.7%	40.3%	14,050	78.0%	22.0%
Business and Social Studies												
Business & Administrative studies	23,395	42.0%	58.0%	6,575	44.6%	55.4%	6,780	42.7%	57.3%	10,040	39.8%	60.2%
Law	5,535	39.6%	60.4%	1,850	41.6%	58.4%	1,875	34.7%	65.3%	1,810	42.5%	57.5%
Mass Communication & documentation	2,145	42.2%	57.8%	655	28.2%	71.8%	790	40.5%	59.5%	700	57.1%	42.9%
Social Studies	13,920	26.3%	73.7%	2,510	35.3%	64.7%	4,625	33.9%	66.1%	6,785	17.8%	82.2%
Total	44,995	36.8%	63.2%	11,590	41.2%	58.8%	14,070	38.6%	61.4%	19,335	33.0%	67.0%
Education and the Arts												
Creative Arts & Design	10,770	33.8%	66.2%	1,280	33.2%	66.8%	3,150	32.5%	67.5%	6,340	34.5%	65.5%
Education	9,200	27.9%	72.1%	5,535	27.6%	72.4%	2,250	19.3%	80.7%	1,420	43.0%	57.0%
Historical & Philosophical Studies	4,185	41.0%	59.0%	1,180	46.2%	53.8%	2,235	38.5%	61.5%	775	40.6%	59.4%
Languages	5,300	31.5%	68.5%	1,035	32.9%	67.1%	2,335	25.7%	74.3%	1,930	37.8%	62.2%
Total	29,455	32.6%	67.4%	9,030	31.4%	68.6%	9,970	29.3%	70.7%	10,465	36.7%	63.3%
Combined (7)	6,385	42.1%	57.9%	85	41.2%	58.8%	450	35.6%	64.4%	5,850	42.6%	57.4%
Supplementary subjects contained in the above categories												
Economics and Politics	3,285	49.3%	50.7%	1,155	46.8%	53.2%	2,055	51.1%	48.9%	75	40.0%	60.0%
English	2,000	32.5%	67.5%	410	34.1%	65.9%	1,010	24.3%	75.7%	575	45.2%	54.8%
Geography (8)	760	37.5%	62.5%	250	46.0%	54.0%	510	33.3%	66.7%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Psychology	3,880	23.1%	76.9%	880	20.5%	79.5%	2,240	20.5%	79.5%	755	33.8%	66.2%

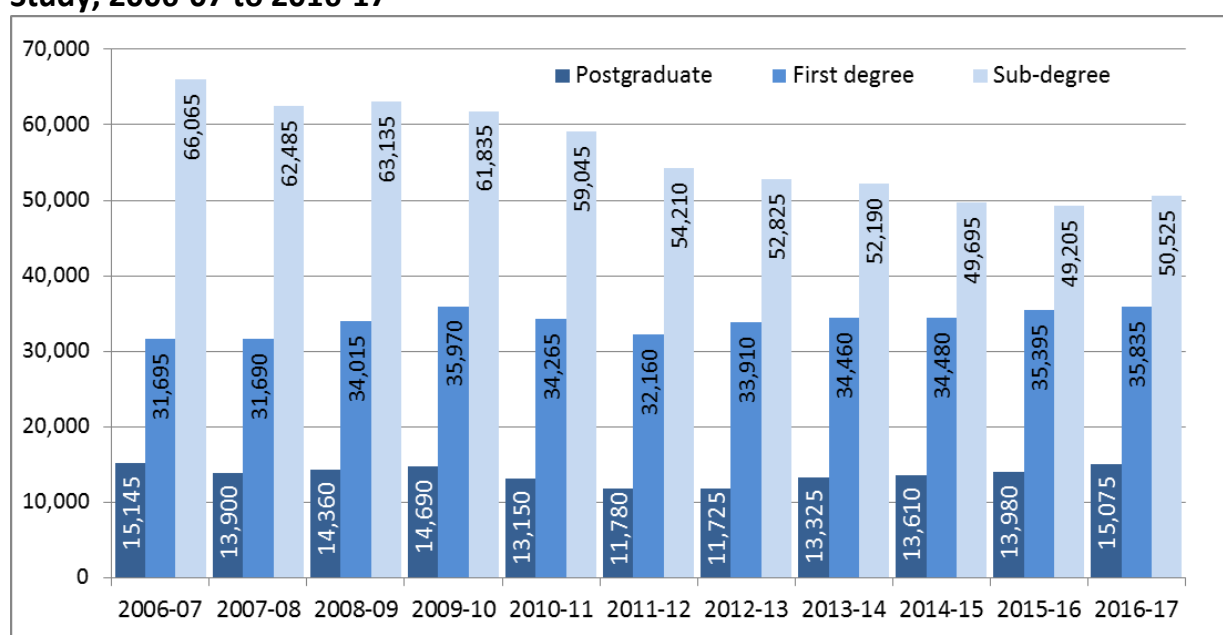
Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

Domicile of Entrants

33. Figure 6 shows Scottish domiciled entrants to HE by level of study. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, the number of Scottish domiciled entrants to postgraduate level study increased by 1,095, (+7.8%), Scottish domiciled entrants to first degree level study increased by 440 (+1.2%) and to sub-degree level study by 1,320 (+2.7%).
34. In 2013-14 SFC began investing in additional taught postgraduate places and subsequently there has been an increase in Scottish-domiciled postgraduate entrants of 3,350 (+28.6%) since 2012-13.

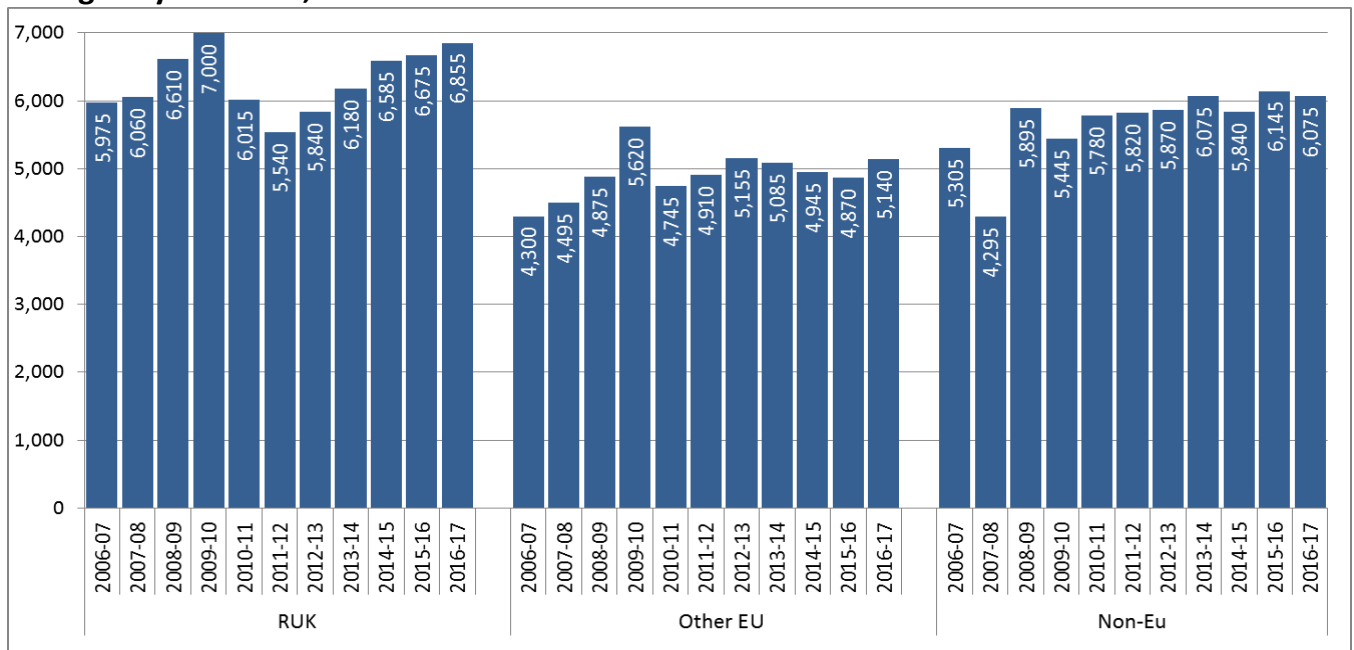
Figure 6: Scottish domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17



35. Figure 7 below shows non-Scottish domiciled undergraduate entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs and colleges by domicile from 2006-07 to 2016-17. In the earlier years, the number of students from the rest of the UK (RUK students) at Scottish HEIs was controlled by the number of funded places available at Scottish HEIs. This changed in 2012-13 when provision for RUK students became funded by deregulated tuition fees.
36. Figure 7 shows an increase in entrants from RUK, despite the de-regulation of tuition fees. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 the number of undergraduate RUK entrants increased by 180 (+2.7%). Including postgraduate entrants, the number of total RUK entrants increased by 710 (+6.9%).
37. Students from the EU (excluding RUK) are still eligible to have their provision supported through SFC funding. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17 the number of EU (excluding RUK) entrants increased by 270 (+5.5%). This is the first increase

in EU entrants to Scottish HEIs in 5 years, as Figure 6 below shows; EU entrants have decreased in each year since 2012-13.

Figure 7: Non-Scottish Domiciled Undergraduate Entrants to HE at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile, 2006-07 to 2016-17



38. Table F below shows similar breakdowns of the total number of students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by domicile and level of study. In 2016-17, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 42.6% of Postgraduate students, 71.3% of First Degree students and 93.3% of Sub-degree students.
39. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, students from the EU (excluding RUK) increased by 255 (+6.4%) at Postgraduate level and by 510 (+12.9%) at First Degree level. At Sub-degree level students from the EU (excluding RUK) decreased by 240 (-25.9%).

Table F: Entrants to Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Domicile and Level of Study, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Level of Study / Academic Session	Total all domiciles (13)	Scotland	England	Wales	Northern Ireland	Other UK	Total UK	EU	Non-EU Europe	Non-European
All levels										
2006-07	142,460	112,910	7,065	240	1,580	75	122,010	6,585	595	13,215
2007-08	137,495	108,175	7,320	260	1,505	70	117,820	6,725	565	12,370
2008-09	144,130	111,555	7,745	235	1,430	110	121,300	7,410	685	14,690
2009-10	147,465	112,495	8,440	275	1,420	335	123,135	8,770	810	14,715
2010-11	140,590	106,460	7,800	235	1,390	75	116,015	7,905	870	15,790
2011-12	132,365	98,150	7,495	260	1,375	75	107,380	8,380	880	15,725
2012-13	133,415	98,455	7,910	285	1,165	155	107,975	8,890	965	15,565
2013-14	135,365	99,980	8,175	315	1,295	60	109,820	8,980	975	15,590
2014-15	133,660	97,790	8,405	285	1,240	65	107,780	8,975	1,030	15,875
2015-16	135,090	98,575	8,600	280	1,335	75	108,870	8,885	995	16,345
2016-17	139,785	101,430	9,240	325	1,335	100	112,430	9,405	935	17,010
Postgraduate										
2006-07	29,005	15,145	2,610	95	250	20	18,175	2,290	300	8,205
2007-08	27,920	13,900	2,690	120	270	20	17,035	2,235	295	8,350
2008-09	29,380	14,360	2,550	100	235	20	17,320	2,535	335	9,155
2009-10	31,490	14,690	3,035	115	295	20	18,235	3,150	380	9,695
2010-11	30,705	13,150	3,095	100	270	15	16,660	3,160	395	10,480
2011-12	29,715	11,780	3,280	115	255	15	15,465	3,470	400	10,380
2012-13	29,810	11,725	3,280	120	215	65	15,405	3,730	485	10,175
2013-14	31,375	13,325	3,230	170	240	25	16,995	3,895	470	10,020
2014-15	32,110	13,610	3,030	125	230	25	17,020	4,025	520	10,545
2015-16	32,805	13,980	3,205	130	250	30	17,595	4,015	555	10,635
2016-17	35,360	15,075	3,710	150	250	30	19,215	4,270	500	11,380
First Degree										
2006-07	42,780	31,695	3,600	105	1,195	40	36,660	3,180	220	2,700
2007-08	42,965	31,690	3,850	120	1,070	35	36,795	3,615	215	2,340
2008-09	46,775	34,015	4,320	100	1,100	70	39,625	4,075	285	2,790
2009-10	50,295	35,970	4,715	130	1,065	60	41,950	4,830	350	3,155
2010-11	46,860	34,265	3,720	100	1,035	45	39,170	4,175	330	3,185
2011-12	44,945	32,160	3,495	95	1,070	50	36,865	4,210	410	3,455
2012-13	46,870	33,910	3,910	125	885	45	38,875	4,500	370	3,125
2013-14	47,855	34,460	4,255	110	975	25	39,825	4,280	390	3,360
2014-15	48,075	34,480	4,670	125	955	30	40,265	4,115	385	3,310
2015-16	49,095	35,395	4,695	125	1,025	40	41,280	3,945	350	3,520
2016-17	50,245	35,835	4,810	135	1,010	45	41,835	4,455	365	3,595
Sub-degree										
2006-07	70,675	66,065	850	35	135	15	67,170	1,120	75	2,310
2007-08	66,510	62,485	780	20	170	15	63,890	880	60	1,680
2008-09	67,935	63,135	875	30	95	20	64,310	800	70	2,750
2009-10	65,680	61,835	690	25	60	255	62,950	790	80	1,860
2010-11	63,025	59,045	985	35	85	10	60,185	570	140	2,125
2011-12	57,705	54,210	720	50	50	10	55,045	700	65	1,890
2012-13	56,735	52,825	725	40	65	45	53,695	655	110	2,265
2013-14	56,135	52,190	695	35	80	5	53,000	805	115	2,210
2014-15	53,475	49,695	705	35	60	5	50,500	830	125	2,020
2015-16	53,190	49,205	700	25	60	5	49,995	925	85	2,190
2016-17	54,180	50,525	720	35	75	25	51,380	685	75	2,040

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

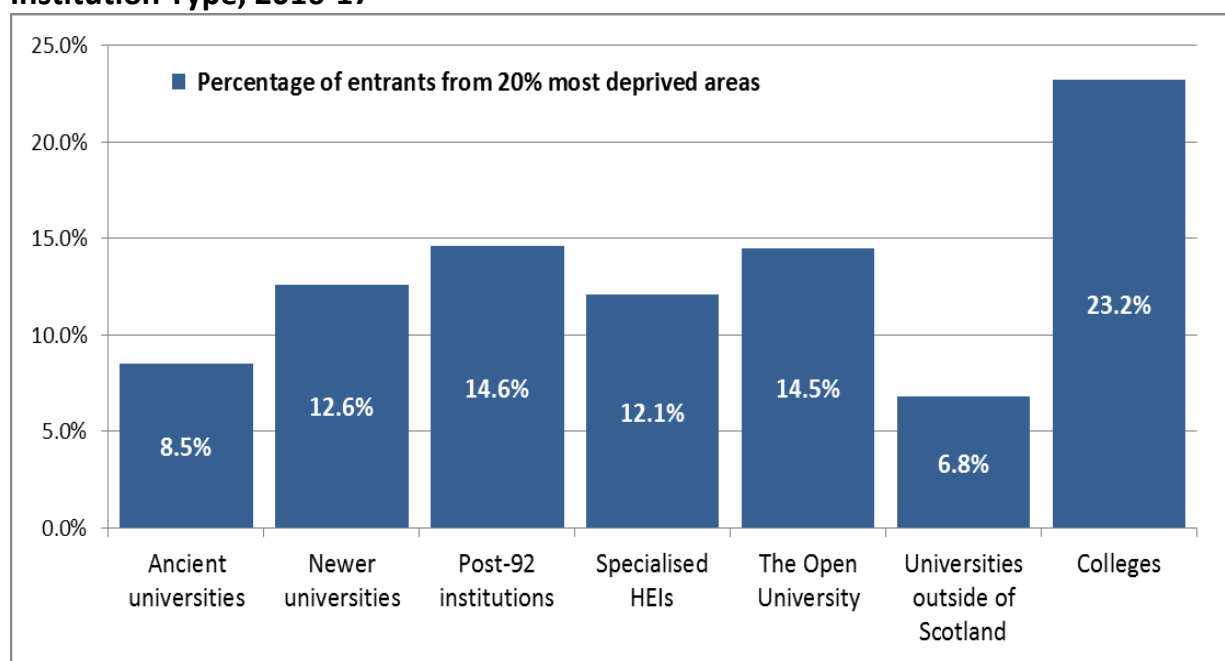
Access and Equalities

41. This section looks at students and entrants by selected protected characteristics. The tables and charts in this section show data on socio-economic deprivation, ethnicity and disability. Age and gender statistics are included in Sections 2 and 3 above.
42. SFC's [Report on Widening Access 2015-16](#) and the [forthcoming 2016-17 publication](#) provide further analysis of statistics on access and equalities in Scotland's HEIs and colleges. Access progress towards the Scottish Government Commission on Widening Access (CoWA) or towards SFC's Outcome Agreement targets can be found in these publications. The data in this section include wider student groups that differ from reporting against Access targets.

Socio-economic Deprivation (SIMD)

43. Deprivation is measured using the Scottish Index of Deprivation (SIMD). Figure 4 below shows the proportion of Scottish domiciled entrants to all levels of HE study in the UK that come from the most deprived 20% of SIMD areas.
44. In 2016-17, 16.1% of Scottish domiciled entrants to all levels of HE study in the UK were from the most deprived 20% of SIMD areas. This is the same level as the proportion in 2015-16.

Figure 8: Total Scottish Domiciled Entrants to Higher Education by Deprivation & Institution Type, 2016-17



Ethnicity

45. Table H below shows students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of study and ethnicity. In 2016-17, 87.6% of all HE students in Scotland with a known ethnic background were from a white ethnic background. This was highest for students studying at HNC/HND level, where the proportion was 94.0%, and lowest at Research and Taught Postgraduate level, where approximately three quarters of students at both levels were from a white ethnic background.
46. Higher education students from an Asian ethnic background made up 7.3% of students with known ethnic background across all levels of study and 6.1% of students at First Degree level. HE students from a black ethnic background made up 2.1% of students with known ethnic background across all levels of study and 1.6% of students at First Degree level.

Table H: Students in Higher Education at Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Level of Study and Ethnicity, 2016-17

Ethnic Background	Level of Study					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
All Students	292,620	13,045	45,780	162,125	42,660	29,005
Asian - Bangladeshi	570	30	180	215	35	105
Asian - Chinese	7,245	600	2,775	3,130	150	585
Asian - Indian	3,630	270	1,000	1,500	275	585
Asian - Pakistani	4,300	140	580	2,590	675	315
Asian - other	3,475	355	995	1,600	245	280
Black - African	4,820	375	1,540	2,045	525	330
Black - Caribbean	315	20	115	120	35	25
Black - other	415	45	160	125	45	40
White	230,800	7,655	27,930	131,750	39,900	23,565
Mixed background	4,805	300	795	3,190	325	195
Other ethnic background	3,210	505	885	1,305	240	275
Unknown	29,045	2,745	8,825	14,560	210	2,705

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

Disability

47. Table I below shows students in higher education in Scottish HEIs and colleges by disability type in 2016-17. In total, 32,645 higher education students had a declared disability which is equivalent to 11.2% of the total HE population. A higher proportion of HE students at HEIs had a declared disability with 11.4% of students at HEIs having a declared disability compared to 10.0% at colleges. Students at HEIs accounted for 84.4% of the 32,645 HE students with a declared disability.
48. In both colleges and HEIs, students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D made up the highest proportion of students with a declared disability, accounting for 38.9% across both sectors. Students with two or more impairments or disabling medical conditions made up a higher proportion of HE students in colleges with 17.7%, compared to 10.4% of students with a disability at HEIs.

Table I: Students in Higher Education in Scottish HEIs and Colleges by Disability Type, 2016-17

Type of Disability	Total	HEIs	Colleges
Blind or a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses	420	335	85
Deaf or a serious hearing impairment	700	545	155
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using arms or using a wheelchair or crutches	1,110	940	170
Personal care support	10		10
A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder	6,330	5,365	965
A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy	3,450	3,015	435
Two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions	3,765	2,865	900
A social/communication impairment such as Aspergers syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder	1,630	990	640
A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D	12,715	10,990	1,725
A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above	2,515	2,515	
Total	32,645	27,560	5,085

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

Qualifier Numbers and Characteristics

49. This section shows students who qualify from Scottish institutions with an HE qualification in each academic year. As in previous sections this is shown across the different levels and modes of study, and by selected protected characteristics, mainly gender, age and domicile. Data on qualifiers by institution type, subject, disability, ethnicity and other breakdowns is available in the accompanying Background tables online.
50. Further information on destination of qualifiers is available in the HESA publication on destination of leavers and the HESA longitudinal survey publication. Details of which can be found on the HESA website. SFC publishes further information on the destinations of HE students in colleges in the College Leaver Destinations publication.
51. Table J below shows that there were 101,755 higher education qualifiers from Scottish institutions in 2016-17, the highest level since 2006-07. There was an increase of 4,355 qualifiers (4.5%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. This represents an increase of 3,935 qualifiers at HEIs (+5.6%) and an increase of 415 qualifiers at colleges (+1.6%).
52. The largest increase in qualifiers between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was at taught postgraduate level in HEIs, where the number of qualifiers increased by 3,290 (+14.3%). The number of research postgraduate qualifiers increased by 260 (+9.3%) in this year, and the number of first degree qualifiers at HEIs increased by 510 (+1.4%).
53. Qualifiers from HNC/HND qualifiers increased at both HEIs and colleges, increasing by 1,370 (+6.7%) overall.
54. There was a decrease in sub-degree qualifiers at both HEIs and colleges between 2015-16 and 2016-17. At HEIs the sub-degree number decreased by 345 (-6.5%) and at colleges it decreased by 660 (-8.3%). There was a decrease of 70 first degree qualifiers at college which, due to the small total number, is equivalent to a 10.9% decrease.
55. This data is also shown in Figure 9 below.

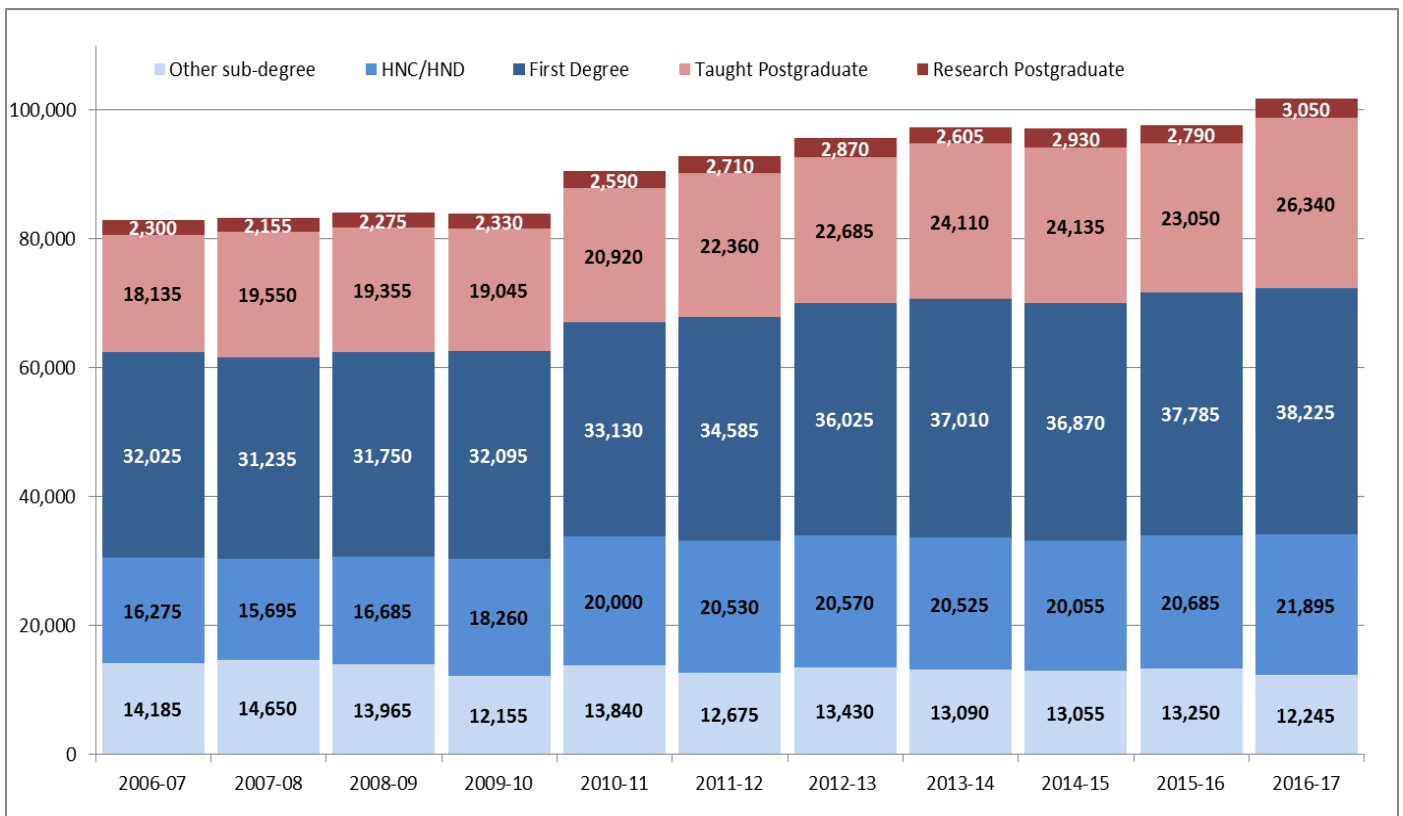
Table J: Qualifiers from Higher Education at Scottish Institutions by Level of Qualification Obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Institution Type / Academic Session	Level of Qualification Obtained					
	All Levels	Postgraduate		First Degree	Sub-degree	
		Research Postgraduate (1)	Taught Postgraduate		HNC/HND	Other Sub-degree
Total						
2006-07	82,920	2,300	18,135	32,025	16,275	14,185
2007-08	83,335	2,155	19,550	31,235	15,695	14,650
2008-09	84,030	2,275	19,355	31,750	16,685	13,965
2009-10	83,885	2,330	19,045	32,095	18,260	12,155
2010-11	90,480	2,590	20,920	33,130	20,000	13,840
2011-12	92,870	2,710	22,360	34,585	20,530	12,675
2012-13 (2)	95,575	2,870	22,685	36,025	20,570	13,430
2013-14 (2)	97,340	2,605	24,110	37,010	20,525	13,090
2014-15 (2)	96,950	2,930	24,135	36,870	19,970	13,050
2015-16	97,400	2,790	23,050	37,785	20,525	13,250
2016-17	101,755	3,050	26,340	38,225	21,895	12,245
All students at HEIs						
2006-07	60,910	2,300	18,020	31,825	1,430	7,335
2007-08	62,130	2,155	19,510	30,965	1,950	7,550
2008-09	61,565	2,275	19,315	31,465	1,715	6,790
2009-10	60,530	2,330	19,000	31,790	1,675	5,730
2010-11	64,295	2,590	20,875	32,555	1,765	6,500
2011-12	67,930	2,710	22,350	34,085	1,865	6,925
2012-13 (2)	70,005	2,870	22,670	35,440	1,920	7,110
2013-14 (2)	71,615	2,605	24,110	36,340	2,320	6,240
2014-15 (2)	71,175	2,930	24,135	36,210	2,330	5,575
2015-16	70,830	2,790	23,050	37,140	2,565	5,285
2016-17	74,765	3,050	26,340	37,650	2,785	4,940
All students at colleges						
2006-07	22,010	-	115	205	14,845	6,850
2007-08	21,205	-	40	265	13,745	7,100
2008-09	22,465	-	40	285	14,970	7,175
2009-10	23,355	-	45	300	16,585	6,420
2010-11	26,185	-	40	570	18,230	7,340
2011-12	24,935	-	15	505	18,670	5,750
2012-13 (2)	25,565	-	15	585	18,650	6,320
2013-14 (2)	25,725	-	-	670	18,205	6,850
2014-15 (2)	25,775	-	-	660	17,640	7,475
2015-16	26,575	-	-	645	17,960	7,965
2016-17	26,990	-	-	575	19,110	7,305

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

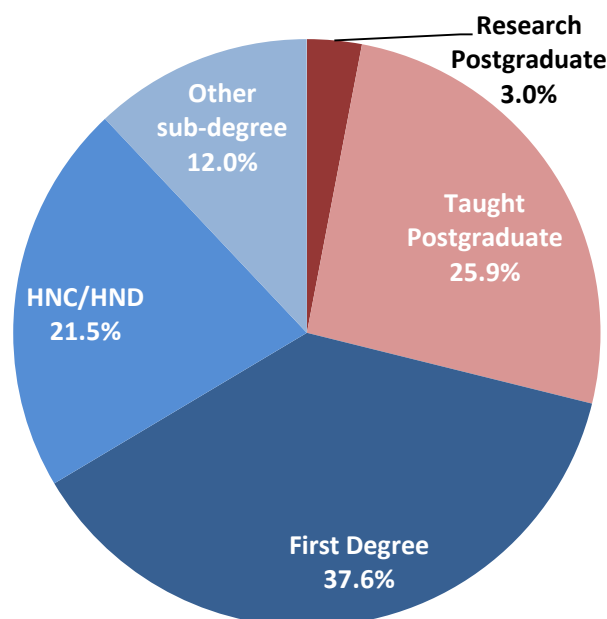
Refer to Notes to Tables.

Figure 9: Qualifiers from Higher Education by Level of Qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17



56. Figure 10 below shows all HE qualifiers in 2016-17 by level of study. The Figure shows that first degree qualifiers are the largest group, accounting for 37.6% of all qualifiers in this year.

Figure 10: Qualifiers from Higher Education by Level of Study, 2016-17



Gender, Age and Domicile of Qualifiers

57. Table K below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by age and level of study. The full time series for 2006-07 to 2016-17 by institution type is available in the Background Tables online.
58. The age profile across the levels of study is perhaps as expected, with the highest number of postgraduate qualifiers falling in the 21-39 age range, first degree qualifiers mostly falling in the 21-24 age range and sub-degree level qualifiers more spread out across the age groups. Qualifiers in the age groups above 25 years old were least likely to be qualifying at first degree level.
59. Table K shows that the largest proportional increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17 was in HE qualifiers aged 16-18 who increased by 370, or 12.2%. The largest overall increase in numbers was from qualifiers aged 25-29 who increased by 1,575 (+8.6%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
60. HE qualifiers in the oldest age groups decreased between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Table K shows that HE qualifiers aged 50-59 decreased by 90 (-3.2%) and HE qualifiers aged 60 and over decreased by 65 (-8.8%) in this year.

Table K: Qualifiers from Higher Education at Scottish institutions by Age and Level of Qualification Obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Level of Qualification / Academic Session	Total (6)	16-18	19-20	21-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
All levels									
2006-07	82,920	2,310	7,590	32,930	14,540	13,090	9,025	2,915	500
2007-08	83,335	2,280	7,615	32,675	15,040	13,045	8,920	2,970	555
2008-09	84,030	2,580	7,870	33,455	15,025	12,965	8,510	3,005	610
2009-10	83,885	2,830	8,110	33,620	15,495	12,650	7,900	2,735	535
2010-11	90,480	2,930	9,165	36,170	17,270	13,250	7,955	3,000	740
2011-12	92,870	3,140	9,360	37,945	18,360	13,320	7,450	2,705	580
2012-13	95,575	3,585	14,815	38,895	16,055	12,295	6,660	2,545	715
2013-14	97,340	3,755	15,685	39,770	15,930	12,285	6,545	2,615	755
2014-15	96,955	3,005	10,455	42,465	18,465	12,975	6,155	2,720	705
2015-16	97,405	3,045	10,260	42,395	18,275	13,300	6,535	2,855	735
2016-17	101,755	3,415	10,330	43,615	19,850	14,480	6,625	2,765	670
Postgraduate									
2016-17	29,390	-	10	7,660	11,040	6,725	2,715	1,050	185
First Degree									
2016-17	38,225	5	1,130	28,005	4,300	2,825	1,320	505	130
Sub-degree									
2016-17	34,140	3,410	9,190	7,945	4,510	4,930	2,590	1,210	350

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

61. Table L below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by domicile and level of study. The full time series for 2006-07 to 2016-17 by institution type is available in the Background Tables online.
62. In 2016-17, Scottish domiciled students accounted for 69.6% of all HE qualifiers and this high proportion is due to the high proportion of sub-degree qualifiers that are Scottish domiciled. In 2016-17, 45.0% of Scottish domiciled HE qualifiers were at sub-degree level, 38.2% were at first degree level and 16.8% were at postgraduate level.
63. This is in comparison to RUK students where 57.1% are at first degree level, and non-EU International students where 71.5% are at postgraduate level.
64. Table L shows that from 2015-16 and 2016-17, the total number of Scottish domicile HE qualifiers increased by 2,130 (+3.1%) and the total number of HE qualifiers from RUK increased by 540 (+7.3%). HE qualifiers from the rest of the EU increased by 45 students (+0.6%) and by 1,625 (+11.8%) for non-EU international qualifiers from HE.

Table L: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Domicile and Qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Level of Qualification/ Academic Session	Total	Scotland	Rest of UK	EU (excluding UK)	Non-EU International
Total					
2006-07	82,920	62,710	6,605	4,610	8,990
2007-08	83,335	61,420	6,895	4,820	10,205
2008-09	84,030	61,435	7,485	5,005	10,100
2009-10	83,885	60,740	6,605	5,755	10,725
2010-11	90,480	64,715	7,110	5,955	12,655
2011-12	92,870	65,045	7,500	6,095	14,230
2012-13	95,575	66,640	7,945	6,475	14,515
2013-14	97,340	68,530	7,260	6,855	14,695
2014-15	96,955	67,100	7,130	7,320	15,405
2015-16	97,405	68,685	7,630	7,320	13,760
2016-17	101,755	70,815	8,190	7,365	15,385
Postgraduate					
2016-17	29,390	11,895	2,900	3,595	11,005
First Degree					
2016-17	38,225	27,060	4,675	3,355	3,140
Sub-degree					
2016-17	34,140	31,865	620	415	1,245

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

65. Table M below shows HE qualifiers at Scottish institutions by gender and mode of study. The table shows that females make up a higher proportion of qualifiers at both modes of study in all years. In 2016-17, females accounted for 59.0% of full-time HE qualifiers, 51.6% of part-time HE qualifiers and 56.7% of HE qualifiers overall.
66. From 2015-16 to 2016-17, the number of male HE qualifiers increased by 1,095 (+2.6%) and the number of female HE qualifiers increased by 3,235 (+5.9%). For full-time HE qualifiers, the number of males increased by 280 (+1.0%) and the number of females increased by 1,985 (+5.0%). For part-time HE qualifiers, the number of males increased by 815 (+5.9%) and the number of females increased by 1,250 (+8.7%).

Table M: Qualifiers from Higher Education Courses at Scottish Institutions by Mode of Study and Gender, 2006-07 to 2016-17

Academic Session	Total			Full-time			Part-time (20)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2006-07	82,920	35,435	47,485	52,615	21,840	30,775	30,305	13,595	16,710
2007-08	83,335	36,015	47,315	51,085	21,515	29,570	32,245	14,505	17,740
2008-09	84,030	37,270	46,760	53,585	23,010	30,575	30,445	14,260	16,185
2009-10	83,885	37,410	46,470	55,075	23,925	31,155	28,805	13,490	15,320
2010-11	90,480	41,215	49,265	58,490	25,935	32,560	31,990	15,280	16,710
2011-12	92,870	41,440	51,430	62,275	27,130	35,145	30,595	14,310	16,285
2012-13	95,575	42,280	53,290	63,340	27,425	35,915	32,230	14,855	17,375
2013-14	97,340	42,320	55,005	66,150	27,945	38,195	31,195	14,375	16,815
2014-15	96,955	42,070	54,860	67,140	27,875	39,250	29,800	14,195	15,610
2015-16	97,365	42,855	54,505	69,055	28,960	40,095	28,310	13,900	14,410
2016-17	101,755	43,950	57,740	71,320	29,240	42,080	30,375	14,715	15,660

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Refer to Notes to Tables.

Participation Rates for Entrants to Higher Education in Scotland

Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)

67. The Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIRP) roughly equates to the probability that a 16 year old will participate in Higher Education by the age of 30.
68. The Scottish HEIPR, displayed in Table M, is a measure of all initial entrants aged between 16 and 30 (inclusive). An initial entrant is defined as any student who participates for at least six months on a course which is expected to last for at least six months, who has not participated in Higher Education previously for a period for at least six months (whether at a college or an HEI).
69. The measure does not show the proportion currently participating in HE, the proportion continuing beyond the first six months, or those who successfully complete a course. The HEIPR measures the likelihood of participation in higher education and is suitable for comparison with measures in other countries. Key strengths of these rates, compared to student number statistics, are that these participation rates are more inclusive and better recognise the importance of lifelong learning.
70. The initial participation rates for each age group (16 to 30), in scope of this calculation, are summed to give the HEIPR.
71. Table M shows that the Scottish HEIPR has increased from 55.9% in 2015-16 to 57.4% in 2016-17.

Table N: Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate, 2015-16 to 2016-17

	2015-16			2016-17			
Age	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Initial Entrants	Population	Initial Participation Rate	Year-on-Year Change in HEIPR
16	1,299	58,234	2.2%	1,373	56,859	2.4%	↑
17	9,436	59,847	15.8%	9,584	58,979	16.2%	↑
18	13,242	62,206	21.3%	13,258	60,948	21.8%	↑
19	3,595	65,430	5.5%	3,745	66,422	5.6%	↑
20	1,559	68,012	2.3%	1,668	68,517	2.4%	↑
21	1,071	70,811	1.5%	1,113	70,093	1.6%	↑
22	830	72,715	1.1%	868	72,571	1.2%	↑
23	788	76,667	1.0%	766	74,416	1.0%	↔
24	742	77,259	1.0%	685	78,342	0.9%	↓
25	602	74,762	0.8%	643	78,046	0.8%	↔
26	576	73,668	0.8%	605	74,934	0.8%	↔
27	519	73,688	0.7%	523	74,410	0.7%	↔
28	461	71,860	0.6%	553	74,504	0.7%	↑
29	458	71,011	0.6%	429	72,185	0.6%	↔
30	406	70,622	0.6%	403	71,553	0.6%	↔
16-30	35,584		55.9%	36,216		57.4%	↑

Sources: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

Notes to Tables

The numbering of the notes refers to additional tables published on the SFC website and not to any of the tables in this publication. For full details please see the associated Excel Workbook.

1. The figures include Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students at the Open University (OU) up to 2011-12. The OU had 20 Scottish-domiciled postgraduate research students in 2011-12.
2. Students at the former land-based colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge, which merged with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) to form SRUC in October 2012, were still recorded through the college reporting until 2012-13. They are included in the figures for colleges for 2012-13 but are included with the SRUC and HEI related figures from 2013-14.
3. A number of institution mergers happened across the university and college sectors over the time period shown in this publication. Full details of these are described in [Annex A: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).
4. The above table does not include Scottish domiciled students at UK institutions outside of Scotland and does not represent rates of participation in Scottish local authorities.
5. Totals include students whose ages were not reported.
6. The 'Combined' subject grouping is used in recognition of programmes of study which cut across different subject areas.
7. Total includes students from overseas whose specific country of domicile was not recorded.
8. Where universities are group in 'types', these types comprised the following HEIs:
 - Ancient Universities: University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of St. Andrews.
 - Newer Universities: University of Dundee, Heriot-Watt University, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde.
 - Post-92 Universities: University of Abertay Dundee, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian University, Edinburgh Napier

University, University of the West of Scotland, Robert Gordon University and the University of the Highlands & Islands.

- Small Specialist Institutions: SRUC, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow School of Art.
9. Deprived areas are defined as the 20% lowest ranked areas in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) for the relevant year. In this table, Academic Years (AY) 2001-02 to 2004-05 relate to SIMD 2004, 2005-06 and 2006-07 relate to SIMD 2006, AY 2007-08 to 2010-11 relate to SIMD 2009 and AY 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 relate to SIMD 2012.
 10. The working population is defined as number of persons aged 16-64.
 11. Includes students obtaining qualifications from writing up and dormant status who were previously studying full-time.
 12. The totals in 2016-17 included 212 students whose gender was reported at 'Other' or 'Unknown'.
 13. The entrant figures shown in the table will not match Scottish domiciled entrant figures in other tables as not all postcodes from student records can be matched to postcodes in SIMD.

Methodology, Data Definitions, and Quality Information

Data Sources

1. This publication contains information on students from both colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) who are attending Higher Education courses in Scotland. These statistics are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from HEIs and by SFC from further education colleges (colleges).
2. Where analysis refers to institutions (rather than HEIs or colleges) student data from both Scottish HEIs and Scottish colleges has been combined to report on all Scottish institutions.

Coverage

3. Following a consultation in 2007, the method of counting students at HEIs was changed in 2009 in order to provide a greater level of consistency with HESA. The figures in this publication that relate to higher education institutions are defined by HESA's standard registration population. Time-series have been revised according to this definition.
4. The standard registration population includes all higher education student instances active at a reporting institution at any point in the reporting period 1 August to 31 July except; dormant students, incoming visiting exchange students, students who study wholly outside the UK, students on sabbatical and writing up students.
5. Data from Scottish colleges continues to exclude those students who do not complete the first 25% of their course (the point at which they become eligible for funding).

Student Instances

6. HESA's Student Records use the term 'instance' to describe a student's engagement within an institution. A student may enrol on more than one course and therefore have more than one instance. It is instances that are reported in this publication. This approach is consistent with that of HESA. The same approach is taken when reporting on student activity at Scottish colleges. Where references are made in this release to 'students' this should be interpreted as 'instances'.

Full-time Equivalents

7. Full-time Equivalents (FTE) represent the expected hours of learning undertaken by a student during their course, as a proportion of the expected hours of learning of full-time study. For example; a student with an FTE of 0.8 is expected to undertake 20% fewer hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course, a student with an FTE of 1.2 is expected to undertake 20% more hours of learning relative to a full-time student on the same course.
8. At UK HEIs, full-time students are those normally required to attend an institution for periods amounting to more than 24 weeks within the year of study, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their institution. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week. Full-time HE students at Scottish colleges are those which meet the criteria of at least 480 planned notional hours.

Open University

9. Students attending the Open University whose pre-study location (domicile) was in Scotland, are classified in this publication as studying at a Scottish HEI. Where comparisons are made to other UK countries, the Open University is regarded as a separate institution in each country. Students studying at the Open University whose pre-study location was outside the UK or recorded as an unknown UK domicile are excluded prior to 2012-13. This methodology differs from that used by HESA where the Open University is counted as a wholly English institution; as a result student figures reported in this release will differ from those reported by HESA.

Domicile

10. The full list of countries included in each domicile grouping is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Level of Study

11. The full list of qualifications included in each level of study category is published in [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Subject Tables

12. Subject data from higher education institutions is apportioned to broadly reflect the weight of a particular subject within the study programmes of individual enrolments. This process is consistent with the treatment of subject breakdowns by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). As well as being

counted in the main subject groupings, supplementary subjects are shown separately for clarity. Economics and Politics are included in Social Studies, English is included in Languages, Geography is included in Social Studies, Environmental Science is included in Physical Sciences and Psychology is included in Biological Sciences.

Data Presentation

13. In all tables in this release, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, and 0, 1 and 2 have been rounded to 0. Unknown values are not displayed individually in tables but are included in totals. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding and the inclusion of unknown values. Figures and percentages in the text and charts are calculated from rounded values.

Data Quality Information

14. This section provides a summary of information on the following dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability. For further information please see [Annex B: HE Students and Qualifiers 2014-15](#).

Relevance

15. HESA is the official UK agency for the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative information about higher education at higher education institutions. SFC collects data on provision at colleges through the Further Education Statistics (FES) data collections.

Accuracy

16. The [procedures followed by HESA to ensure quality of the data](#) are provided on the HESA website. The [guidance issued by SFC for the submission of the Scottish college records](#) is on the SFC website.
17. The following table gives the proportions of the overall student populations at Scottish HEIs and colleges where the ethnicity and disability were unknown, both for all students and for Scottish domiciled students only. The proportion of Scottish-domiciled students at Scottish HEIs and colleges for whom their unitary authority of residence was not recorded is also given.

Proportion unknown for key variables, 2013-14 to 2016-17

Proportion of unknowns for key variables	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
LA unknown for				
Scottish Domiciles:				
HEIs	0.5%	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%
Colleges	2.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.5%
Ethnicity unknown				
HEIs				
Scottish domiciles	2.0%	2.5%	2.0%	2.3%
All HEI students	11.9%	11.6%	11.4%	11.7%
Colleges				
Scottish domiciles	2.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%
All college students	2.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%
Disability unknown				
HEIs				
Scottish domiciles	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All HEI students	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Colleges				
Scottish domiciles	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All college students	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

18. Scottish HEIs are only required to return ethnicity information for UK-domiciled students.
19. HESA changed the reporting requirements for disability information for the 2010-11 academic session so that new entrants from 2010-11 onwards for whom it was not known whether or not the students had a disability had to be recorded as having 'no known disability'.

Accessibility and Clarity

20. This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the SFC website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables available on the website only, a free to use service.

Comparability

21. HESA collects student enrolment data from all publicly funded UK HEIs, so comparison with other countries within the UK is possible. The Statistical First Release [Higher Education Student Enrolments and Qualifications obtained at Higher Education Institutions in the UK](#) provides information on this topic.

Associate students by gender, age and deprivation quintile, 2016-17

22. When a college and HEI share responsibility for students, for example, when a HEI acts as the awarding body for a course that is partly delivered at college, these students appears in both the HEI and college data are known as Associate Students.

23. Following consultation, it was decided to continue counting Associate Students in both sectors in this publication and to produce a separate table quantifying the number of identifiable Associate Students. The table shows a split by gender, age and percentages from the most deprived areas for the 1,450 students who have been identified as Associate Students in colleges in 2016-17.

	Number of Associate Students	Percentage of Associate Students
Gender		
Male	805	55.5%
Female	645	44.5%
Total	1,450	
Age group		
16-18	515	35.5%
19-20	425	29.2%
21-24	200	13.8%
25-29	120	8.3%
30-39	135	9.4%
40-49	35	2.5%
50-59	15	1.1%
Total	1,450	
Deprivation Quintile		
20% most deprived areas	310	21.6%
40% most deprived areas	290	20.1%

Complete list of tables available on SFC website

Table number	Title
1 (A)	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs & colleges by institution type and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
2	Students in higher education at HEIs in Scotland by institution, 2006-07, 2013-14 and 2016-17
3	Students in higher education at colleges in Scotland by institution, 2004-05, 2013-14 and 2016-17
4	Full-time equivalents (FTE) of students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by gender, 2006-07 to 2016-17
5	Scottish domiciled students at higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by local authority, 2008-09 to 2016-17
6 (B)	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by mode of study and gender, 2006-07 to 2016-17
7	Distance learning students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by gender and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
8 (C)	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age, 2006-07 to 2016-17
9	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
10a	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by subject and level of study, 2016-17
10b	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by subject and gender, 2016-17
10c	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by subject, 2006-07 to 2016-17
11	Students in higher education at UK HEIs by country of institution and level of study, 2010-11 to 2016-17
12	Full-time equivalents (FTE) of students in higher education in UK HEIs by gender, 2010-11 to 2016-17
13 (D)	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by institution type and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17

14	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
15 (E)	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of study, subject and gender, 2016-17
16	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by subject and gender, 2016-17
17	Scottish domiciled entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by local authority , 2010-11 to 2016-17
18	Entrants to higher education at UK HEIs by country of institution and level of study, 2010-11 to 2016-17
19	Scottish domiciled students in higher education at HEIs and colleges in the UK by country of institution and level of study, 2016-17
20	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by domicile and type of institution, 2016-17
21	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by domicile and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
22 (F)	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by domicile and level of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
23	Students in higher education at UK HEIs by domicile and country of institution, 2010-11 to 2016-17
24a (I)	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by receipt of Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and disability type, 2016-17
24b	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by receipt of Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and disability type (%), 2016-17
25a	Scottish domiciled entrants to higher education in the UK by deprivation classification and institution type, 2016-17
25b (G)	Scottish domiciled entrants from deprived areas to higher education in the UK by institution type, 2006-07 to 2016-17
26 (H)	Students in higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of study and ethnicity, 2016-17
27	Entrants to higher education at Scottish HEIs and colleges by ethnicity, 2006-07 to 2016-17
28 (J)	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by institution type and level of qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17

29 (K)	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by mode of study and gender, 2006-07 to 2016-17
30 (L)	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by age and level of qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17
31	Qualifiers from higher education courses at HEIs in Scotland by institution, 2006-07, 2013-14 and 2016-17
32	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish colleges by institution, 2006-07, 2013-14 and 2016-17
33	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by qualification obtained and institution type, 2016-17
34	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by subject of study, 2006-07 to 2016-17
35	Qualification classification of qualifiers from first degree courses at Scottish institutions by gender and award, 2006-07 to 2016-17
36 (M)	Qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by domicile and qualification obtained, 2006-07 to 2016-17
37a	Scottish domiciled qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by level of qualification obtained and ethnicity, 2016-17
37b	Scottish domiciled qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish HEIs and colleges by ethnicity, 2006-07 to 2016-17
38	Scottish domiciled students and qualifiers at Scottish institutions by disclosed disability, 2016-17
39a	Scottish domiciled qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by local authority and level of qualification obtained, 2016-17
39b	Scottish domiciled qualifiers from higher education courses at Scottish institutions by local authority, 2010-11 to 2016-17
40	Qualifiers from higher education courses at UK HEIs by country of institution and level of qualification obtained, 2010-11 to 2016-17
41 (N)	Scottish Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) by age, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17
42	Associate students in 2016-17: Gender, age and percentages from 20% and 40% most deprived areas