

HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2006/07

This Statistical Bulletin presents summary information from the report "Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK 2006/07" published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The HESA publication, along with data for each higher education institution, can be found at www.hesa.ac.uk/pi.

The indicators are designed to provide reliable information on the nature and performance of the higher education sector in the UK and a consistent set of measures of this performance. The performance indicators broadly cover widening participation, non-continuation rates and outcomes. Indicators relate to higher education institutions in the individual countries of the UK. These tables can also be found on StatsWales.

Widening Participation Indicators, 2006/07

- The percentage of *young*¹ full-time first degree entrants to Welsh higher education institutions (HEIs) from state schools or colleges was 93 per cent an increase on the previous year. The UK comparable figure was 88 per cent (*Table 1*).
- 30 per cent of *young* full-time first-degree entrants to Welsh HEIs were from National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) Classes 4 - 7¹, the same as the UK comparable figure. The Welsh figure has increased by one percentage point from 2005/06. (*Table 2*).
- 10 per cent of *young* full-time first degree entrants and 12.5 per cent of *mature* full-time first degree entrants at Welsh HEIs came from low participation neighbourhoods². Welsh HEIs has the highest rate for both young and mature entrants. (*Table 3*).
- 12 per cent of *young* part-time undergraduate entrants and 7 per cent of *mature*¹ part-time undergraduate entrants at Welsh HEIs came from low participation neighbourhoods². Similar to the UK figures of 12 per cent for *young* entrants and 6 per cent for *mature* entrants (*Table 4*).
- 5 per cent of full-time first degree students (the highest rate in the UK) and 2 per cent of part-time undergraduate students in Welsh HEIs were in receipt of a *disabled students' allowance* (DSA)¹. (*Table 5*).

¹ See definitions in Annex A.

² The method for defining low participation neighbourhoods has changed and is not comparable with previous years. See Annex A for further details.

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Non-continuation Indicators, 2005/06 students

- 8 per cent of *young* full-time first-degree entrants to Welsh HEIs in 2005/06 did not continue beyond their first year and 15 per cent of *mature* full-time first degree entrants to Welsh HEIs in 2005/06 did not continue beyond their first year. Both figures were higher than the comparable UK figures (7 per cent and 14 per cent) (*Table 6*).
- 21.5 per cent of *young* full-time other undergraduate entrants to Welsh HEIs in 2005/06 did not continue beyond their first year. This has increased by two percentage points from 2004/05 and is three percentage points higher than the UK. 31 per cent of *mature* full-time other undergraduate entrants to Welsh HEIs in 2005/06 did not continue beyond their first year, compared with 17 per cent for the UK (*Table 7*).
- 77 per cent of full-time students starting first degree courses in Welsh HEIs in 2005/06 were expected to gain a first degree, the same percentage as last year. For the same period, 16 per cent of full-time students starting a first degree course in Welsh HEIs were not expected to obtain an award nor to transfer to another institution. This is slightly lower than the figure from 2004/05 (16.5 per cent) and two percentage points higher than the UK (*Tables 8 and 9*).

Module completion rates for part-time students, 2006/07³

- At Welsh HEIs, 89 per cent of modules undertaken by part-time undergraduate students were passed. On average each student undertook 2.3 modules and each module was worth on average 14 per cent of annual full-time equivalent study (*not in tables*).

³ Module completion rates are only available for Welsh HE institutions.

Table 1: Percentage of young entrants to full-time first degree courses from state schools or colleges

Country of institution	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
UK	87.2	86.8	86.7	87.4	87.8
Wales	91.9	91.5	91.2	91.8	93.1
England	86.4	86.1	85.9	86.9	87.2
Scotland	87.5	85.9	86.3	85.7	86.6
N. Ireland	99.9	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.6

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 2: Percentage of young full-time first degree entrants from NS-SEC Classes 4, 5, 6 or 7

Country of institution	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
UK	28.4	28.6	28.2	29.3	29.8
Wales	29.8	29.5	28.4	29.0	30.1
England	27.9	28.2	27.9	29.1	29.8
Scotland	28.0	26.9	26.7	27.3	25.9
N. Ireland	41.3	42.4	41.2	41.0	41.7

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 3: Percentage of full-time first degree entrants from low-participation neighbourhoods (a)

Country of institution	Young		Mature
	2005/06	2006/07	2006/07
UK	8.6	9.0	10.6
Wales	8.9	10.2	12.5
England	9.2	9.6	11.4
Scotland	3.3	3.2	2.5
N. Ireland	6.5	6.7	8.7

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

(a) The method for defining low participation neighbourhoods has changed and is not comparable with previous years. See Annex A for further detail

Table 4: Percentage of part-time undergraduate entrants from low-participation neighbourhoods (a)

Country of institution	Young	Mature
	2006/07	2006/07
UK	12.2	6.4
Wales (a)	12.2	7.2
England	13.0	6.7
Scotland	3.6	1.5
N. Ireland	10.9	1.3

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

(b) The method for defining low participation neighbourhoods has changed and is not comparable with previous years. See Annex A for further details.

Table 5: Percentage of students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (a)

Country of institution	Full-time first degree					Part-time undergraduate				
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
UK (b)	2.6	3.1	3.6	4.1	4.4	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.3
Wales	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.4	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.8
England (b)	2.6	3.1	3.7	4.1	4.4	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.3
Scotland	2.2	2.5	3.1	3.4	3.6	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.5	2.4
N. Ireland	1.7	2.4	2.7	3.4	3.3	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.1	2.3
Open University (c)	.	.	.	.	.	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

(a) Unlike the other access indicators, this is based on all undergraduates, not just entrants.

(b) Excluding Open University.

(c) '.' indicates not applicable

Table 6: Percentage of full-time first degree entrants not continuing in HE after their first year

Country of institution	Young					Mature				
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
UK	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.2	7.1	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.4	14.3
Wales	7.2	8.0	8.5	8.2	7.8	16.5	17.2	17.2	16.7	15.2
England	7.0	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.7	14.8	15.1	15.4	14.0	14.2
Scotland	9.6	10.7	10.0	9.0	8.7	15.4	17.3	16.9	17.0	15.1
N. Ireland	9.2	9.7	11.2	10.1	11.0	10.6	11.9	12.1	11.3	12.3

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 7: Percentage of full-time other undergraduate entrants not continuing in HE after their first year

Country of institution	Young				Mature			
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
UK	17.7	20.0	17.9	18.2	16.1	15.6	15.6	17.3
Wales	22.0	18.2	19.3	21.5	23.1	23.0	28.7	31.3
England	16.1	17.5	16.6	17.0	14.5	14.3	14.8	16.7
Scotland	25.7	36.0	25.8	25.3	25.2	23.0	18.6	17.8
N. Ireland	20.6	25.2	27.2	21.7	12.1	13.7	14.9	16.6

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 8: Percentage of full-time students starting a first degree course expected to gain a first degree

Country of institution	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
UK	77.9	77.4	77.1	77.6	77.4
Wales	78.2	75.2	76.8	77.1	77.2
England	78.4	78.1	77.7	78.1	78.0
Scotland	73.0	72.1	73.3	73.8	72.7
N. Ireland	81.9	80.8	75.9	77.9	77.7

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Table 9: Percentage of full-time students starting a first-degree course not expected to obtain award nor transfer

Country of institution	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
UK	14.1	14.4	14.9	14.2	14.1
Wales	14.7	16.2	15.4	16.5	15.9
England	13.8	13.9	14.4	13.8	13.9
Scotland	16.3	17.6	17.5	15.4	14.3
N. Ireland	12.2	14.5	19.1	17.3	17.6

Source: HESA Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK

Annex A: Notes and definitions

The information in this Bulletin is taken from 'Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK' available on the HESA web-site at www.hesa.ac.uk/pi. A 'Guide to Performance Indicators in Higher Education' is also available at this web-site.

The Performance Indicators Steering Group (PISG) has led the development of these indicators. Members are drawn from the four higher education funding bodies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (HEFCE, SHEFC, HEFCW, DEL); government departments including the Welsh Assembly Government, the Higher Education Statistics Agency, and the universities and colleges through their representative bodies (Universities UK and SCOP).

Coverage

All the tables are based on students who are residents of England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Most of the indicators are shown separately for young and mature students. In addition, most of them refer just to students on undergraduate courses. The non-continuation indicators are further restricted to full-time students only.

Age

Many of the tables are split between young and mature students, defined as follows:

- **Young** students are those who are under 21 at 30 September of the academic year in which they are recorded as entering the institution - for students recorded as entering an institution in 2006/07, young students are those born after 30 September 1985.
- **Mature** students are those who are 21 or over, also at 30 September of the academic year in which they are recorded as entering the institution.

National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)

The information on Socio-Economic Classification (SEC) is taken from the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). The classifications used are:

NS-SEC 1:	Higher managerial and professional occupations
NS-SEC 2:	Lower managerial and professional occupations
NS-SEC 3:	Intermediate occupations
NS-SEC 4:	Small employers and own account workers
NS-SEC 5:	Lower supervisory and technical occupations
NS-SEC 6:	Semi-routine occupations
NS-SEC 7:	Routine occupations

Low-participation neighbourhoods

Following the recommendations of the PI review, the Performance Indicators Steering Group (PISG) has agreed that the postcode indicator should be replaced from this year. The new indicator is based on the revised POLAR definitions of low participation areas. For this indicator, which is applied to young and mature, full-time and part-time entrants, a ward is defined as low participation if its participation rate places it in the bottom 20 per cent of wards ranked by this measure. Students have been allocated to these neighbourhoods on the basis of their postcodes. The value of this new indicator (POLAR2) for young full-time first degree entrants across the sector is 9.0 percent, rather less than the value for the old indicator (Super Profiles) of 14.7 percent (14.0 percent in 2005/06).

Due to this change in methodology this indicator is not comparable with previous years. However, for young full-time first degree entrants the 2005/06 indicator have been recalculated based on the new method and are included in Table 3. More information about this change can be found at www.hesa.ac.uk/pi

Disabled students

The indicator used is the percentage of all undergraduate students who are recorded as being in receipt of disabled students' allowance (DSA). However, it should be noted that not all students who are disabled will apply for, or be eligible for, this allowance.

Key quality information

For further information about the performance indicators and specific data issues can be found at, www.hesa.ac.uk/pi.