

Statistical Fact Sheet 5

Enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions by country of institution and subject area – 2017/18

Of the 54,460 students enrolled at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 2017/18:

- 14,145 (26.0%) were enrolled on Narrow STEM¹ related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 27.1%, 29.9% and 30.8% respectively.
- 26,995 (49.6%) were enrolled on Broad STEM² related courses. The equivalent percentages for English, Scottish and Welsh HEIs were 45.5%, 49.5% and 47.7% respectively.
- The three most popular subject areas studied in NI HEIs were ‘Subjects allied to medicine’ (8,595), ‘Business and administrative studies’ (7,500) and ‘Education’ (6,365).

Enrolments at UK HEIs by subject area and country of institution – 2017/18

Subject Area	Country of Institution			
	England	NI	Wales	Scotland
Biological Sciences	189,270	3,620	24,020	17,060
Physical Sciences	76,320	1,715	11,890	5,790
Mathematical Sciences	37,730	585	4,665	1,600
Computer Science	84,665	4,360	12,640	5,585
Engineering and technology	130,560	3,875	20,670	9,865
Total Narrow STEM¹ related subjects	518,545	14,155	73,885	39,905
Medicine and dentistry	52,885	2,160	7,655	3,180
Subjects allied to medicine	233,525	8,595	30,690	15,255
Veterinary Science	6,310	0	1,550	0
Agriculture and related subjects	14,545	475	2,345	1,315
Architecture, building & planning	43,720	1,615	6,150	2,135
Total Broad STEM² related subjects	869,530	26,995	122,280	61,785
Social studies	191,935	4,650	21,205	11,570
Law	76,995	2,210	8,755	4,210
Business and administrative studies	286,975	7,500	33,215	15,280
Mass communications & documentation	44,565	900	3,440	2,455
Languages	81,905	1,700	12,375	7,560
Historical and philosophical studies	66,895	1,220	11,730	4,270
Creative arts and design	155,630	2,035	12,170	8,580
Education	114,950	6,365	15,635	8,505
Combined	22,560	885	6,300	5,380
All subject Areas	1,911,940	54,460	247,110	129,585
% Narrow STEM¹ related subject	27.1%	26.0%	29.9%	30.8%
% Broad STEM² related subject	45.5%	49.6%	49.5%	47.7%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

1. Narrow STEM related courses include: Biological Sciences; Physical Sciences; Mathematical Sciences; Computer Science; and Engineering & Technology.
2. Broad STEM related courses include: Medicine & Dentistry; Subjects allied to Medicine; Biological Sciences; Veterinary Science; Agriculture & related subjects; Physical Sciences; Mathematical Sciences; Computer Science; Engineering & Technology; and Architecture, Building & Planning.
3. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, in line with HESA rounding strategy, with 0, 1 and 2 rounded to 0.
4. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the totals shown.
5. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Data from this fact sheet, and for the years up to and including 2014/15, are available in open data format at the following link:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/he-fact-sheets-open-data-tables>

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/higher-education-statistics>