Statistical Fact Sheet 4

Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories - 2012/13 to 2016/17

- In 2016/17, 9.6% of students enrolled at NI HEIs self-reported as having a disability.

- Of those NI domiciled students enrolled at NI HEIs who were asked to provide their religion in 2016/17 (excluding those at the Open University), 30.5% of students gave their religion as 'Protestant', while 48.3% of students gave their religion as 'Roman Catholic' and 21.2% of students fell into the 'Other', 'Not Known' or 'No Religion' categories.

Disability [1]	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Disability	4,020	4,160	4,550	5,140	5,250
No disability/unknown	52,140	52,235	51,895	50,100	49,320
Total	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570

Religion [2] [3] [4]	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Protestant	14,065	13,800	13,655	13,125	12,955
Roman Catholic	21,115	21,325	21,210	20,595	20,535
Other	4,115	4,665	5,170	5,640	3,580
Unknown	4,085	4,350	4,265	4,055	3,675
No Religion	-	-	-	-	1,765
Total	43,380	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505

Age	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
20 and under	20,010	19,995	20,610	19,810	19,395
21 to 24	14,955	15,115	14,870	15,185	15,360
25 and over	21,190	21,280	20,960	20,250	19,815
Unknown	0	5	0	0	0
Total	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570

Gender	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Male	24,015	24,400	24,670	23,865	23,540
Female	32,140	31,995	31,775	31,380	31,030
Total	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570

Ethnicity [1]	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
White	48,380	48,415	49,150	49,575	48,625
Irish Traveller	10	15	15	10	15
Black	330	330	455	360	370
Indian	335	315	285	300	295
Pakistani	155	135	235	195	185
Bangladeshi	200	150	100	115	115
Chinese	805	900	550	350	355
Other Asian	415	385	360	295	300
Mixed	325	340	325	340	380
Other	180	190	235	220	235
Unknown	5,025	5,220	4,740	3,480	3,695
Total	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245	54,570

Marital Status[2]	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Single (never married or never in civil partnership)	37,100	36,645	37,230	36,515	35,920
Married or in civil partnership	4,945	4,940	4,660	4,360	4,120
Separated (but still legally married or in civil partnership)	290	290	275	260	245
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	285	260	245	260	225
Widowed	60	50	55	55	45
Co-habiting	655	740	725	700	685
Unknown	40	1,210	1,105	1,260	1,265
Total	43,380	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505

Dependants[2]	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Young people/children (YP/C)	4,480	4,570	4,530	4,330	4,140
Other relative/friends (OR/F)	365	395	375	315	290
Both YP/C & OR/F	615	595	550	470	405
No dependants	37,880	37,270	37,655	36,965	36,330
Unknown	40	1,310	1,185	1,340	1,345
Total	43,380	44,140	44,295	43,415	42,505

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:
1. Information on disability and ethnicity is collected on the basis of a student's self assessment.
2. Information on religion, marital status and dependents is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI HE institutions.
3. Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
4. A new coding framework has been added to the HESA data collection for the Religion question in 2016/17, which includes an additional category for 'No Religion'. More information can be found at: https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c16051/n/religion
5. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE no longer counts the Open University as a wholly English institution, but splits it between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, depending on where the national centre is located. Figures for the previous academic years have been updated to reflect this change.
6. Enrolments at the OU (where the national centre is located in NI) have been removed from the figures for religion, marital status and dependants due to high levels of unknowns.
7. To prevent the identification of individuals, figures in the attached table are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1, 2 rounded to 0. Due to rounding, the sum of numbers in each row or column may not match the total shown.
8. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

More Higher Education statistics are available from:
https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/higher-education-statistics