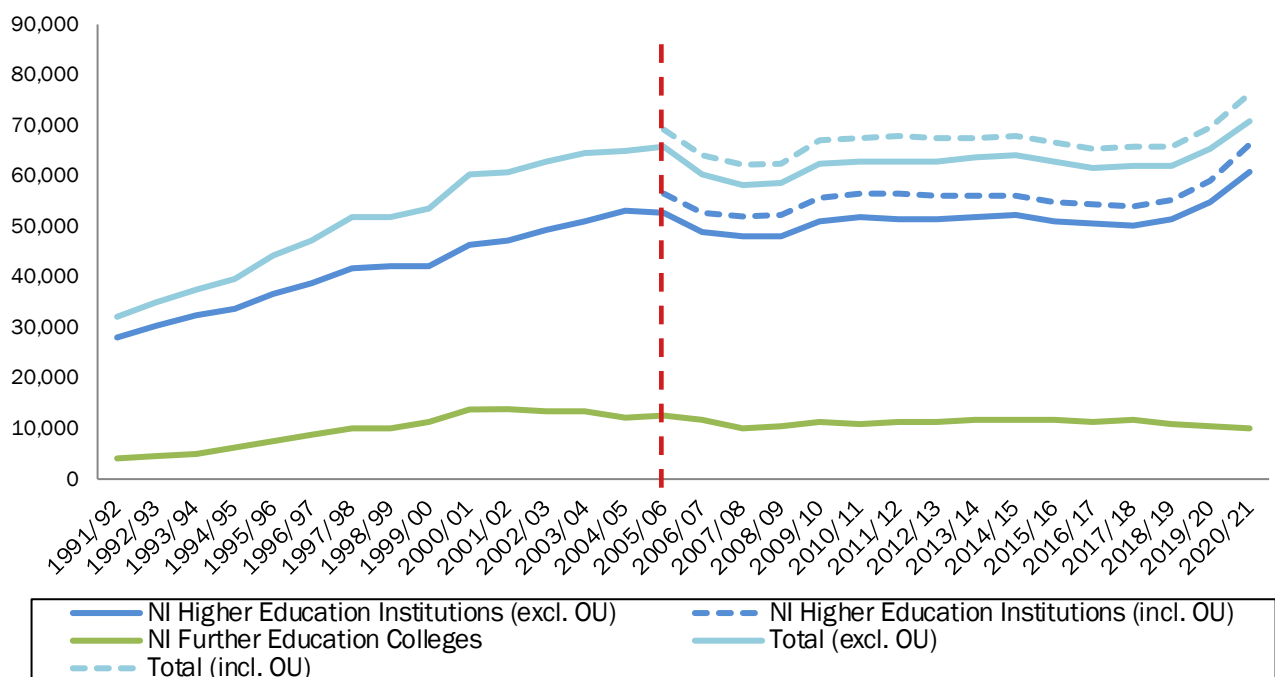


Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet 7: Enrolments Time Series: 1991/92 to 2020/21

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education Colleges - 1991/92 to 2020/21

- Over the past 30 years, enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have more than doubled, from 28,035 in 1991/92 to 66,245 in 2020/21. ([Footnote](#))
- Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs increased by 12%, from 59,075 to 66,245. ([Footnote](#))

Enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI FE colleges - 1991/92-2020/21



Footnote: From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, DfE has changed the methodology used to allocate the enrolments of Open University (OU) students. This is to align with changes made by HESA to the student record for the 2013/14 academic year. Please see [notes 6 and 7](#) for more details. The figures above have been backdated to include OU (where the national centre is located in NI) from 2005/06 onwards.

- Over the 30-year period between 1991/92 and 2020/21, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges increased more than two-fold, from 4,095 to 10,035.
- Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Further Education colleges decreased from 10,325 to 10,035, a decrease of 3%.
- Between 1991/92 and 2020/21, the number of enrolments on HE courses at NI HEIs and NI Further Education colleges more than doubled, from 32,130 to 76,280.
- Between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the total number of enrolments on HE courses at NI Higher Education Institutions and NI Further Education colleges increased by 10%, from 69,400 to 76,280.

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (excluding Open University) and NI FE Colleges – 1991/92 to 2020/21

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
1991/92	28,035	4,095	32,130
1992/93	30,255	4,585	34,840
1993/94	32,610	5,055	37,665
1994/95	33,575	6,135	39,715
1995/96	36,720	7,450	44,170
1996/97	38,665	8,715	47,380
1997/98	41,880	9,950	51,830
1998/99	42,135	9,880	52,015
1999/00	42,255	11,385	53,640
2000/01	46,400	13,780	60,180
2001/02	47,155	13,650	60,805
2002/03	49,125	13,515	62,640
2003/04	51,025	13,330	64,355
2004/05	52,930	12,000	64,930
2005/06	52,805	12,790	65,595

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2006/07	48,795	11,625	60,420
2007/08	48,035	10,245	58,280
2008/09	48,135	10,280	58,415
2009/10	50,855	11,400	62,255
2010/11	51,755	11,005	62,760
2011/12	51,650	11,315	62,965
2012/13	51,455	11,455	62,905
2013/14	51,990	11,575	63,565
2014/15	52,345	11,720	64,070
2015/16	51,200	11,630	62,835
2016/17	50,585	11,175	61,760
2017/18	50,285	11,850	62,135
2018/19	51,345	10,705	62,045
2019/20	54,855	10,325	65,175
2020/21	60,805	10,035	70,840

Sources: Various – see notes below

Enrolments on Higher Education courses at NI HEIs (including Open University NI) and NI FE Colleges – 2005/06 to 2020/21

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2005/06	56,485	12,790	69,275
2006/07	52,555	11,625	64,180
2007/08	51,990	10,245	62,235
2008/09	52,345	10,280	62,625
2009/10	55,465	11,400	66,865
2010/11	56,615	11,005	67,620
2011/12	56,465	11,315	67,780
2012/13	55,895	11,455	67,350

Year	NI Higher Education Institutions	NI Further Education Colleges	Total
2013/14	56,125	11,575	67,700
2014/15	56,145	11,720	67,865
2015/16	54,940	11,630	66,570
2016/17	54,195	11,175	65,370
2017/18	54,020	11,850	65,870
2018/19	55,290	10,705	65,995
2019/20	59,075	10,325	69,400
2020/21	66,245	10,035	76,280

Sources: Various – see notes below (in particular [Note 8](#) on removing duplicate Foundation Degrees)

Notes:

1. 1988/89 to 1993/94 information has been obtained from the Digest of Northern Ireland Higher Education Statistics 1988/89-1993/94, and Statistical News Releases and Bulletins published by the Department of Education.
2. From 2000/01, Higher Education statistics are based on full year Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data. Further Education statistics were based on full year Further Education Statistical Return (FESR) data until 2013/14, when the FESR changed to the Consolidated Data Return (CDR). Prior to 2000/01, FESR data were based on a snapshot of enrolments.
3. Detailed footnotes relevant to all data are contained in the relevant published sources.
4. Some early data may have changed over time due to changes in data coding and variable definitions.
5. The definition of the HESA Standard Registration Population at UK HEIs changed for 2007/08 enrolments. Writing up and sabbatical students are now excluded from this population, whereas they were previously included in published enrolment data. In order to maintain time series accuracy, all historical data between 2000/01 and 2006/07 have been updated to include the 2007/08 definition of the Standard Registration Population.
6. From the 2014/15 academic year onwards, within DfE publications, Open University students are counted within the country where the national centre is located. Any historical statistics affected by this change in methodology (going back to 2005/06) now reflect the new allocation method for OU.
7. Although figures for 2004/05 backwards and 2005/06 onwards are not directly comparable because of this change in OU allocation, we believe this comparison provides a close approximation to the overall trends in the last 30 years as a whole and so make comparisons between these years.
8. Some students on Foundation Degrees had been included in both the HEI and FEC figures, as they were registered at and awarded qualifications from HEIs, but were taught at FECs. This duplication has been removed from 2005/06 onwards.
9. 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.
10. Due to rounding, the sum of rows or columns may not match the totals shown.
11. Percentages are based on unrounded figures and rounded to the nearest integer.

Links:

Data from this fact sheet are available in open data format at the following link:

[Higher Education Statistical Factsheets](#)

More Higher Education statistics are available from:

[Higher Education Statistics](#)