

Milestone 16: Increasing the proportion of students from under-represented, disadvantaged groups and areas in higher education compared with the overall student population in higher education

This milestone is measured by two indicators: one that measures participation by NS Socio-Economic Classes 4-7 and the other by participation from low participation neighbourhoods.

Students from National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) Classes 4-7

In 2003-04, 27 per cent of students entering full-time first degrees at Scottish higher education institutions were from families classified as being from NS-SEC classes 4-7, a small decrease from 28 per cent in the previous year. Results from the Labour Force Survey show that nearly 50% of the UK population of working age is classified in groups 4 to 7, where classification is based on current or most recent occupation.

Table 16a: Percentage of full-time entrants to Scottish higher education institutions from NS-SEC classes 4-7

Student category	2002-03	2003-04
Young (under 21) home full-time first degree	28.0	26.9
All young home full-time undergraduate entrants	29.6	27.5

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Note: "Undergraduate" includes HE study at sub-degree level e.g. DipHE, HND.

Figures are not available for mature and part-time entrants. Home means 'UK' not 'Scottish'.

In years prior to 2002-03, Social classes III Manual, IV and V were used before the introduction of the NS-SEC classification to the data collection. From 1998-99 to 2001-02, there was little change. Most of the increase in the between 2001-02 and 2002-03 is likely to be due to the change in the definition of the socio-economic classes.

Table 16b: Percentage of full-time entrants to Scottish higher education institutions from Social classes III Manual, IV and V

Student category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Young (under 21) home full-time first degree	24	24	25	24	25
All young home full-time undergraduate entrants	24	24	25	25	25

Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England

Note: "Undergraduate" includes HE study at sub-degree level e.g. DipHE, HND.

Figures are not available for mature and part-time entrants. Home means 'UK' not 'Scottish'.

Low participation neighbourhoods

Areas, as defined by postcode, for which the participation rate in higher education among 18 and 19 year olds is less than two-thirds of the UK average rate, have been defined as low-participation neighbourhoods for the purpose of the HESA performance indicator. In the UK as a whole, about 30 per cent of young people live in neighbourhoods classed as low participation.

Scottish higher education institutions have increased the proportion of their entrants to full-time undergraduate courses who are from low participation neighbourhoods since 1998-99. Some 18 per cent of young people taking full-time first degrees at Scottish higher education

institutions are from low participation neighbourhoods. Also, 18 per cent of mature (21 and over) full-time undergraduate entrants are from low participation neighbourhoods.

Table 16c: Percentage of full-time entrants to Scottish higher education institutions from low participation neighbourhoods

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Young (under 21) home full-time first degree	16.9	17.6	17.8	18.3	18.6	18.3
All young home full-time undergraduate entrants	17.8	18.4	18.5	20	20.1	20.1
Mature (21 and over) home full-time undergraduate entrants	14.3	15.4	16.4	19	16.8	17.7
Home part-time undergraduate entrants	<i>Young — 24.7</i>	<i>Young — 16.5</i>	<i>Young — 17.0</i>	<i>Young -23.2</i>	<i>Young - 20.4</i>	<i>Young -17.8</i>
	<i>Mature — 5.4</i>	<i>Mature — 4.8</i>	<i>Mature — 5.4</i>	<i>Mature - 7.6</i>	<i>Mature — 6.5</i>	<i>Mature - 6.7</i>

Source: Scottish Higher and Further Education Funding Council

Note: Home means 'UK' not 'Scottish'. Mature and part-time undergraduate entrants are defined as those who have no previous HE qualification

Availability of data and references

Further information on 'Performance Indicators in higher education' is available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council (SFC).

Performance indicators in higher education

www.hesa.ac.uk/pi/home.htm

Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council

www.sfc.ac.uk