

# HE Employability Digest

A regular update on policy developments, reports and opportunities to influence decision-making in HE employability from The Careers Group, University of London

Number 4 — January 2017

## Updates

### Impact of Brexit on UK Higher education potentially positive and negative

Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI)/Kaplan (2016) *The determinants of international demand for UK higher education report*  
<http://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Hepi-Report-91-Screen.pdf>

- First detailed modelling of the possible impact of Brexit and other global changes on demand at UK universities from international students shows a mixed picture.
- Changes could increase tuition fee income by £187 million (net) in the first year alone, as fees for students from EU members rise.
- A 10% depreciation of sterling could increase enrolments from all other countries by around 20,000 students – an increase of 9% – in the first year, worth £227 million in fee income.
- Conversely, harmonising the rules for EU and non-EU students could reduce enrolments from other EU countries by over 31,000 students (a 57% decline in EU students) – amounting to a net loss of £40 million in the first year (after accounting for higher fees from those who still study in the UK).

#### More information

- HEPI - [http://www.hepi.ac.uk/2017/01/12/universities-lose-students-gaining-financially-brexit-new-restrictions-international-students-cost-uk-economy-additional-2-billion-year/?mc\\_cid=6d387aae2e&mc\\_eid=41774b1916](http://www.hepi.ac.uk/2017/01/12/universities-lose-students-gaining-financially-brexit-new-restrictions-international-students-cost-uk-economy-additional-2-billion-year/?mc_cid=6d387aae2e&mc_eid=41774b1916)

### HE Entry rates increase for all ethnic groups, but large differences persist

UCAS Analysis and Research (2016) End of Cycle December 2016 - <https://www.ucas.com/corporate/data-and-analysis/ucas-undergraduate-releases/ucas-undergraduate-analysis-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports>

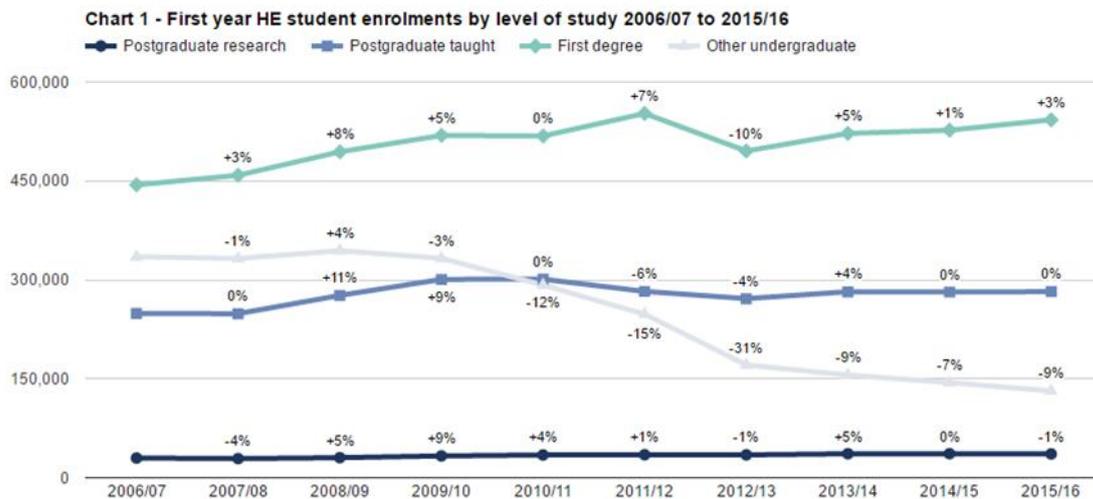
- Large differences in entry rates by ethnic group for English pupils accepted to higher tariff providers.
- Entry rates to lower tariff providers highest for the Asian ethnic group, lowest for the White ethnic group.
- Differences in entry rates by sex and ethnic group account for a large and increasing proportion of the entry rate gap between areas.
- Entry rates for non-FSM pupils increase five times faster than FSM pupils in 2016, but both reach new highs.
- The number of 18 year olds accepted at university rose by 1.5 % to 238,900, the highest number recorded to date, despite a fall in the population of 18 year olds.

#### More information

- UCAS <https://www.ucas.com/corporate/data-and-analysis/ucas-undergraduate-releases>

## First degree qualifications accounted for 54% of all HE qualifications

HESA (2017) *Higher education student enrolments and qualifications obtained at higher education providers in the United Kingdom 2015/16 – Statistical First Release* [https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/12-01-2017/sfr242-student-enrolments-and-qualifications?mc\\_cid=491bd39535&mc\\_eid=11e26d6ae1&mc\\_cid=6d387aae2e&mc\\_eid=41774b1916](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/12-01-2017/sfr242-student-enrolments-and-qualifications?mc_cid=491bd39535&mc_eid=11e26d6ae1&mc_cid=6d387aae2e&mc_eid=41774b1916)



- Full-time first degree enrolments accounted for 80% of all full-time higher education enrolments and grew by 3%, substituting for the decline in other full-time qualifications.
- Other undergraduate (including Foundation degree, HNC/HND and Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)) enrolments showed a decrease every year from 2011/12 to 2015/16.
- Part-time enrolments across all levels of study (except HNC/HND) also showed a year on year decrease over the same period.
- Postgraduate qualifications (excluding postgraduate PGCE) accounted for 32% and PGCE qualifications (at postgraduate and undergraduate level) accounted for the remaining 3% in 2015/16.
- Proportion gaining first or upper second classifications in first degree qualifications has shown a steady increase from 66% in 2011/12 to 73% in 2015/16.

### More information

- HESA - [https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/12-01-2017/sfr242-student-enrolments-and-qualifications?mc\\_cid=491bd39535&mc\\_eid=11e26d6ae1&mc\\_cid=6d387aae2e&mc\\_eid=41774b1916](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/12-01-2017/sfr242-student-enrolments-and-qualifications?mc_cid=491bd39535&mc_eid=11e26d6ae1&mc_cid=6d387aae2e&mc_eid=41774b1916)

## 91% of employers satisfied or more with graduates' numeracy skills

CBI/Pearson (2016) *The Right Combination Education and Skills Survey 2016* [http://www.cbi.org.uk/cbi-prod/assets/File/pdf/cbi-education-and-skills-survey2016.pdf?mc\\_cid=dce980549f&mc\\_eid=6be1e9feb5](http://www.cbi.org.uk/cbi-prod/assets/File/pdf/cbi-education-and-skills-survey2016.pdf?mc_cid=dce980549f&mc_eid=6be1e9feb5)

- More than four in five firms reporting satisfaction or better with graduates' numeracy (91%) and literacy skills (86%), and nearly the same proportion satisfied or better with graduates' problem solving (79%) and communication skills (77%)
- 87% of employers rank a graduate's *right attitude and aptitude* in their top consideration of workplace effectiveness, far above factors such as the university attended (13%).
- 9% of businesses have cut back on graduate recruitment in the past year but 29% have increased graduate intake

### More information

- CBI - <http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/getting-skills-right-more-vital-than-ever-post-referendum/>