

Overall student profile, 2010-11

- In 2010-11 the University had a total of 27,701 students.

The majority of students are studying for their first degree, where the highest proportion (22.9%) of this cohort is studying under the Business and Administrative studies subject area. Of the remaining undergraduate students, the highest proportion is studying in subjects allied to medicine, and this is the subject area with the highest proportion (11%) of part-time students across all levels of study.

Source: HESA Student Return 2010/11

UH Student instance apportionment by mode, level and subject area (2010/11)

2010/11 Subject Area	Full-time and Sandwich				Part-time				Total	%
	PGR	PGT	First degree	OUG	PGR	PGT	First degree	OUG		
Medicine & dentistry	0.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	21.0	0%
Subjects allied to medicine	12.0	166.0	2,417.3	1,111.0	62.0	1,054.0	336.5	969.0	6,127.8	22%
Biological sciences	87.0	201.0	1,102.1	118.0	28.0	50.0	104.5	336.0	2,026.6	7%
Veterinary science	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Agriculture & related subjects	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	37.0	0%
Physical sciences	37.0	66.0	262.7	0.0	9.0	44.0	18.7	0.0	437.3	2%
Mathematical sciences	1.0	13.0	223.3	0.0	4.0	0.0	11.5	0.0	252.8	1%
Computer science	33.0	301.0	924.8	212.0	11.0	129.0	164.5	66.0	1,841.3	7%
Engineering & technology	31.0	310.0	1,261.3	0.0	16.0	37.0	114.5	86.0	1,855.8	7%
Architecture, building & planning	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.0	58.0	85.0	0%
Social studies	1.0	91.0	473.7	0.0	9.0	104.0	24.0	103.0	805.7	3%
Law	0.0	251.0	1,192.4	18.0	0.0	40.0	105.3	53.0	1,659.7	6%
Business & administrative studies	10.0	1,200.0	3,408.7	212.0	34.0	349.0	208.0	169.0	5,590.7	20%
Mass communications & documentation	0.0	0.0	217.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	14.7	0.0	233.1	1%
Languages	4.0	5.0	329.7	66.0	9.0	6.0	23.7	391.0	834.4	3%
Historical & philosophical studies	10.0	5.0	224.7	0.0	13.0	6.0	15.3	0.0	274.0	1%
Creative arts & design	2.0	113.0	2,254.0	339.0	16.0	55.0	107.8	119.0	3,005.9	11%
Education	1.0	293.0	550.0	0.0	55.0	807.0	19.0	592.0	2,317.0	8%
Combined	0.0	2.0	43.0	160.0	0.0	19.0	2.0	70.0	296.0	1%
Total	229.0	3,024.0	14,885.0	2,272.0	276.0	2,705.0	1,297.0	3,013.0	27,701.0	100%

Student Profile by Age

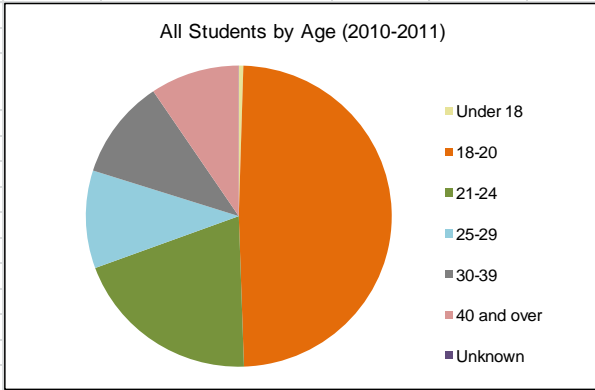
The majority (49%) of our students are aged 18-20 years. The higher education sector in the UK shows a profile of 49.3% for students of 21 years and under¹. Of the students aged 18-20, 63% are studying at undergraduate level. The majority (61.2%) of students in this same age group study full-time.

The highest proportion of the students studying in postgraduate taught programmes are aged 21-24 (33.2%), and 27.1% of students aged 25-29 are studying in postgraduate research programmes. The highest proportion of students studying part-time are aged 40 and over and represent 26.6% of the part-time student cohort.

¹ Equality Challenge Unit, *Equality in higher education statistical report 2012, Part 2 Students*, p138

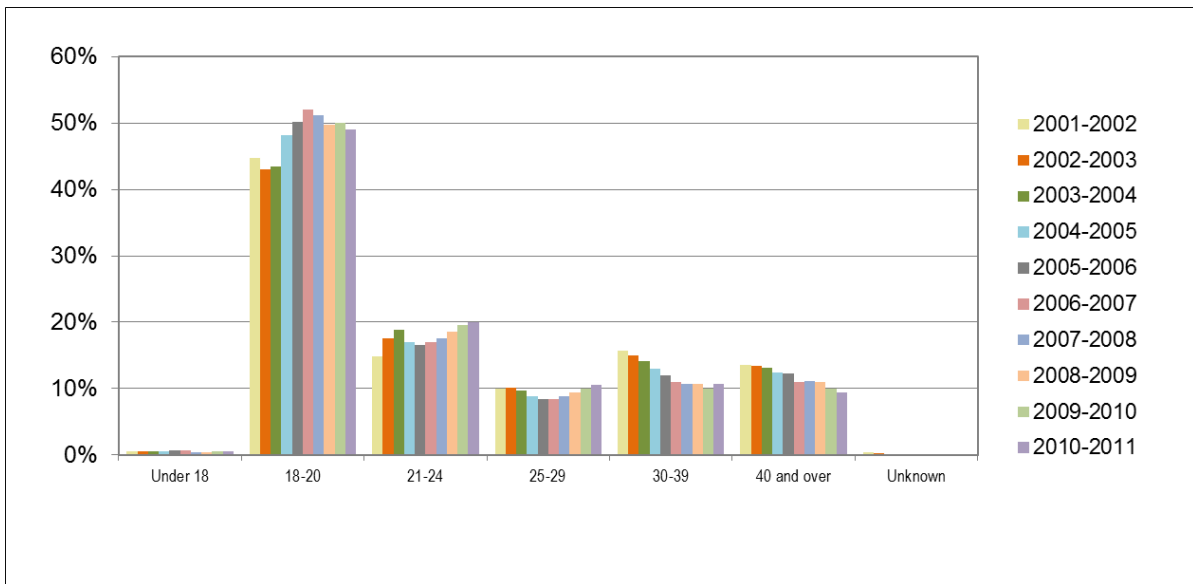
Source: HESA Student Return 2010/11

All Students



All Students %	
Under 18	0.5%
18-20	49.0%
21-24	19.9%
25-29	10.5%
30-39	10.7%
40 and over	9.4%
Unknown	0.0%

Year on year, the University's student population aged 18-20, and 40 and over, have been decreasing, whereas all other age groups have increased (except those aged 30-39, where there had been a consistent reduction in numbers between 2001/2 and 2006/7).



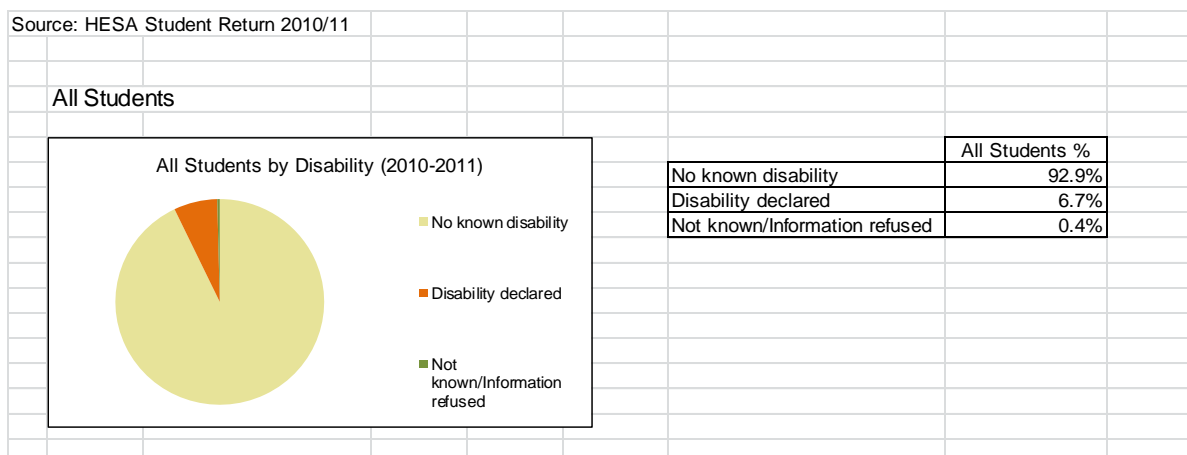
Attainment according to Age

Overall, high proportions of our students across all age groups demonstrate good rates of success in qualifying. The age group that showed the highest proportion achieving a qualification of 2:1 and above were those students over the age of 40 (72.1% of this cohort). In contrast, 60% of students aged 25-29 achieved a 2:1 or above (the lowest proportion of all the age groups) and because of this it may be necessary to undertake further analysis to understand the reasons for the 12% differential between 25-29 year old students and students aged over 40.

First degree qualifiers by class & age group 2010/11.						
	1st		2:1		Total	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
Under 21	10	9%	65	57%	115	100%
21-24 years	475	16%	1,345	45%	2,975	100%
25-29 years	80	18%	190	42%	450	100%
30-39 years	55	22%	100	41%	245	100%
40 & over	80	37%	75	35%	215	100%
Total	700	18%	1775	44%	4000	100%

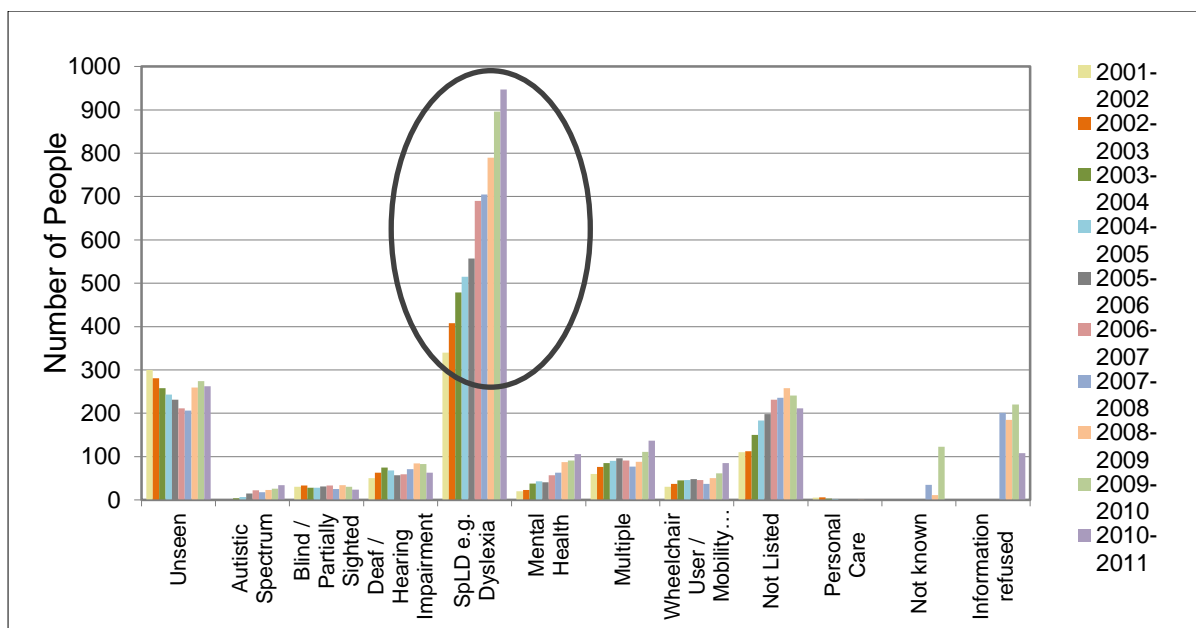
Student Profile by Disability

A lower proportion of students at the University declare a disability than across the higher education sector in the UK, where 8% of all students declared a disability in 2010/11². At undergraduate level a slightly higher proportion (7.3%) declared a disability, however the proportions of declared disabled students dropped to 4.6% in postgraduate taught and 6.5% in postgraduate research programmes respectively.



When analysing the types of disability declared since 2001/2, a considerable increase has occurred in the levels of our students declaring a specific learning difficulty. The amount of students declaring this type of disability has risen by around 2% each year and overall, 51% of students that declared a disability had a specific learning disability in 2010/11. This is slightly higher than reported across the higher education sector in the UK (47.7%) in the same year. As a result of this, the University will need to consider the future proportions of students declaring specific learning difficulties in order to ensure that adequate provision is in place to support students.

² Equality Challenge Unit, *Equality in higher education statistical report 2012, Part 2 Students*, p96



Attainment according to disability

Following analysis of the attainment rates of our disabled and non-disabled students, there is very little difference between both groups. 61.3% of disabled students qualified with a 2:1 or above compared to 61.8% of non-disabled students. Across the rest of the higher education sector in the UK, the attainment gap between disabled and non-disabled students is bigger at 1.9%, so the University compares favourably here.

Source: Heidi report - A.4c First degree qualifiers by class & disability 2010/11

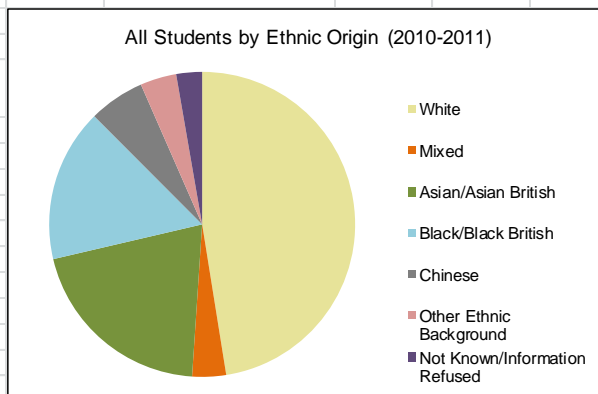
	1st		2:1		Total	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
Disability declared	50	16%	140	45%	310	100%
No known disability	650	18%	1,630	44%	3,690	100%
Total	700	18%	1770	44%	4000	100%

Student profile by Ethnicity

The University has a very ethnically diverse student population, with 49.8% identifying as being from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) background. Due to its geographical location it is perhaps more appropriate to compare the University's ethnic profile against other institutions in London, where Hertfordshire compares well against the recorded 45.5% BME student population in London.

Source: HESA Student Return 2010/11

All Students



	All Students %
White	47.5%
Mixed	3.6%
Asian / Asian British	20.3%
Black / Black British	16.2%
Chinese	5.9%
Other Ethnic Background	3.8%
Information Refused / Not Known	2.7%

The ethnic profile of our students changes according to study, with the same profile of 49.8% BME students studying at undergraduate level. This increases slightly to 51.6% for those BME students studying postgraduate taught programmes, yet representation declines significantly to just 26.8% studying in postgraduate research programmes. More analysis is required to understand why BME student representation is much lower in these programmes.

Attainment according to ethnicity

Looking broadly at the attainment levels between our White and BME students, it appears that the gap is greater than that reported across the higher education sector in the UK of 18.4%. 75.9% of White students qualified with a 2:1 or above compared to their BME peers, where only 52.1% achieved the same result; making the gap between White and BME qualifiers 23.8% in 2010/11.

More analysis is required to identify where attainment is lowest amongst the different ethnic groups and across which study areas. The BME attainment gap is something that the University is committed to reduce and this has been identified as a specific equality objective together with an explicit target to reduce the gap by 2016.

Source: Heidi report - A.4b First degree UK domicile qualifiers by class & BME marker 2010/11

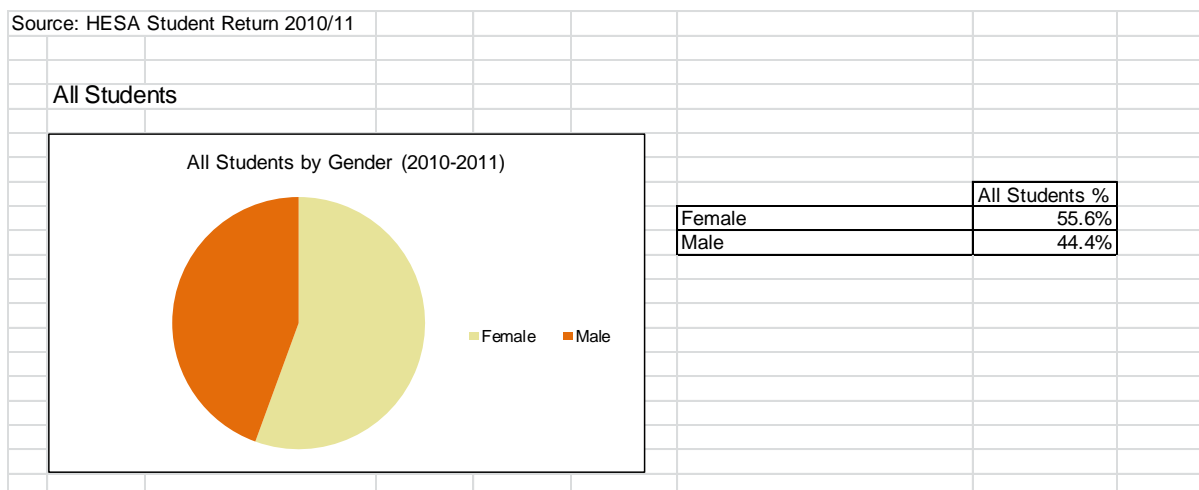
	1st		2:1		Total	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
White	485	27%	885	49%	1,805	100%
BME	120	8%	610	44%	1,400	100%
Total	605	19%	1495	47%	3,205	100%

BME = Black and minority ethnic

Note: This report DOES NOT include 'ethnicity not known'

Student Profile by Gender

Our student gender profile mirrors that reported across the broader higher education sector in the UK, where 56.4% is female and 43.6% is male. Further analysis is required to identify which study areas men and women are studying in to address sectoral issues of under-representation, e.g. science, engineering and technology (SET) for women etc. There have been very slight increases in the proportion of males studying at the University since 2001/2, so it will be important to keep an eye on this to ensure that levels do not decrease in future.



The gender profile of undergraduate students mirrors that in the table above; 55.6% female and 44.4% male. However, the profile begins to change slightly with 56.3% female and 43.7% male representation in postgraduate taught programmes. In postgraduate research programmes, the proportion of women decreases to 47.3% and the male representation increases to 52.7%.

A higher proportion of our part-time students are female (65.5% of this cohort), a representation that is similar to the wider higher education sector in the UK, where females make up 64.3% of part-time students at all levels³.

Attainment according to gender

On closer analysis, it is clear that there is a negative attainment gap of -3.9% for females achieving 2:1 or above at qualification. Proportionately, it is important to ensure that male qualifiers can maintain high levels of achievement against their female peers, and this will be monitored regularly.

Source: Heidi report - A.4a First degree qualifiers by class & gender 2010/11

	1st		2:1		Total	%
	Number	%	Number	%		
Female	385	17%	1,030	46%	2,225	100%
Male	315	18%	745	42%	1,780	100%
Total	700	17%	1775	44%	4005	100%

³ Equality Challenge Unit, *Equality in higher education statistical report 2012, Part 2 Students*, p34