

A Study of Progression in Irish Higher Education (2014/15 to 2015/16)

This analysis focuses on new entrants (NFQ levels 6-8) in March 2015 and whether they are still in the same institution in March 2016

41,441 new entrants in 2014/15



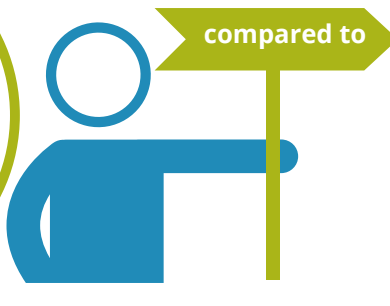
86% (35,434) progressed into year 2



14% (6,007) did not progress into year 2

Non-Progression by Sector and NFQ Level

The rates of non-progression in 2014/15 varied within and between sectors, ranging from 27% and 25% at levels 6 and 7



15%, 10% and 8% at levels 8 in the institutes of technology, universities and colleges.

Between 2013/14 - 2014/15 and 2014/15 - 2015/16, non-progression rates increased by one percentage point for level 6 courses and dropped by two percentage points at level 7.

While a percentage drop is evident at level 8 in the institute of technology and university sectors, there is a two percentage point increase in non-progression rates at level 8 in the college sector.

1% level 6

level 7 2%

level 8 1%

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND UNIVERSITY SECTOR

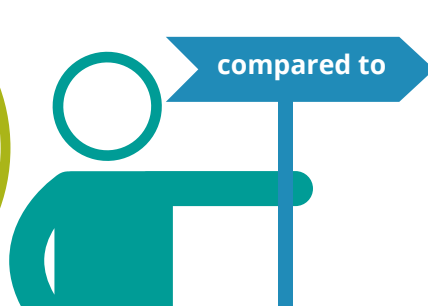
COLLEGE SECTOR

2% level 8

Non-Progression Rates by Sector and NFQ Level, 2014/15 vs 2013/14

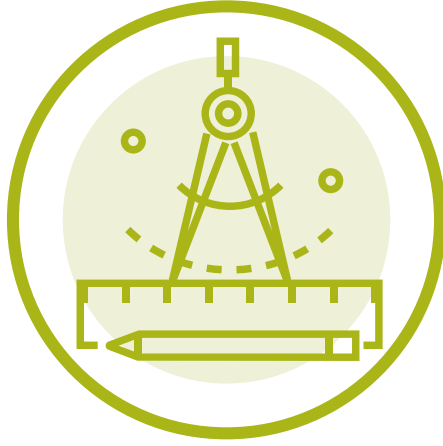
Sector	Level (% of new Entrants in IoTs in 2014/15)	% Non-progressed (2014/15)	% Non-progressed (2013/14)
Institutes of Technology	Level 6 (13%)	27%	26%
	Level 7 (38%)	25%	27%
	Level 8 (49%)	15%	16%
	All Levels	21%	21%
Universities	Level 8	10%	11%
Colleges	Level 8	8%	6%
All Institutions	Level 8	11%	12%
	All Levels	14%	15%

The most common leaving cert points attained at NFQ level 8 was 455-500 in both universities and colleges



355-400 in the institute of technology sector.

Non-Progression by Field of Study



Non-progression rates for *Education* disciplines at level 8 in both universities (8%) and colleges (6%) increased from the previous year.



Rates of non-progression vary across fields of study. Students in the disciplines of *Services* have the highest rate of non-progression at

24%.

Education disciplines have the lowest rate at

6%.

At level 8 for all sectors, students in the disciplines of *Services* have the highest non-progression rate (17%), followed by *Computer Science* (16%) and *Construction and Related* (15%).

At level 6 in the institutes of technology, *Construction and Related* disciplines had the highest rate of non-progression.

Together with *Computer Science*, the same discipline had the highest rate of non-progression at level 7. *Computer Science* disciplines also had the highest rate of non-progression at level 8 in the institutes of technology sector.

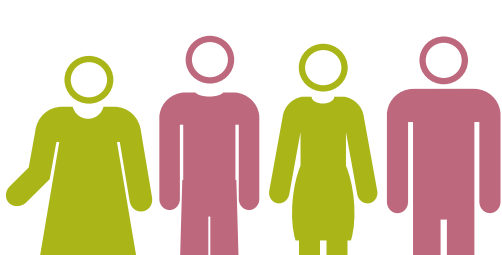
Non-Progression by Student Characteristics



Females are more likely than males to progress to the following year, across all NFQ levels and sectors.

Across all levels and sectors, Irish students had a non-progression rate of 15% compared to 14% among non-Irish students.

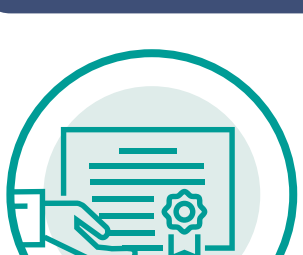
In the institute of technology sector across all levels, mature students are more likely to progress to the following year of study.



The opposite is true at level 8 in the university and colleges sector, where non-mature students are more likely to progress than mature students.

In relation to socio-economic groups, the lowest level of non-progression is found among *Farmers* at 8%. The highest level of non-progression is among the *Unskilled* and *All others gainfully employed and Unknown* groups, at 16%.

Factors Influencing Non-Progression



Prior academic attainment (Leaving Certificate points) is the strongest predictor of non-progression. Those entering with lower points are much more likely to 'not progress' compared to those entering with higher points, even after controlling for the set of student and course/institute characteristics.

Gender and NFQ level are also strong predictors of non-progression. Males are more likely to 'not progress' compared to females and NFQ level 6 & 7 students are more likely to 'not progress' compared to NFQ level 8 students, even after controlling for the set of student and course/institute characteristics.



The typical profile of students most likely to 'not progress' includes the following characteristics:



Although headline rates of non-progression are generally much higher in the institutes of technology than in the universities, after controlling for the set of student and course/institute characteristics (particularly Leaving Certificate points), the odds of 'not progressing' are higher in selected universities than in several of the institutes of technology.

RELATIVELY LOW POINTS ON ENTRY

MALE

NFQ LEVEL 6 OR 7

STUDYING COMPUTER SCIENCE

CONSTRUCTION OR ENGINEERING

STUDYING IN AN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY