

An Analysis of Existing Statistics on Student Flows Between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in Higher Education

DECEMBER 2018



This report is a collaboration between the Higher Education Authority (HEA), through the Department of Education and Skills, in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland (NI). Data was also provided by the Central Applications Office (CAO) in relation to the Republic of Ireland, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in relation to Northern Ireland. For More information please contact Mr Victor Pigott, Senior Statistics Manager, Higher Education Authority at statistics@hea.ie or Dr Kerry McColgan, Statistician, Department for the Economy at kerry.mccolgan@economy-ni.gov.uk.

ISBN: 1-905135-58-0

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables	2	3 Higher Education Enrolments	22
List of Figures	3	Key Points	24
Foreword	4	3.1 Total Enrolments in Higher Education Institutions	26
Glossary	5	3.2 Cross Border Enrolments in Higher Education Institutions	28
Methodology Note	5	3.2.1 <i>Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments</i>	29
Executive Summary	6	3.2.2 <i>Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments</i>	37
1 Introduction	7	3.3 ROI Higher Education Enrolments in NI Further Education Colleges	46
1.1 Overview	7	Appendices	49
1.2 Policy Context	8	Appendix 1: Mapping ROI Subject Classifications to NI Subject Classifications	49
1.2.1 <i>Republic of Ireland</i>	8		
1.2.2 <i>Northern Ireland</i>	8		
1.3 Demographics	10		
2 Higher Education Applicants and Acceptances	12		
Key Points	13		
2.1 Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants	14		
2.2 Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Acceptances	16		

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants by Domicile, 2012/13-2016/17	15	Table 15: NI Domiciled Undergraduate Enrolments at ROI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16	36
Table 2: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Gender, 2012/13-2016/17	17	Table 16: ROI Domiciled Undergraduate Enrolments at NI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16	37
Table 3: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Age, 2012/13-2016/17	17	Table 17: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	37
Table 4: NI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to ROI HEIs by Subject Area, 2012/13-2016/17	19	Table 18: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Gender, 2011/12-2015/16	38
Table 5: ROI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to NI HEIs by Subject Area, 2012/13-2016/17	20	Table 19: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Age, 2011/12-2015/16	39
Table 6: NI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to ROI HEIs by Institution Type, 2012/13-2016/17	21	Table 20: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Subject Area, 2011/12-2015/16	42
Table 7: ROI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to NI HEIs by Institution, 2012/13-2016/17	21	Table 21: NI Domiciled Postgraduate Enrolments at ROI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16	44
Table 8: Total Enrolments to HEIs by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	26	Table 22: ROI Domiciled Postgraduate Enrolments at NI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16	45
Table 9: Total Enrolments to HEIs by Domicile, 2011/12-2015/16	27	Table 23: ROI Domiciled Regulated Enrolments in Higher Education at NI FE Colleges by Gender and Attendance, 2011/12-2015/16	46
Table 10: Cross Border Enrolments by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	28	Table 24: ROI Domiciled Regulated Enrolments in Higher Education at NI FE Colleges by Age and Attendance, 2011/12-2015/16	47
Table 11: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	29	Table 25: ROI Domiciled Regulated Higher Education Enrolments to NI FE Colleges by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16	48
Table 12: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Gender, 2011/12-2015/16	30		
Table 13: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Age, 2011/12-2015/16	31		
Table 14: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Subject Area, 2011/12-2015/16	34		

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Population Estimates and Projections for 18-21 year olds in the Republic of Ireland	10
Figure 2: Population Estimates and Projections for 18-21 year olds in Northern Ireland	11
Figure 3: Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants by Domicile, 2012/13-2016/17	15
Figure 4: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Acceptances, 2012/13-2016/17	16
Figure 5: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Age, 2012/13-2016/17	18
Figure 6: Total Enrolments to HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16	26
Figure 7: Cross Border Enrolments by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	28
Figure 8: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	29

Figure 9: Gender Breakdown for Undergraduate NI Domiciled Students at ROI HEIs and ROI Domiciled Students at NI HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16	30
Figure 10: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Age and Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	32
Figure 11: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16	38
Figure 12: Gender Breakdown for Postgraduate NI Domiciled Students at ROI HEIs and ROI Domiciled Students at NI HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16	39

FOREWORD

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this valuable report on higher education student flows between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is very important that trends have been evidenced through high quality data sources on both sides of the border. This, in turn, allows policy makers to make informed responses to these trends.

Of course, the publication of this report is very timely given the imminent departure of the UK from the EU. While Brexit will impact on many aspects of daily activities on the island of Ireland, education has the opportunity to stand out as the model of continuing the richness and value of collaboration between North and South. Notwithstanding the individual changing trends within cross border flows, the report confirms almost 3,400 students avail of higher education opportunities on this basis, with more than a third pursuing post-graduate studies. It is also interesting to note that a similar percentage of cross-border students are undertaking their higher education studies on a part-time basis.

While the wealth of data provides the basis to inform policy makers on both sides of the border, I encourage all to reflect on the importance of this mobility and the contribution cross-border students make to the institutions they attend. Each student brings a different dimension not just to everyday engagement in lectures and other academic activity, but also they bring their culture and personality into college life. Our campuses are richer for this. It is vital that we continue to support these cross border flows.

Exchequer co-funding has been provided by the Higher Education Authority in 2018 for a number of cross-border collaborative higher education and regional development focused projects in both the North East and North West. These higher education landscape restructuring projects focus on the student and in opening up pathways for young people as well as those from non-traditional routes to progress through further education and training into higher education. The linkages and relationships that are being fostered and strengthened by Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges in both northerly corners of the island are a timely reminder of the common objectives and strengths we share and the mutual advantages to be gained in aligning our regional development and educational approaches.

We are heading into a period of uncertainty, but I am confident that cross-border higher education activity, as exemplified through student movement can continue to flourish and maintain its critical role of bringing deep cultural and personal value to academic life on the island of Ireland.



Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD

Minister of State for Higher Education

GLOSSARY

CAO	Central Applications Office
CSO	Central Statistics Office
FE	Further Education
FEC	Further Education College
HE	Higher Education
HEA	Higher Education Authority
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
IT	Institute of Technology
NI	Northern Ireland
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
ROI	Republic of Ireland
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

METHODOLOGY NOTE

Please note that the figures that appear in this report in many instances are different to figures that appeared in the 2015 report due to both changes in definitions of enrolments in the intervening period and also due to actual updates to the data during this time. For instance, exam only students are now included in ROI enrolment figures. Also, given most figures in the report are rounded to the nearest 5, often column/row totals will not exactly equal the sum of all figures in that column/row due to this rounding.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has changed the allocation of Open University (OU) students to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Previously all OU enrolments and qualifications were counted as being within England, where the OU has its administrative centre. HESA has decided from their 2013/14 release onwards that enrolments and qualifications registered at one of the OU's national centres in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will contribute to the totals of those countries where statistics are shown by country of provider. The tables in this report use the new allocation method for OU, and any historical data affected by this new methodology has now been updated to reflect this change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ➔ The cross border flow of students between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland continues to be a key element of cultural and educational collaboration between the two jurisdictions. In 2015/16, there was a flow of 3,395 HE students cross border; 1,200 NI students to ROI HEIs and 2,195 ROI students to NI HEIs.
- ➔ Of the total 3,395 student flow cross border, 2,115 were undergraduate students and 1,280 were postgraduate students. By mode of study, 2,150 were full-time students and 1,245 were part-time students.
- ➔ Although the number of NI students enrolled at ROI HEIs increased from 970 in 2011/12 to 1,200 in 2015/16 (a 24% increase), the number of ROI students enrolled at NI HEIs fell from 3,520 to 2,195 over the same period (a 38% decrease).
- ➔ Between 2011/12 and 2015/16, numbers of ROI students enrolled at NI HEIs fell sharply at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels (44% and 29% respectively). At undergraduate level, the number of part-time ROI students enrolled at NI HEIs fell 71% between 2011/12 and 2015/16. At postgraduate level, the number of full-time ROI students enrolled at NI HEIs fell 47% between 2011/12 and 2015/16. The number of postgraduate NI students enrolled at ROI HEIs didn't change much over the period, although the number of undergraduate students did increase 30%.
- ➔ NI students accounted for 0.5% of total enrolments at ROI HEIs in 2011/12; this figure was 0.6% in 2015/16. ROI students accounted for 6.2% of total enrolments at NI HEIs in 2011/12; this figure was down to 4% in 2015/16.
- ➔ The number of cross border applications for full-time undergraduate places is somewhat in line with the overall trend in cross border enrolments. Whereas the number of NI applicants for places at ROI HEIs increased from 1,305 in 2012/13 to 1,905 in 2016/17, ROI applicants for places at NI HEIs decreased from 1,810 to 1,420, meaning there are now more NI applicants to ROI HEIs than vice versa.
- ➔ Females are more likely than males to enrol cross border at undergraduate level in the ROI or NI. In 2011/12, 56% of the NI undergraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs were female and this rose closer to 57% by 2015/16. This is even more the case for ROI undergraduate students enrolling in NI HEIs. In 2011/12 and in 2015/16, 67% of all ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs were female. Unlike undergraduate cross border student enrolments by gender at ROI HEIs, NI postgraduate student enrolments at ROI HEIs are more gender balanced. In fact, in four of the five years in this period, there were more male NI postgraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs than comparable female enrolments. However, ROI postgraduate enrolments at NI HEIs over the five year period were predominantly female – 59% in 2015/16.
- ➔ The number of ROI higher education enrolments in NI further education colleges fell from 672 in 2012/13 to 381 in 2015/16. Most of these enrolments were in the North West Regional College, accounting for 253 of the 381 enrolments in 2015/16.
- ➔ Population projections for both jurisdictions indicate that the number of 18-21 year olds is set to increase substantially in the Republic of Ireland between 2014/2015 and 2032, from around 193,000 to 299,000, while the number of 18-21 year olds in Northern Ireland is actually set to fall in the coming years, from around 95,000 in 2016 to 87,000 in 2022, before increasing gradually again to around 101,000 in 2032.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The first in this series of reports was published in June 2015 by the former Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority, through the Department for Education and Skills, in the Republic of Ireland. That report looked at trends in both applicants and enrolments between the two jurisdictions in the period 2009/10-2013/14 (applicant data) and 2008/09-2012/13 (enrolment data).

This is the second report in the series and is a collaboration between the Higher Education Authority, through the Department for Education and Skills, in the Republic of Ireland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland. This report also looks at trends in applicants (2012/13-2016/17) and enrolments (2011/12-2015/16) between the two jurisdictions. The first report included an analysis of further education flows as well as higher education flows, but, given the lack of comparable data, this report focuses solely on higher education.

This is a particularly apt time to publish an update to the 2015 report given the UK decision to exit the EU. This decision could potentially have a substantial effect on the flow of students between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In light of this challenge, this analysis aims to highlight the extent and importance of student flows between both systems.

Chapter one looks at the policy context from the perspective of both jurisdictions and also at the demographic trends that impact higher education enrolments. Chapter two looks at cross border applicants to higher education institutions in both systems. Chapter three looks at the cross border flow of students enrolled in higher education institutions in both systems.

1.2 POLICY CONTEXT

1.2.1 Republic of Ireland

An average of over 1,000 NI students enrolled at ROI HEIs each year between 2011/12 and 2015/16, with 1,200 NI students enrolled in 2015/16 alone. NI students comprise a substantial component of the overall ROI HEI student population, particularly for HEIs such as Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dundalk IT, Letterkenny IT and IT Sligo. The chance for NI students to study at ROI HEIs presents opportunities that may not be available at NI HEIs. For instance, a significant number of NI students enter the UCD degree in veterinary medicine each year as this is not an option in NI.

Despite the many benefits of cross border student flows, there are challenges coming downstream; not least the planned exit of the UK from the EU. For instance, NI students coming to ROI HEIs to study may in the future be liable for non-EU fees, which can be considerable. This may reduce the flow of students from NI to the ROI in the aftermath of the UK exit from the EU. Issues such as this need to be given serious consideration by policy makers both sides of the border.

A 2016 HEA paper titled 'Brexit and Irish Higher Education and Research – Challenges and Opportunities'¹ made a recommendation that a soft border with Northern Ireland be maintained in the aftermath of the UK exit from the EU from an education perspective in order to protect the valuable cross border flow of staff, students and collaboration. The Department of Education in 'An International Education Strategy for Ireland, 2016-2020'² has reaffirmed the Irish Government commitment to strengthening North-South cooperation and promoting a whole-of-island approach to internationalisation. The flow of students cross border is a key element of this approach, which enables closer collaboration between HEIs and sharing of research expertise in both jurisdictions.

ROI operates a free fees policy for full-time undergraduate students. Most undergraduate students attending publicly funded third level courses do not have to pay tuition fees. Under the terms of the free fees initiative, the HEA pays the fees direct to the HEI. The institutions charge an annual student contribution, formerly called the student services charge. It is also known as a registration fee and it covers student services and examinations. The student contribution rate is currently €3,000. Currently, NI domiciled students enrolled in ROI HEIs do not pay tuition fees. They are obliged to pay the annual student contribution in the same way as ROI students.

1.2.2 Northern Ireland

Higher education policy in NI is the responsibility of the Minister for the Economy. In April 2012, the Department for the Economy (formerly the Department for Employment and Learning) published *Graduating to Success*, the higher education strategy for NI. *Graduating to Success* sets out a long term vision for the higher education sector and has implementation targets spanning from 2013 through to 2020.

1 <http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/06/Brexit-And-Irish-Higher-Education-And-Research-Challenges-And-Opportunities.pdf>

2 <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/International-Education-Strategy-For-Ireland-2016-2020.pdf>

The vision is of a higher education sector that is vibrant and of international calibre, one that pursues excellence in teaching and research and plays a pivotal role in the development of a modern, sustainable knowledge-based economy. The vision promotes and supports a confident, shared society that recognises and values diversity.

The strategy has been developed around 4 key themes: responsive to the needs of the economy; a high quality learning experience; a more accessible higher education sector; and a more flexible lifelong learning environment.

The strategy is supported by the Department's widening participation strategy, Access to Success, which focuses on widening participation in higher education by students from those groups that are currently under-represented, in particular students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities and learning difficulties.

The Department's vision for widening participation is that any qualified individual in NI should be able to gain access to higher education, irrespective of their personal or social background. Widening participation in, and ensuring fair access to, higher education is not simply a matter of social justice, but is also an economic imperative if NI is to remain competitive in the face of unprecedented economic challenges.

The economic, social and cultural importance of undergraduate mobility and cross border cooperation between institutions in NI and the ROI are highlighted in Graduating to Success. It is recognised that such activity has the potential to drive the growth of the all-island economy, broaden the pool of graduates both North and South and support the ongoing peace process. The Department is committed to supporting cross border cooperation in teaching and learning, research and innovation and student mobility, with the aim of increasing understanding, sharing good practice and enabling students to move freely between the two jurisdictions. In response to the Graduating to Success implementation plan, a project group has been established to facilitate cross border cooperation and mobility. Membership includes representatives from the higher and further education sectors in NI and ROI.

Higher education in NI is provided by: five higher education institutions, namely, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Open University, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College (the latter two focusing mainly on teacher education); and six regionally based Further Education Colleges (FECs).

The Department for the Economy provides annual funding to the higher education sector for teaching, learning and research purposes, and in 2015/16 this totalled £189m.

Students pay an annual tuition fee, and in 2015/16 this was £3,805 per student at undergraduate level for local and EU students and up to £9,000 for those from Great Britain. Separate fees apply to international students (non-EU).

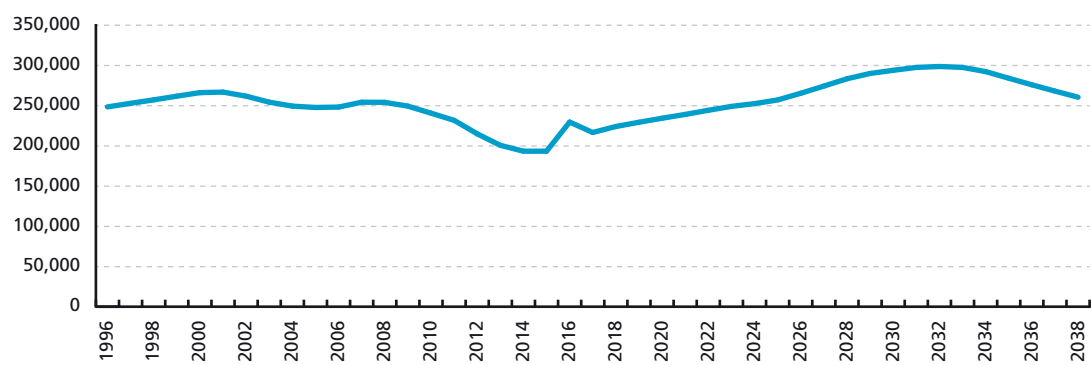
NI students can avail of a fee loan and a maintenance loan, which are repayable and, in some circumstances, a maintenance grant, which is not repayable. The fee loan is also available to EU students.

NI domiciled students enrolled in ROI HEIs can avail of a loan to cover the student contribution and maintenance support.

1.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

After falling for a long period, the number of 18-21 year olds in the ROI is expected to increase from 2018 up to 2032. The number of 18-21 year olds totalled around 193,000 in 2014/2015. This is projected to rise to around 299,000 by 2032, an increase of around 55%. This will likely lead to increased demand for third level places in ROI HEIs from ROI students, before non-ROI student demand is even factored in. The transfer rate from second to third level in 2014/15 in the ROI was around 64%³. An increase in this, as well as potential increased demand from non-ROI students and potential increased demand from mature entrants, may cause a demand/supply imbalance.

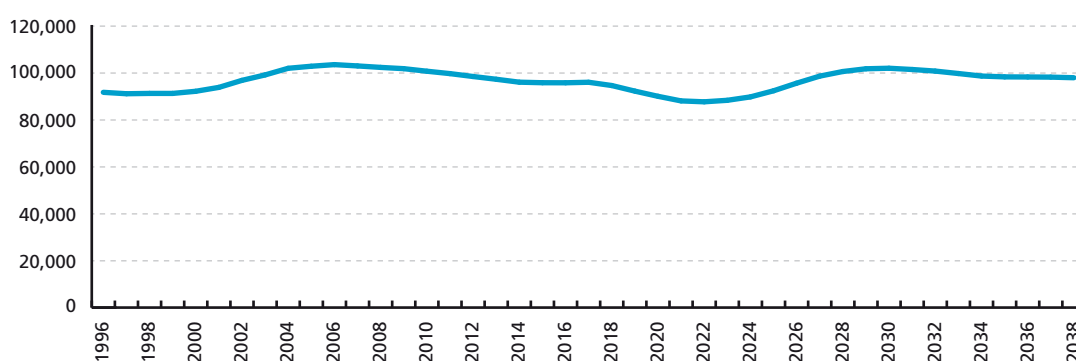
Figure 1: Population Estimates and Projections for 18-21 year olds in the Republic of Ireland



Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO)
Data: 1996 – Census, 1997-2011 – Estimates, 2002 – Census, 2003-2005 – Estimates, 2006 – Census, 2007-2010 – Estimates, 2011 – Census, 2012-2015 – Estimates, 2016 – Census, 2017-2039 – Projections. The 2011 projections are used with the M2F2 scenario as advised by the CSO (migration and fertility based). The CSO are currently working on updated projections incorporating the 2016 Census data. The kink in the trend is due to actual numbers in the 2016 Census exceeding estimates for that period.

The trend in the number of 18-21 year olds in NI is somewhat different to that seen in the ROI above. Between the late 1990s and 2006, the number of 18-21 year olds increased from 91,000 to 104,000. Numbers have since fallen to around 95,000 (2016) and are expected to continue decreasing until 2022 (87,000), before increasing again to around 101,000 by 2032. Therefore, in the short-medium term, there may be less demand pressure for places at NI HEIs, as the number of NI entrants may fall. Longer term, however, the projections suggest there will be increased demand.

3 Department of Education 3rd level demand projections for the ROI: <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/Statistical-Reports/Projections-of-demand-for-full-time-Third-Level-Education-2015-2029.pdf>

Figure 2: Population Estimates and Projections for 18-21 year olds in Northern Ireland

Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

Data: 1996-2000 – Estimates, 2001 – Census, 2002-2010 – Estimates, 2011 – Census, 2012-2015 – Estimates, 2016-2039 – Projections (2016 mid-year population estimates; 2014 based populations projections).

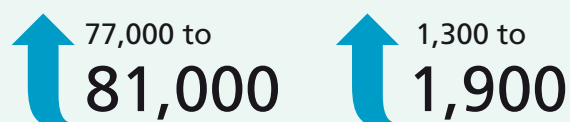
The ratio of ROI to NI 18-21 year olds is set to increase from around 2:1 to around 3:1 by 2032. That scenario may lead to challenges to the cross border flow of students. The demand pressure on 3rd level HEIs in the ROI may lead to fewer places becoming available for non-ROI students and ROI students seeking places elsewhere. The probable change of status of NI students at ROI HEIs from EU to non-EU students is another potential key factor in the future level of cross border student flows in this context.

2 HIGHER EDUCATION APPLICANTS AND ACCEPTANCES

FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS TO ROI HEIs FROM 2012/13-2016/17

ALL APPLICANTS

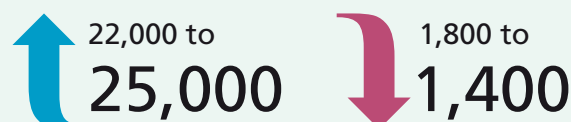
NI APPLICANTS



FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS TO NI HEIs FROM 2012/13-2016/17

ALL APPLICANTS

ROI APPLICANTS



FEMALE NI APPLICANTS/ACCEPTANCES TO ROI HEIs 2016/17



FEMALE ROI APPLICANTS/ACCEPTANCES TO NI HEIs 2016/17



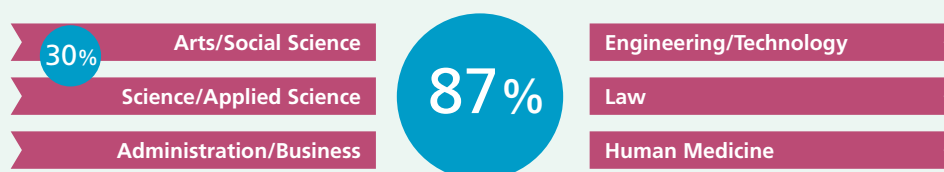
AGE OF NI HEI APPLICANTS/ACCEPTANCES TO ROI HEIs IN 2016/17



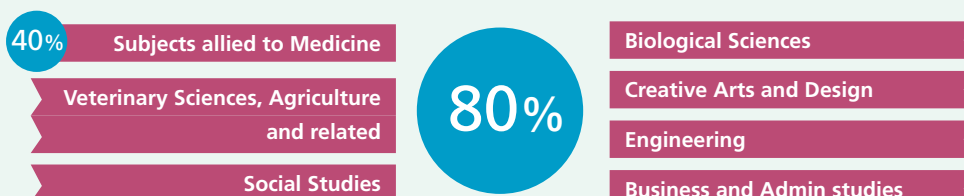
AGE OF ROI APPLICANTS/ACCEPTANCES TO NI HEIs IN 2016/17



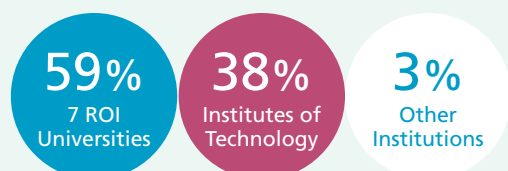
SUBJECT AREAS OF NI ACCEPTANCES TO ROI HEIs 2016/17



SUBJECT AREAS OF ROI ACCEPTANCES TO NI HEIs 2016/17



COURSE PROVIDERS OF NI ACCEPTANCES TO ROI HEIs IN 2016/17



COURSE PROVIDERS OF ROI ACCEPTANCES TO NI HEIs IN 2016/17



KEY POINTS

- ➔ The number of full-time undergraduate applications to ROI HEIs has increased over the past five years, from around 77,000 to around 81,000 (6% increase). The number of such applications from Northern Ireland domiciles has increased from around 1,300 to around 1,900 in the period (5% increase).

- ➔ The number of full-time undergraduate applications to NI HEIs has increased over the past five years, from around 22,000 to around 25,000 (13% net increase), albeit with a slight fall in 2016/17 applications. However, the number of such applications from Republic of Ireland domiciles has fallen from around 1,800 a year to around 1,400 a year (22% decrease).

- ➔ The proportion of applicants to NI HEIs who weren't NI domiciled was over four times the corresponding proportion of non-ROI domiciled applicants to ROI HEIs (26% in NI v 6% in ROI, 2016/17).

- ➔ In 2016/17, the proportions of female NI applicants/acceptances to ROI HEIs were 62% and 58% respectively. In the same year, the proportions of female ROI applicants/acceptances to NI HEIs were 70% and 73% respectively.

- ➔ Over 20% of ROI applicants/acceptances to NI HEIs in 2016/17 were aged 21 or over compared with over 10% of NI applicants/acceptances to ROI HEIs.

- ➔ Six subject areas represent the majority of NI acceptances to ROI HEIs each year, accounting for 87% of acceptances in 2016/17 – Arts/Social Science, Science/Applied Science, Administration/Business, Engineering/Technology, Law and Human Medicine. Arts/Social Science courses accounted for 30% of acceptances in 2016/17.

- ➔ Seven subject areas represent the majority of ROI acceptances to NI HEIs each year, accounting for 80% of acceptances in 2016/17 – Subjects allied to Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related, Biological Sciences, Social Studies, Creative Arts and Design, Engineering and Business and Admin studies. Subjects allied to Medicine courses accounted for 40% of acceptances in 2016/17.

- ➔ Three-fifths (59%) of NI acceptances to ROI HEIs in 2016/17 were to courses in the seven ROI universities, 38% were to courses in Institutes of Technology and the remaining 3% to courses in other institutions.

- ➔ Over three-fifths (63%) of ROI acceptances to NI HEIs in 2016/17 were to courses in Ulster University, 27% were to courses in Queen's University Belfast, 8% were to courses in the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise and 2% were to courses in Stranmillis University College.

2. INTRODUCTION

This section analyses full-time undergraduate applicants to HEIs in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, with a focus on cross border applicants by gender, age, subject area and institution.⁴

2.1 FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANTS

The table and figure below breakdown total full-time undergraduate applicants to HEIs in ROI and NI by domicile over the period 2012/13-2016/17⁵. Total applications in the ROI have risen in the past two years to over 80,000, with over 81,000 in 2016/17 (a 6% increase in the five year period). This figure was around 77,000 in both 2012/13 and 2013/14. The number of such applications from NI domiciles has increased from around 1,300 to around 1,900 in the period (5% increase). Total applications to NI HEIs did fall slightly in 2016/17, but had risen in the four years previous to that, from over 22,000 in 2012/13 to almost 26,000 in 2015/16. Over 25,000 applied in 2016/17 (a 13% increase over the five year period). The number of ROI applicants has fallen from around 1,800 a year to around 1,400 a year (22% decrease). The figure shows that a higher proportion of NI HEI applicants are not NI domiciled than the corresponding proportion of non-ROI domiciled applicants to ROI HEIs (26% in NI v 6% in ROI, 2016/17).

4 UCAS provides application services across a range of subject areas and modes of study for UK Higher education providers. Please note that St. Mary's and the Open University are not included in the NI figures as these colleges are not part of the UCAS data.

5 Applicant data is a year ahead of enrolment data since enrolment data is collected later in the academic year.

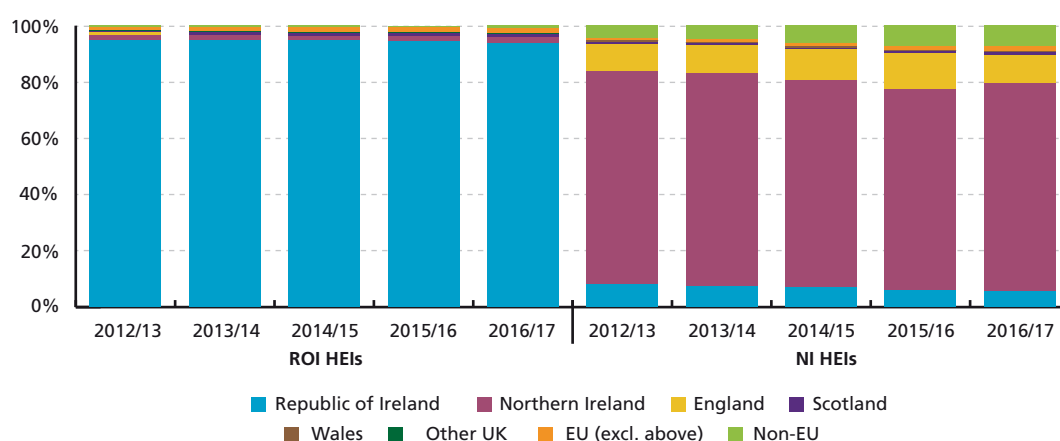
Table 1: Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants by Domicile, 2012/13-2016/17

	ROI HEIs					NI HEIs				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Republic of Ireland	72,940	72,845	74,300	75,475	76,145	1,810	1,745	1,680	1,560	1,420
Northern Ireland	1,305	1,375	1,240	1,570	1,905	16,835	17,900	17,995	18,435	18,535
England	900	825	710	680	675	2,135	2,315	2,665	3,275	2,540
Scotland	70	85	85	95	85	180	175	130	205	210
Wales	40	25	20	30	25	90	80	90	105	100
Other UK*	305	240	240	245	225	–	–	–	–	–
EU (excl. above)	990	1,150	1,385	1,385	1,630	230	265	330	360	460
Non-EU	345	405	425	530	585	965	1,115	1,505	1,900	1,845
Total	76,900	76,950	78,400	80,010	81,275	22,250	23,595	24,395	25,835	25,110

Source: CAO & UCAS

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

* Other UK refers to UK applicants with unknown Country of origin

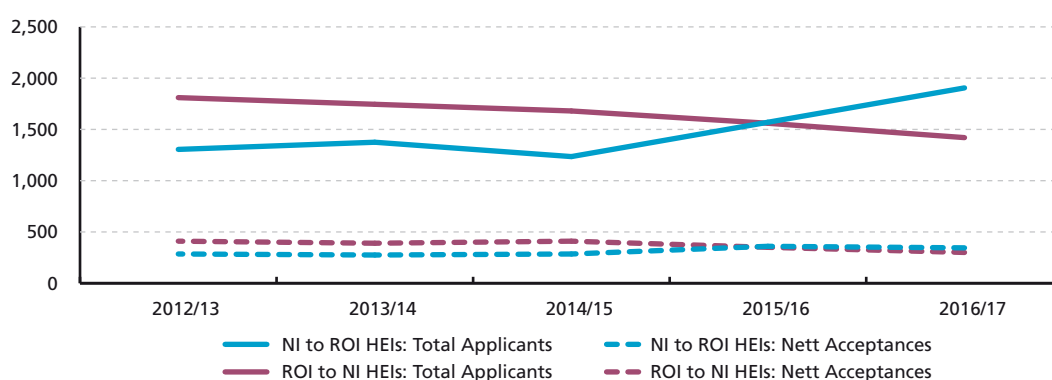
Figure 3: Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants by Domicile, 2012/13-2016/17

Source: CAO & UCAS

2.2 CROSS BORDER FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANTS AND ACCEPTANCES

The figure below shows cross border full-time undergraduate applicants and acceptances. It clearly shows that the number of NI applicants to ROI HEIs has been on an upward trend between 2014/15 and 2016/17. Over the same period, the number of ROI applicants to NI HEIs has been decreasing. There were actually higher numbers of NI applicants and acceptances⁶ to ROI HEIs in 2016/17 than vice versa. This is in stark contrast to the earlier years in the period analysed here.

Figure 4: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Acceptances, 2012/13-2016/17



Source: CAO & UCAS

Gender

One trend that has been constant over the period is that cross border applicants and acceptances from females have exceeded those from males in both jurisdictions every year. In 2016/17, the proportions of female NI applicants/acceptances to ROI HEIs were 62% and 58% respectively. In the same year, the proportions of female ROI applicants/acceptances to NI HEIs were 70% and 73% respectively.

⁶ Nett acceptance is described as the final acceptance recorded for an applicant. This means that the applicant received one or more offers and accepted at least one. If more than one offer was accepted, the nett acceptance is the last one accepted and the only course the applicant can register on.

Table 2: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Gender, 2012/13-2016/17

	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs						ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs					
	Applicants			Nett Acceptances			Applicants			Nett Acceptances		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2012/13	520	785	1,305	120	165	285	635	1,175	1,810	165	250	410
2013/14	525	850	1,375	110	165	275	525	1,225	1,745	140	250	390
2014/15	475	765	1,235	105	180	285	460	1,220	1,680	135	275	410
2015/16	625	945	1,570	160	200	360	440	1,125	1,560	100	250	350
2016/17	725	1,180	1,905	150	200	345	425	995	1,420	85	220	300

Source: CAO & UCAS

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Age

The table and figure below show the breakdown of applicants/acceptances over the period by age. The most evident trend is that, while the majority of applicants and acceptances in both jurisdictions are aged 20 or under each year, ROI applicants/acceptances to NI HEIs tend to be older than NI applicants/acceptances to ROI HEIs. Over 20% of ROI applicants/acceptances to NI HEIs in 2016/17 were 21 or over compared with over 10% of NI applicants/acceptances to ROI HEIs. This difference has been relatively consistent over the period.

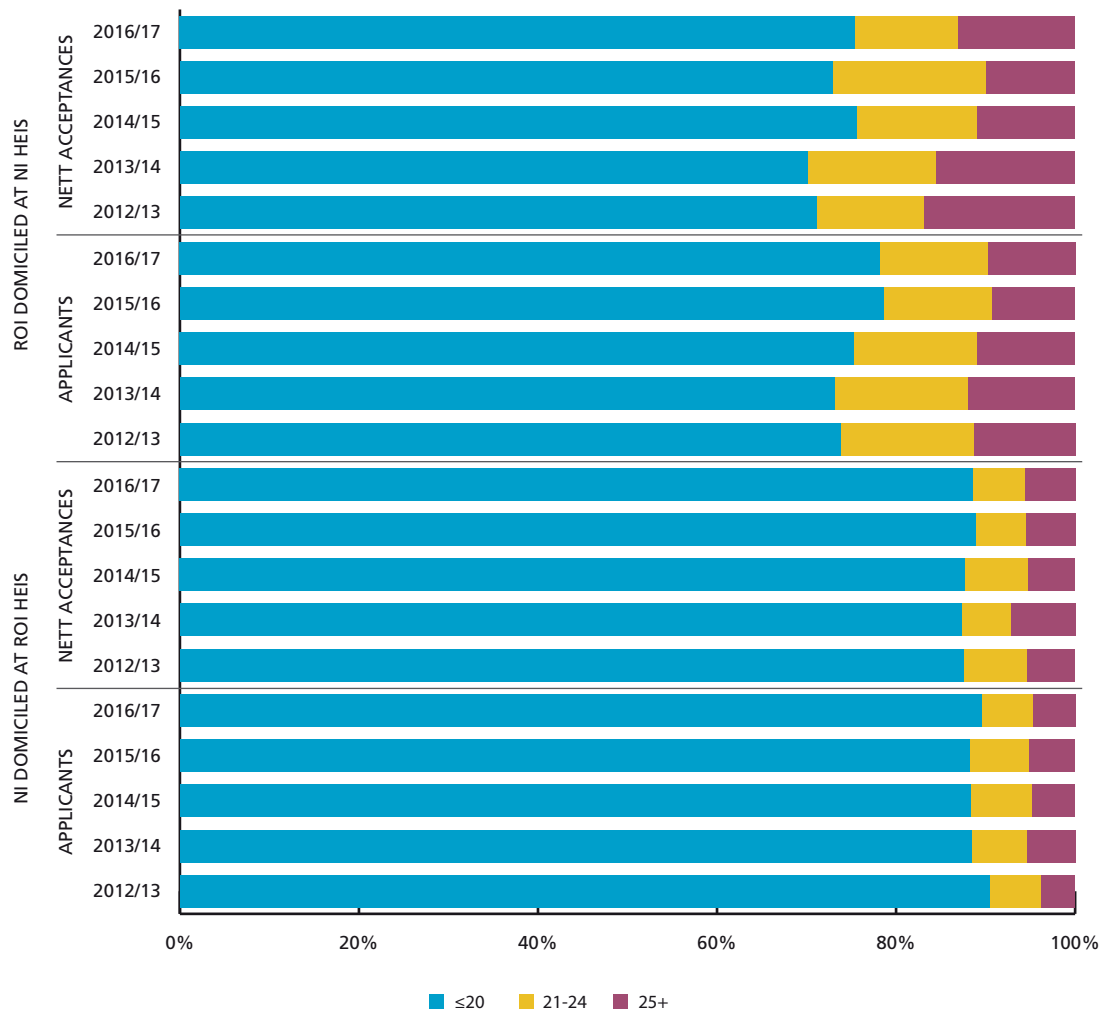
Table 3: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Age, 2012/13-2016/17

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs								ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs							
	Applicants				Nett Acceptances				Applicants				Nett Acceptances			
	≤20	21-24	25+	Total	≤20	21-24	25+	Total	≤20	21-24	25+	Total	≤20	21-24	25+	Total
2012/13	1,180	75	50	1,305	245	20	15	285	1,335	270	205	1,810	295	50	70	410
2013/14	1,215	85	75	1,375	240	15	20	275	1,275	260	210	1,745	270	55	60	390
2014/15	1,095	85	60	1,235	250	20	15	285	1,265	230	185	1,680	310	55	45	410
2015/16	1,385	105	80	1,570	320	20	20	360	1,230	190	145	1,560	255	60	35	350
2016/17	1,705	110	90	1,905	310	20	20	345	1,110	170	140	1,420	230	35	40	300

Source: CAO & UCAS

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 5: Cross Border Full-Time Undergraduate Applicants and Nett Acceptances by Age, 2012/13-2016/17



Field of Study

The tables below show nett acceptance data for ROI and NI separately as the CAO/UCAS groupings differ.

The first table below shows NI acceptances to ROI HEIs over the five year period. Six subject areas represent the majority of acceptances each year, accounting for 87% of acceptances in 2016/17 – Arts/Social Science, Science/Applied Science, Administration/Business, Engineering/Technology, Law and Human Medicine. Arts/Social Science courses accounted for 30% of acceptances in 2016/17. 20 NI students accepted places in ROI HEI medicine courses each year between 2013/14 and 2016/17. Up to 10 NI domiciles accept places in the UCD veterinary course each year.

Table 4: NI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to ROI HEIs by Subject Area, 2012/13-2016/17

Subject Area	Nett Acceptances of NI at ROI HEIs				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Arts/Social Science	80	85	90	115	105
Science/Applied Science	45	35	50	50	55
Agriculture/Horticulture	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	5	0	0
Administration/Business	45	35	35	50	50
Engineering/Technology	35	35	15	45	50
Architecture	5	0	0	0	5
Art & Design	5	5	5	10	15
Law	30	30	25	35	20
Human Medicine	15	20	20	20	20
Veterinary Science	5	10	10	5	0
Dentistry	5	0	5	5	0
Pharmacy	0	0	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	0	0	0	5	0
Nursing	5	15	15	15	10
Other Health Care	5	0	5	0	5
Built Environment	0	0	5	5	5
Total	285	275	285	360	345

Source: CAO

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

The table below shows ROI acceptances to NI HEIs over the five year period. Seven subject areas represent the majority of acceptances each year, accounting for 80% of acceptances in 2016/17 – Subjects allied to Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related, Biological Sciences, Social Studies, Creative Arts and Design, Engineering and Business and Admin studies. Subjects allied to Medicine courses accounted for 40% of acceptances in 2016/17. Between 5 and 10 ROI students accept places at NI HEI courses in Medicine and Dentistry each year.

Table 5: ROI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to NI HEIs by Subject Area, 2012/13-2016/17

Subject Area	Nett Acceptances of ROI at NI HEIs				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Medicine and Dentistry	10	5	5	10	5
Subjects allied to Medicine	130	150	135	135	120
Biological Sciences	60	35	60	40	20
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related	30	35	25	25	30
Physical Sciences	15	15	10	5	5
Mathematical Sciences	0	0	5	5	0
Engineering	15	10	15	15	15
Computer Sciences	20	15	5	5	5
Technologies	5	0	5	0	0
Architecture, Building and Planning	5	5	0	5	5
Social Studies	20	10	20	20	20
Law	10	5	5	5	10
Business and Admin studies	20	25	25	20	15
Mass Communication and Documentation	0	5	0	0	5
Linguistics, Classics and related	10	10	5	10	10
History and Philosophical studies	10	0	5	5	0
Creative Arts and Design	30	30	40	20	20
Combined arts	5	5	5	5	0
Combined sciences	10	10	25	10	10
Social Sciences combined with Arts	5	5	5	5	5
General, other combined and unknown	5	5	5	0	0
Total	410	390	410	350	300

Source: UCAS

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Institution

The tables below show NI acceptances to ROI HEIs by institution type and ROI acceptances to NI HEIs by institution. Three-fifths (59%) of NI acceptances to ROI HEIs in 2016/17 were to courses in the seven ROI universities, 38% were to courses in Institutes of Technology and the remaining 3% to courses in other institutions. Over three-fifths (63%) of ROI acceptances to NI HEIs in 2016/17 were to courses in Ulster University, 27% were to courses in Queen's University Belfast, 8% were to courses in the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise and 2% were to courses in Stranmillis University College.

Table 6: NI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to ROI HEIs by Institution Type, 2012/13-2016/17

Institution	Nett Acceptances				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Universities	220	215	200	235	205
Institutes of Technology	50	55	80	110	130
Colleges of Primary Education	0	0	0	0	0
Other Institutions	10	5	5	15	10
Total	285	270	285	360	345

Source: CAO

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Table 7: ROI Domiciled Full-Time Undergraduate Nett Acceptances to NI HEIs by Institution, 2012/13-2016/17

Institution	Nett Acceptances				
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Queen's University Belfast	65	85	85	75	80
Ulster University	315	265	295	245	190
Stranmillis University College	5	0	0	0	5
College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise	30	35	25	20	25
Total	410	390	410	350	300

Source: UCAS

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

3 HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENTS

22

TOTAL ENROLMENTS 2015/16

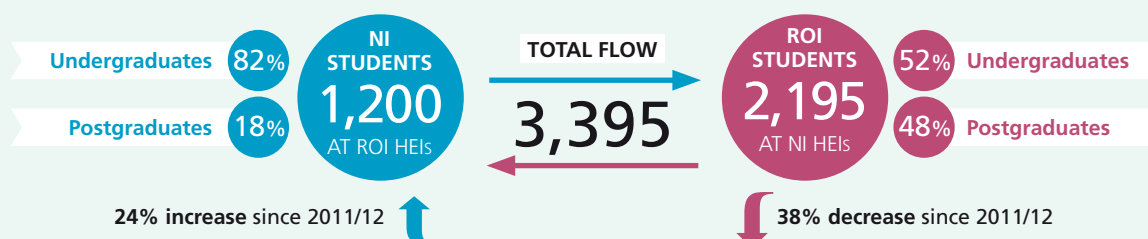
ROI HEIs 2015/16

216,000 ↑ 9% increase since 2011/12

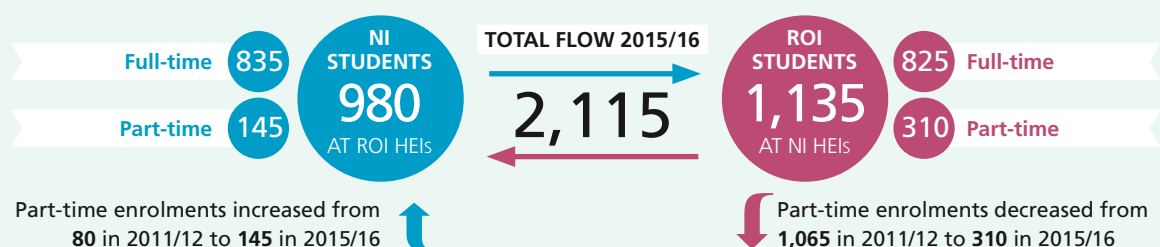
NI HEIs 2015/16

55,000 ↓ 3% decrease since 2011/12

CROSS BORDER ENROLMENTS 2015/16



CROSS BORDER UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENTS



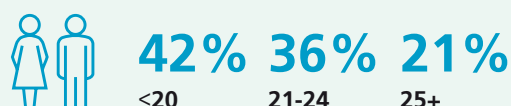
GENDER: NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs
2011/12 & 2015/16



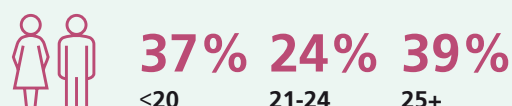
GENDER: ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs
2011/12 & 2015/16



AGE: NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs 2015/16



AGE: ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs 2015/16



MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs 2015/16

Business and Administrative studies,
Subjects allied to Medicine,
Historical & Philosophical Studies,
Medicine & Dentistry

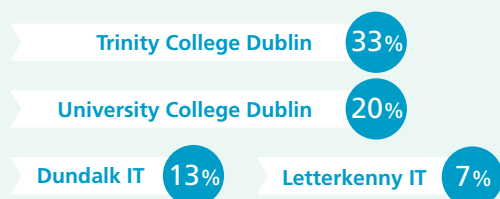
MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs 2015/16

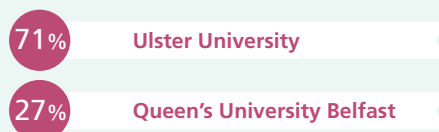
Subjects allied to Medicine
Business and Administrative studies
Biological Sciences
Creative Arts & Design

CROSS BORDER UNDERGRADUATE MOST POPULAR INSTITUTIONS 2015/16

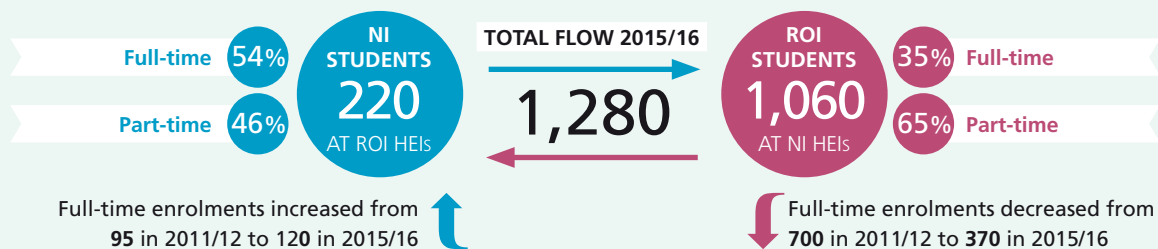
NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs



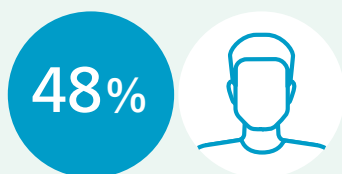
ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs



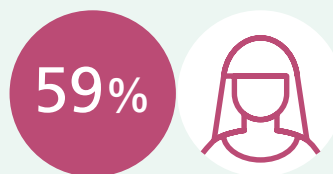
CROSS BORDER POSTGRADUATE ENROLMENTS



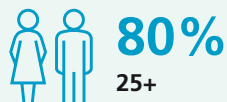
GENDER: NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs 2015/16



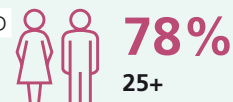
GENDER: ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs 2015/16



AGE: NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs 2015/16



AGE: ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs 2015/16



MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs 2011/12 TO 2015/16

Business and Administrative Studies
Humanities
Subjects allied to Medicine and Education

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs 2011/12 TO 2015/16

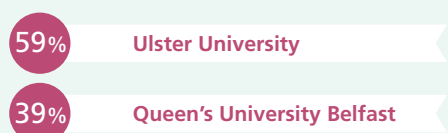
Education
Business and Administrative studies
Subjects allied to Medicine, Biological Sciences and Social Studies

CROSS BORDER POSTGRADUATE MOST POPULAR INSTITUTIONS 2015/16

NI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ROI HEIs



ROI STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NI HEIs



KEY POINTS

- ➔ Over 216,000 students were enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16, almost four times the 55,000 enrolled in NI HEIs. Over the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, these figures represent a 9% increase in ROI HEI enrolments and a 3% decrease in NI HEI enrolments.
- ➔ The 216,000+ enrolments in ROI HEIs in 2015/16 comprised 89% ROI students, 1% NI Students, 1% other UK students and 9% other students (rest of world). The 55,000+ enrolments in NI HEIs in 2015/16 comprised 4% ROI students, 85% NI students, 5% other UK students and 5% other students (rest of world).
- ➔ The flow of students cross border in 2015/16 totalled 3,395 – 1,200 NI students at ROI HEIs and 2,195 ROI students at NI HEIs. However, there has been a substantial change in the flow of students over recent years, with ROI students at NI HEIs down 38% between 2011/12 and 2015/16 and NI students at ROI HEIs up 24% over the same period.
- ➔ Of the 1,200 NI students enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16, 82% were undergraduates and 18% were postgraduates. In contrast, of the 2,195 ROI students enrolled in NI HEIs in 2015/16, 52% were undergraduates and 48% were postgraduates.
- ➔ Overall, there was a flow of circa 2,115 undergraduate students cross border in 2015/16 – 980 students from NI to ROI (835 full-time and 145 part-time) and 1,135 students from ROI to NI (825 full-time and 310 part-time). However, there has been a substantial fall in the number of part-time undergraduate ROI enrolments at NI HEIs in recent years – down from 1,065 enrolments in 2011/12 to 310 enrolments in 2015/16. Over the same period, part-time undergraduate NI enrolments at ROI HEIs increased from 80 to 145.
- ➔ As to be expected at postgraduate level, a large proportion of cross border students attend on a part-time basis. Of the 1,280 cross border postgraduate students in 2015/16 (220 NI students at ROI HEIs and 1,060 ROI students at NI HEIs), 62% were part-time students. 65% of ROI postgraduate students at NI HEIs in 2015/16 were part-time students, compared with 46% of NI postgraduate students at ROI HEIs.
- ➔ Females are more likely than males to enrol cross border at undergraduate level in the ROI and NI. In 2011/12, 56% of the NI undergraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs were female and this rose closer to 57% by 2015/16. This is even more the case for ROI undergraduate students enrolling in NI HEIs. In 2011/12 and in 2015/16, 67% of all ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs were female.
- ➔ Unlike undergraduate cross border student enrolments by gender at ROI HEIs, NI postgraduate student enrolments at ROI HEIs are more gender balanced. In fact, in four of the five years in this period, there were more male NI postgraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs than comparable female enrolments. However, ROI postgraduate enrolments at NI HEIs over the five year period were predominantly female – 59% in 2015/16.

3. INTRODUCTION

This section analyses higher education enrolments in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the flow of students between the two jurisdictions by mode of study, gender, age, field of study and institution. Firstly, overall enrolments are looked at, followed by undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments separately. ROI data was supplied by the HEA, while HESA⁷ supplied data on enrolments in NI HEIs.

The period analysed is from academic year 2011/12 to academic year 2015/16. As with the applicant data, all figures are rounded to the nearest 5, except those on ROI HE enrolments in NI FE colleges.

⁷ HESA is the official agency for the collection of information on publicly funded HEIs in the UK. HESA data do not include enrolments at FECs in NI or Great Britain. HESA do not collect enrolment data on students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

3.1 TOTAL ENROLMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

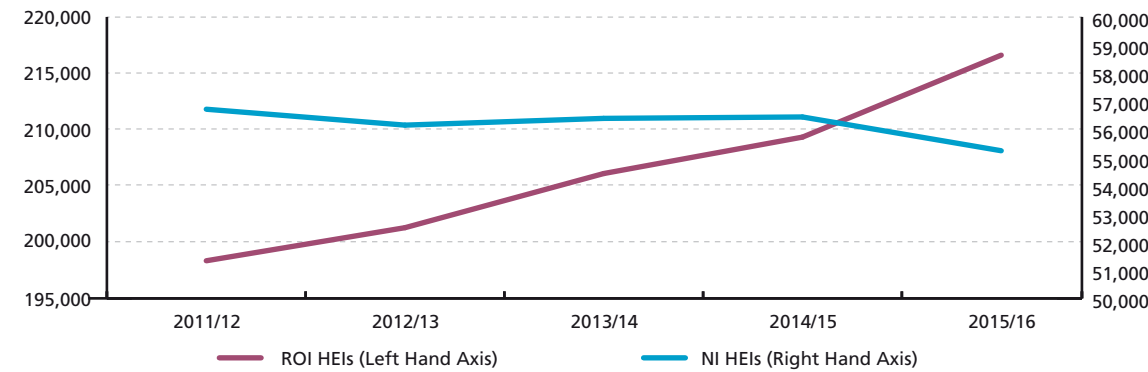
Over 216,000 students were enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16, while over 55,000 were enrolled in NI HEIs.⁸ Over the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, these figures represent a 9.2% increase in ROI HEI enrolments and a 2.6% decrease in NI HEI enrolments. Both undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments have been increasing in ROI HEIs each year over the five year period. Undergraduate enrolments in NI HEIs decreased in the first three years of the period, then increased in 2014/15, before falling again in 2015/16. Postgraduate enrolments in NI HEIs decreased each year bar 2013/14, which saw an increase. Overall NI HEI enrolments fell to 55,245 in 2015/16, after rises in the two previous years.

Table 8: Total Enrolments to HEIs by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	ROI HEIs			NI HEIs		
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
2011/12	163,725	34,615	198,340	45,235	11,485	56,720
2012/13	166,080	35,200	201,280	44,975	11,180	56,155
2013/14	169,780	36,310	206,090	44,620	11,775	56,395
2014/15	172,260	37,065	209,325	45,150	11,295	56,445
2015/16	178,910	37,695	216,605	44,570	10,675	55,245

Source: HEA & HESA
Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 6: Total Enrolments to HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA
Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

8 ROI numbers include data from 26 HEIs (7 universities, 14 institutes of technology and 6 colleges), NI numbers include data from 5 HEIs (Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, Stranmillis University College, St Mary's University College and the NI campuses of the Open University).

As per the table below, the 216,000+ enrolments in ROI HEIs in 2015/16 comprised 89% ROI students, 1% NI Students, 1% other UK students and 9% other students (rest of world). The 55,000+ enrolments in NI HEIs in 2015/16 comprised 4% ROI students, 85% NI students, 5% other UK students and 5% other students (rest of world).

The proportion of non-NI students in NI HEIs is higher than the proportion of non-ROI students in ROI HEIs in 2015/16 – 15% compared with 11%. However, the proportion of non-NI students in NI HEIs has reduced slightly since 2011/12. In the same period, the degree of internationalisation has increased in ROI HEIs from 7% to 11%. This increase has been driven by the increasing number of non-EU students enrolling in ROI HEIs. While the proportion of NI students in ROI HEIs has remained relatively constant over the period (0.5%-0.6%), the proportion of ROI students in NI HEIs has fallen from 6% to 4% over the five year period. There has been a particularly sharp fall in the number of part-time undergraduate ROI students attending NI HEIs and ROI students attending Ulster University.

Table 9: Total Enrolments to HEIs by Domicile, 2011/12-2015/16

Domicile	ROI HEIs					NI HEIs				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Republic of Ireland	184,935	185,850	187,290	188,625	193,360	3,520	2,835	2,420	2,345	2,195
Northern Ireland	970	985	1,040	1,075	1,200	48,075	47,820	48,275	48,090	47,150
Other UK	1,250	1,380	1,575	1,605	1,615	1,825	2,000	2,170	2,825	2,930
Other	11,190	13,070	16,185	18,020	20,430	3,300	3,505	3,530	3,180	2,960
Total	198,340	201,280	206,090	209,235	216,605	56,720	56,155	56,395	56,445	55,245

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

3.2 CROSS BORDER ENROLMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The flow of students cross border in 2015/16 totalled 3,395 – 1,200 NI students at ROI HEIs and 2,195 ROI students at NI HEIs. Breaking down the cross border enrolments, the table below shows that, of the 1,200 NI students enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16, 82% were undergraduates and 18% were postgraduates. In contrast, of the 2,195 ROI students enrolled in NI HEIs in 2015/16, 52% were undergraduates and 48% were postgraduates. This difference has persisted over the period, with a far higher proportion of ROI students in NI HEIs at postgraduate level than vice versa. As highlighted in the previous section, there has been a 38% decrease in the number of ROI students enrolled in NI HEIs over the five year period (44% at undergraduate level and 29% at postgraduate level), mostly between 2011/12 and 2013/14. In contrast, over the period 2011/12 – 2015/16, there has been a 24% increase in the number of NI students enrolled in ROI HEIs (30% at undergraduate level and 2% at postgraduate level).

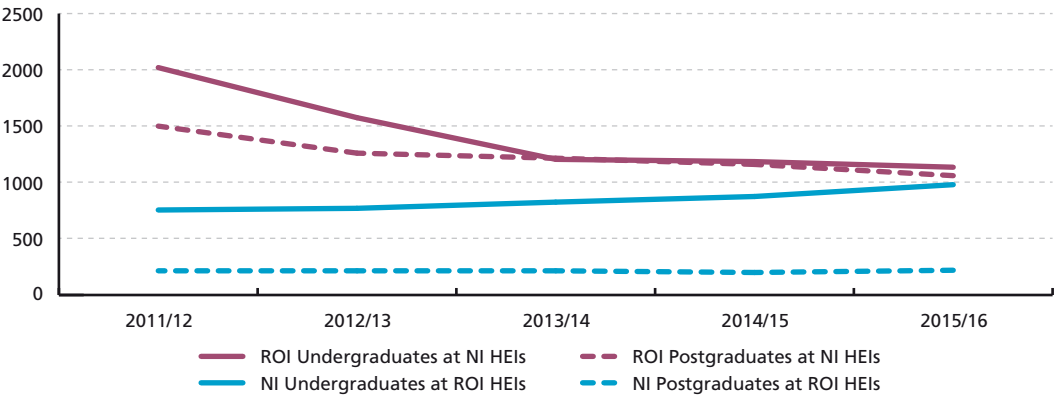
Table 10: Cross Border Enrolments by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI at ROI HEIs			ROI at NI HEIs		
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Total
2011/12	755	215	970	2,020	1,500	3,520
2012/13	770	215	985	1,575	1,260	2,835
2013/14	825	215	1,040	1,205	1,215	2,420
2014/15	875	200	1,075	1,185	1,160	2,345
2015/16	980	220	1,200	1,135	1,060	2,195

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 7: Cross Border Enrolments by Level of Study, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

3.2.1 Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments

Mode of Study

The fall in the number of ROI students enrolled in NI HEIs in recent years is largely due to a 71% (755) fall in the number of ROI undergraduate students enrolled on a part-time basis in NI HEIs (to 310), particularly between 2011/12 and 2013/14 (a decrease of 68% from 1,065 to 345 students). The number of NI domiciled students enrolled on a part-time basis in ROI HEIs increased 150% (120) between 2011/12 and 2013/14 (from 80 to 200), before decreasing to 145 in 2015/16. In contrast, after remaining stable between 2011/12 (670) and 2014/15 (680), the number of NI domiciled students enrolled on a full-time basis in ROI HEIs increased by 23% (155) in 2015/16 (835). Overall, there was a flow of circa 2,115 undergraduate students cross border in 2015/16 – 980 students from NI to ROI and 1,135 students from ROI to NI.

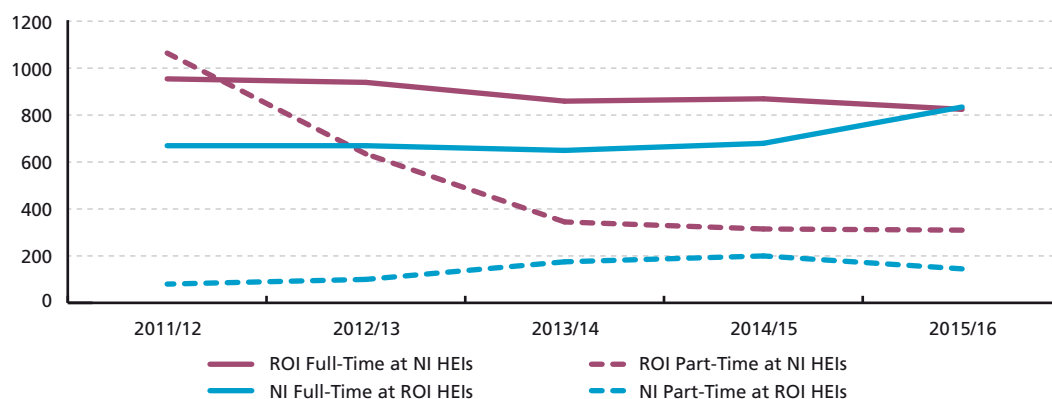
Table 11: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs			ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs		
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
2011/12	670	80	755	955	1,065	2,020
2012/13	670	100	770	940	635	1,575
2013/14	650	175	825	860	345	1,205
2014/15	680	200	875	870	315	1,185
2015/16	835	145	980	825	310	1,135

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 8: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Gender

Females are more likely to enrol cross border at undergraduate level in the ROI or NI. In 2011/12, 56% of the NI undergraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs were female, which reflects the wider NI student gender profile (slightly increased to 57% by 2015/16). This is even more the case for ROI undergraduate students enrolling in NI HEIs. In 2011/12 and in 2015/16, 67% of all ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs were female. To put this into context, overall undergraduate enrolments in HEIs in the ROI in 2015/16 were split 50.5% female, 49.5% male. Therefore, the profile of students from the ROI attending NI HEIs at undergraduate level by gender is not representative of the wider ROI higher education population.

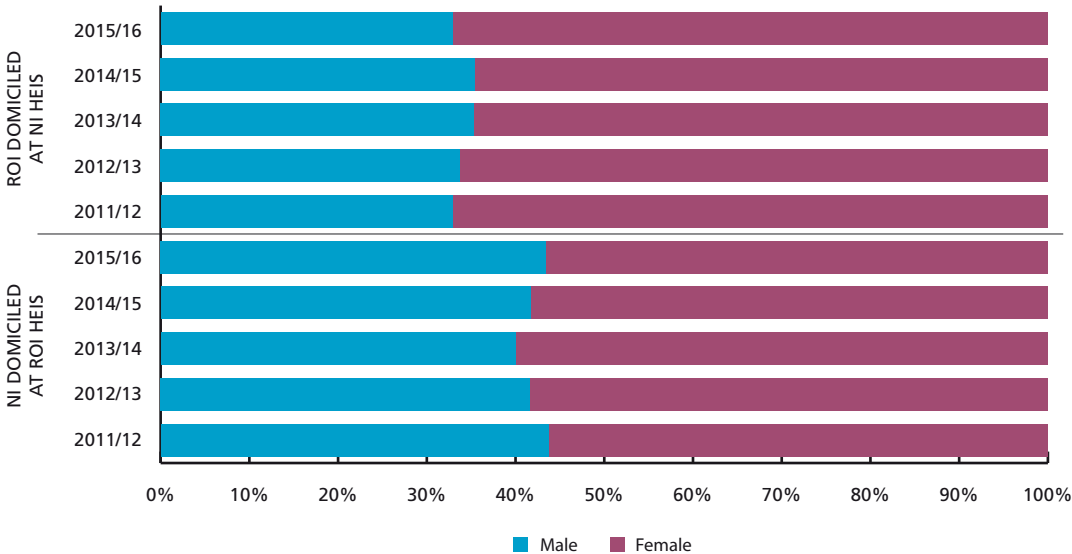
Table 12: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Gender, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs			ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2011/12	330	425	755	665	1,355	2,020
2012/13	320	450	770	530	1,045	1,575
2013/14	330	495	825	425	780	1,205
2014/15	365	510	875	420	765	1,185
2015/16	425	555	980	375	765	1,135

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 9: Gender Breakdown for Undergraduate NI Domiciled Students at ROI HEIs and ROI Domiciled Students at NI HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Age

Of the 2015/16 undergraduate NI enrolments at ROI HEIs, 42% were aged 20 or under, 36% were aged 21-24 and 21% were aged 25 or over. Of the 2015/16 undergraduate ROI enrolments at NI HEIs, 37% were aged 20 or under, 24% were aged 21-24 and 39% were aged 25 or over. For context, 46% of all undergraduates enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16 were aged 20 or under, 31% were between 21 and 24 and 23% were aged 25 or over, while 44% of undergraduates enrolled in NI HEIs were aged 20 or under, 27% were between 21 and 24 and 28% were aged 25 or over.

Therefore, in general, the age profile of ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs is older than the wider ROI undergraduate student population, with fewer students aged 20 or under, whereas NI students studying at ROI HEIs are younger in general than the wider NI undergraduate student population, with fewer students aged 25 or over. This is most evident when looking at the age and mode of study profiles of ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs in 2015/16, 39% of whom were aged 25 or over, with the majority studying part-time.

Table 13: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Age, 2011/12-2015/16

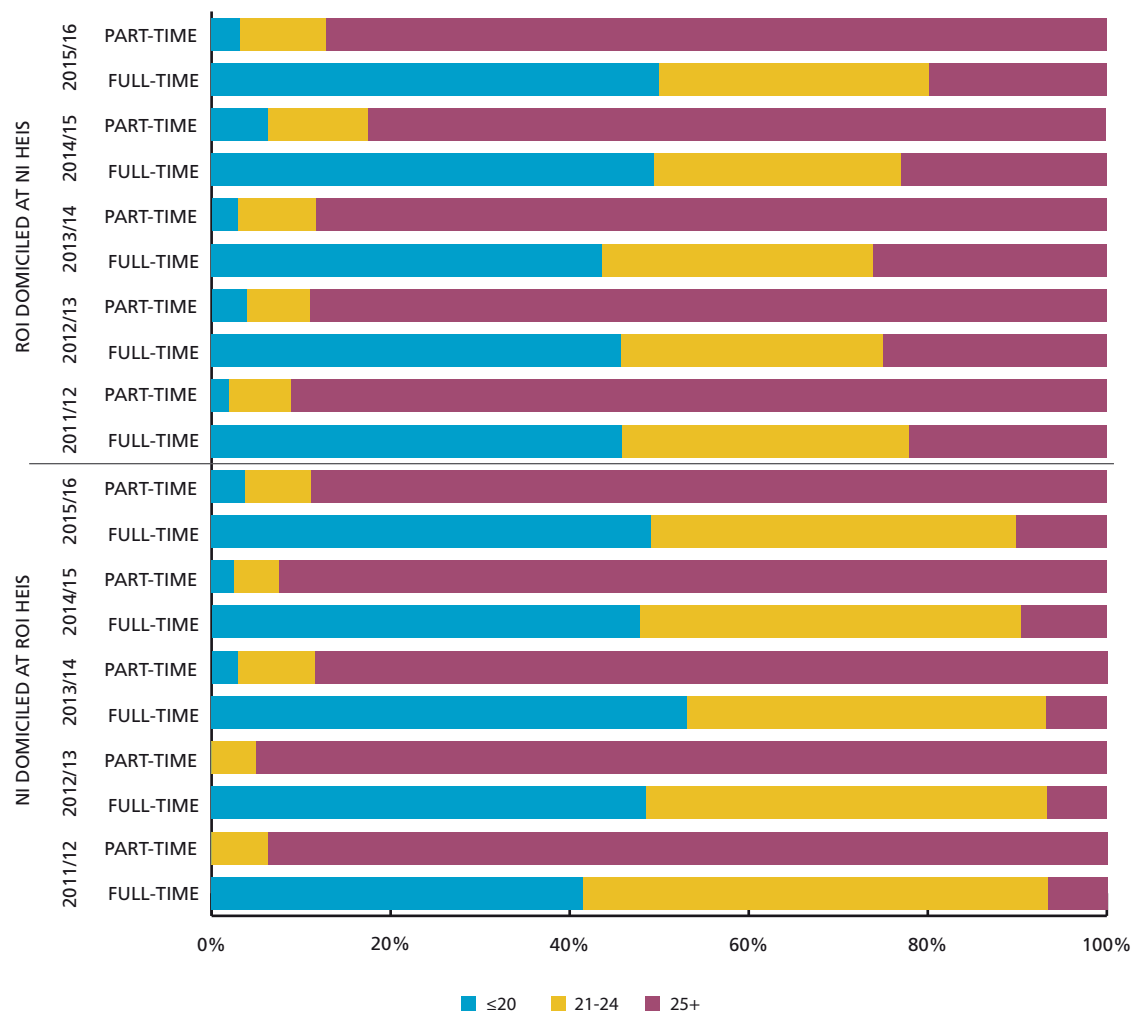
Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs				ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs			
	≤20	21-24	≥25	Total	≤20	21-24	≥25	Total
2011/12	280	355	115	755	455	380	1,185	2,020
2012/13	325	305	140	770	455	320	800	1,575
2013/14	345	275	200	825	385	290	530	1,205
2014/15	330	300	250	875	450	270	460	1,185
2015/16	410	350	205	980	420	275	440	1,135

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

There were 10 NI domiciled students at ROI HEIs in 2015/16 with an unknown age.

Figure 10: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Age and Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Field of Study

The most popular fields of study for NI undergraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/16 were business and administrative studies (14%), subjects allied to medicine (11%), historical & philosophical studies (11%) and medicine & dentistry (10%). 210 NI undergraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs in 2015/2016 were taking medicine & dentistry or subjects allied to medicine courses, up from 155 and 170 in 2013/14 and 2014/15 respectively.

Similarly, the number of ROI undergraduate students enrolled on subjects allied to medicine courses in NI HEIs is relatively large with an average of 360 students over the five year period (34% of the total in 2015/16). The only other field of study with similar numbers enrolled over the period is business & administrative studies, with an average of 351 students over the five year period. However, the number of ROI undergraduate students enrolled on business and administrative studies at NI HEIs fell considerably over the period, from 795 enrolments in 2011/12 to 190 enrolments in 2015/16.

Table 14: Cross Border Undergraduate Enrolments by Subject Area, 2011/12-2015/16

Field of Study	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs					ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Medicine & Dentistry	120	100	85	75	100	50	50	50	40	30
Subjects Allied to Medicine	65	65	70	95	110	335	350	350	375	390
Biological Sciences	25	20	15	35	35	120	130	100	110	95
Veterinary Sciences	55	45	40	40	30	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & Related Subjects	5	5	5	5	5	15	10	10	5	10
Physical Sciences	5	10	10	25	45	35	30	30	25	25
Mathematical Science	15	20	20	25	25	0	5	5	10	10
Computer Science	15	15	20	20	35	40	40	45	45	45
Engineering & Technology	35	35	60	50	65	95	75	65	50	40
Architecture, Building & Planning	30	25	35	30	30	50	30	20	10	10
Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)	55	60	60	55	60	100	85	70	55	55
Law	75	80	65	65	85	15	20	15	20	15
Business and Administrative Studies	55	70	100	170	140	795	405	200	165	190
Mass Communications & Documentation (ROI Librarianship & Information Science)	0	0	0	0	0	20	10	15	10	10
Languages	15	15	15	20	30	110	95	75	65	70
Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)	30	30	30	105	110	35	30	20	20	20
Creative Arts & Design	45	35	50	50	50	80	85	80	90	75
Education	15	15	20	15	15	105	80	45	55	45
Combined	5	0	5	0	5	30	35	5	30	0
Combined Arts & Humanities	80	105	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Science, Mathematics & Computing	10	15	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	755	770	825	875	980	2,020	1,575	1,205	1,185	1,135

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Since ROI and NI subject classifications differ, ROI classifications have been mapped to NI classifications. Details of this mapping are shown in Appendix 1.

Institution

Trinity College Dublin (33%) and University College Dublin (20%) are the most popular choices for NI undergraduate students enrolled at ROI HEIs in 2015/16. Whereas University College Dublin is the largest HEI in the ROI, Trinity College Dublin is only the fifth largest (based on the number of total undergraduate enrolments). Despite this, almost one third of all NI undergraduate students enrolled in the ROI in 2015/16 were enrolled in Trinity College Dublin. Unsurprisingly, due to geographic proximity, Dundalk IT (13%), Letterkenny IT (7%) and IT Sligo (3%) are relatively popular choices for NI undergraduate students enrolled in the ROI. Perhaps a little less expected was the relatively large number of NI undergraduate students enrolled in the ROI at the Mater Dei⁹ Institute up to 2014/15. There has been an increase in the number of NI undergraduate students studying at both universities and institutes of technology in ROI.

The most popular destinations for ROI undergraduate students enrolled at NI HEIs over the period were Ulster University (71%) and Queen's University Belfast (27%); these two HEIs accounted for most student enrolments in general. The fall in the number of ROI undergraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs is largely due to a fall in the number of students enrolled in Business and Administrative Studies courses at Ulster University.

⁹ The Mater Dei Institute is now part of Dublin City University so enrolments in courses that were offered at Mater Dei now appear in Dublin City University enrolments.

Table 15: NI Domiciled Undergraduate Enrolments at ROI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16

Institution	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Colleges	55	55	60	45	10
Mater Dei Institute, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.	35	50	40	25	0
National College of Art and Design	10	0	5	10	5
Royal College of Surgeons	5	0	5	5	5
St. Angela's College of Home Economics, Sligo	5	5	10	0	0
St. Patrick's College Drumcondra	0	5	0	0	0
Institutes of Technology	135	175	235	250	270
Athlone IT	0	0	5	5	0
Cork IT	5	0	5	0	5
Dublin Institute of Technology	15	15	60	15	10
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	0	0	0	0	0
Dundalk IT	55	80	80	120	125
Galway-Mayo IT	0	5	5	5	10
IT Blanchardstown	0	0	0	0	0
IT Carlow	5	10	10	20	15
IT Sligo	20	15	30	30	30
IT Tallaght	0	0	0	0	5
IT Tralee	0	0	0	0	0
Letterkenny IT	25	40	40	50	65
Limerick IT	0	0	0	0	0
Waterford IT	0	5	5	0	5
Universities	560	540	530	580	695
Dublin City University	5	0	5	0	5
National University of Ireland, Galway	30	15	45	45	85
Maynooth University	15	15	15	10	10
Trinity College Dublin	260	255	235	210	320
University College Cork	5	10	10	105	65
University College Dublin	250	235	215	200	195
University of Limerick	5	5	10	10	15
Total	755	770	825	875	980

Source: HEA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Table 16: ROI Domiciled Undergraduate Enrolments at NI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16

Institution	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Queen's University Belfast	295	280	280	305	310
Ulster University	1,665	1,250	900	860	805
Stranmillis University College	35	25	20	15	10
St Mary's University College	25	15	5	5	10
Total	2,020	1,575	1,205	1,185	1,135

Source: HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

3.2.2 Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments

Mode of Study

As to be expected at postgraduate level, a large proportion of cross border students attend on a part-time basis. Of the 1,280 cross border postgraduate students in 2015/16 (220 NI students at ROI HEIs and 1,060 ROI students at NI HEIs), 62% were part-time. 65% of ROI postgraduate students at NI HEIs in 2015/16 were part-time, compared with 45% of NI postgraduate students at ROI HEIs. The overall number of postgraduate NI students at ROI HEIs has remained relatively steady over the past five years. However, not dissimilar to the trend in undergraduate students, the number of postgraduate ROI students at NI HEIs has fallen substantially in recent years, from 1,500 in 2011/12 to 1,060 in 2015/16 (a 29% decrease).

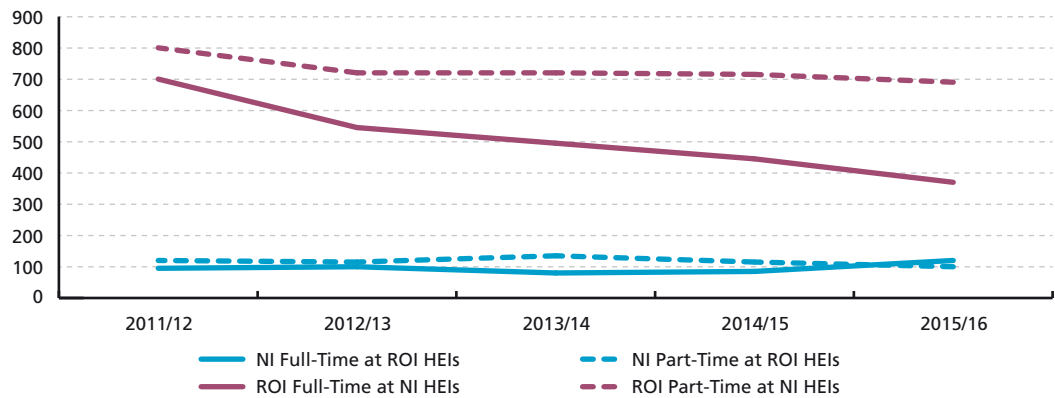
Table 17: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs			ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs		
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
2011/12	95	120	215	700	800	1,500
2012/13	100	115	215	545	720	1,260
2013/14	80	135	215	495	720	1,215
2014/15	85	115	195	445	715	1,160
2015/16	120	100	220	370	690	1,060

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 11: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA
Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Gender

Unlike undergraduate cross border student enrolments at ROI HEIs, NI postgraduate student enrolments at ROI HEIs are more gender balanced. In fact, in four of the five years in this period, there were more male NI postgraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs than comparable female enrolments. This is not in line with the overall gender split in postgraduate students in NI HEIs, where 61% are female, thus highlighting the higher propensity of NI males to seek postgraduate higher education cross border.

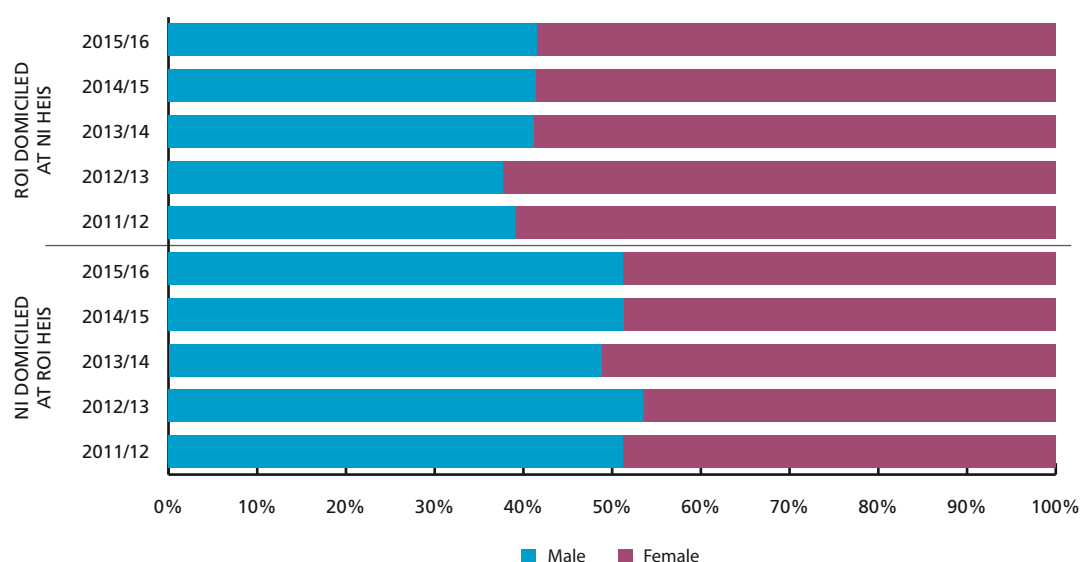
ROI postgraduate enrolments at NI HEIs over the five year period were predominantly female – 58% in 2015/16. This imbalance is not as acute as is the case with ROI undergraduate enrolments at NI HEIs (67% female). The 58% is not that out of sync with the gender proportions of all postgraduate students in ROI HEIs – 56% female and 44% male.

Table 18: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Gender, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs			ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2011/12	110	105	215	585	915	1,500
2012/13	115	100	215	475	785	1,260
2013/14	105	110	215	500	715	1,215
2014/15	100	95	195	480	680	1,160
2015/16	110	105	220	440	620	1,060

Source: HEA & HESA
Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 12: Gender Breakdown for Postgraduate NI Domiciled Students at ROI HEIs and ROI Domiciled Students at NI HEIs, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Age

Given the older age profile of postgraduate students in general (74% of all postgraduate students in ROI HEIs and 72% of all postgraduate students in NI HEIs in 2015/16 were aged 25 or over) and the higher proportion of postgraduate students that attend on a part-time basis, the age breakdowns of cross border enrolments are not unexpected. 80% of NI postgraduate students at ROI HEIs in 2015/16 and 78% of ROI postgraduate students at NI HEIs in 2015/16 were aged 25 or over.

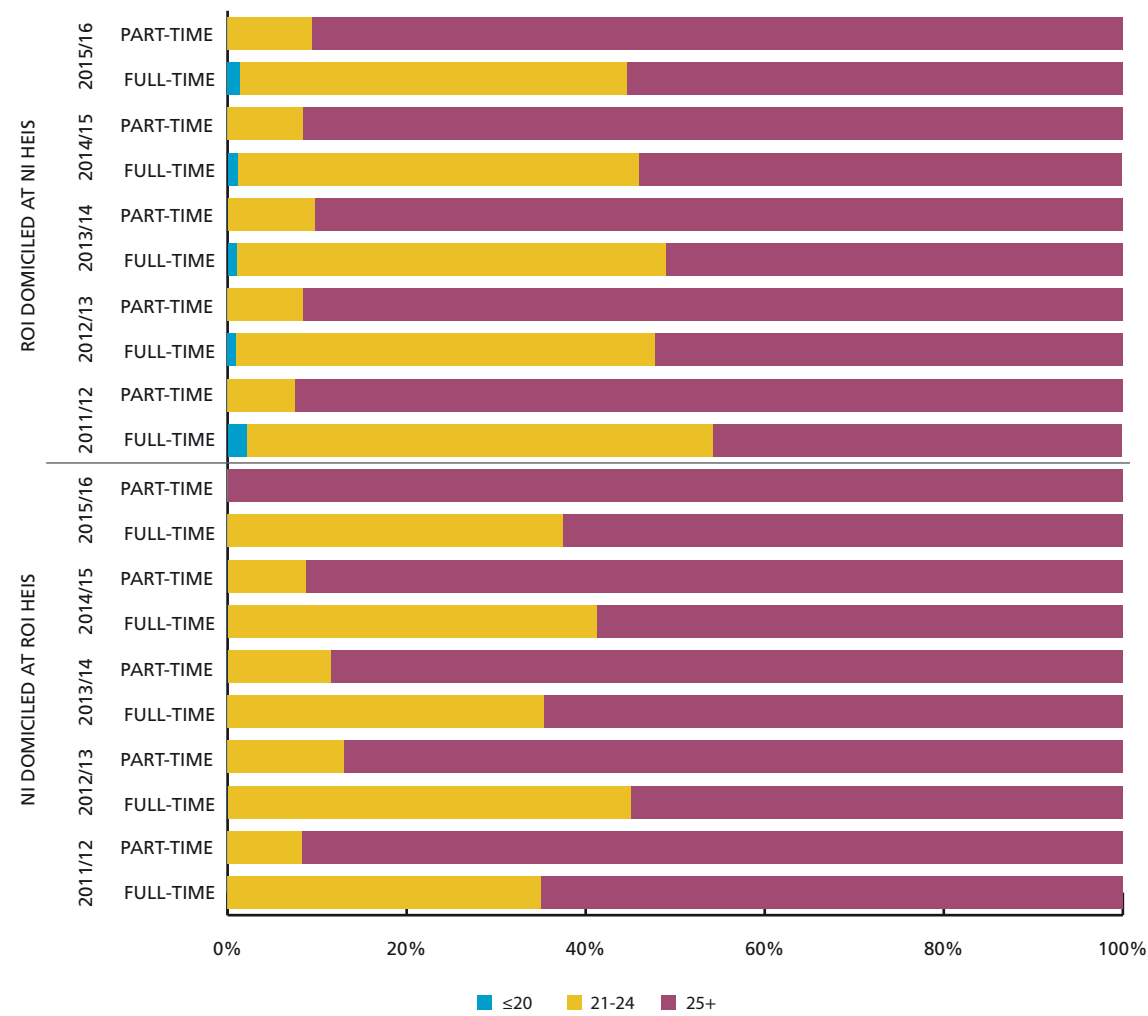
Table 19: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Age, 2011/12-2015/16

Year	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs				ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs			
	≤20	21-24	25+	Total	≤20	21-24	25+	Total
2011/12	0	40	175	215	15	425	1,060	1,500
2012/13	0	60	155	215	5	320	935	1,260
2013/14	0	45	170	215	5	310	900	1,215
2014/15	0	45	155	195	5	260	890	1,160
2015/16	0	45	175	220	5	225	830	1,060

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Figure 13: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Age and Mode of Study, 2011/12-2015/16



Source: HEA & HESA

Field of Study

The most popular fields of study for NI postgraduate students enrolled in ROI HEIs were business and administrative studies, humanities, subjects allied to medicine and education. Of these four fields, business and administrative studies was by far the most popular, with between 16% and 26% of all postgraduate enrolments over the five year period. As is the case with NI undergraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs, medicine and dentistry is also a popular field of study for NI postgraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs. An average of 15 NI postgraduate students were enrolled in medicine and dentistry courses at ROI HEIs over the five year period.

The most popular fields of study for ROI postgraduate students enrolled in NI HEIs were education, business and administrative studies, subjects allied to medicine, biological sciences and social studies. Education and business and administrative courses were particularly popular. Once again, the numbers enrolled on business and administrative courses are not unexpected, given the number and capacity of these courses in HEIs. However, the numbers enrolled on education courses are high compared with the number and capacity of such courses. Most education course places at postgraduate level are teacher training places. Also of note was the large fall in the number of ROI postgraduate students enrolled on subjects allied to medicine courses at NI HEIs over the period – down from 245 in 2011/12 to 130 in 2015/16.

Table 20: Cross Border Postgraduate Enrolments by Subject Area, 2011/12-2015/16

Field of Study	NI Domiciled at ROI HEIs					ROI Domiciled at NI HEIs				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Medicine & Dentistry	10	10	15	20	20	20	25	35	25	30
Subjects Allied to Medicine	25	20	20	25	30	245	205	155	140	130
Biological Sciences	10	10	5	5	10	150	125	135	165	150
Veterinary Sciences	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture & Related Subjects	5	5	0	0	0	15	10	10	10	10
Physical Sciences	5	5	0	0	5	80	65	55	55	50
Mathematical Science	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computer Science	5	10	15	10	5	10	10	15	15	10
Engineering & Technology	5	5	5	10	5	110	60	40	35	45
Architecture, Building & Planning	0	0	0	5	10	45	35	40	25	30
Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)	15	15	15	10	15	120	120	100	90	75
Law	10	10	5	5	10	70	45	50	35	25
Business and Administrative Studies	45	55	55	40	35	220	190	230	220	200
Mass Communications & Documentation (ROI Librarianship & Information Science)	0	0	0	0	0	25	20	15	25	20
Languages	10	5	5	10	10	20	10	20	10	10
Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)	40	35	25	25	20	25	25	25	20	20
Creative Arts & Design	15	15	10	20	15	100	90	65	55	50
Education	5	10	25	20	25	255	220	225	225	200
Combined	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	10	10
Combined Arts & Humanities	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Science, Mathematics & Computing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	215	215	215	195	220	1,500	1,260	1,215	1,160	1,060

Source: HEA & HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Since ROI and NI subject classifications differ, ROI classifications have been mapped to NI classifications. Details of this mapping are shown in Appendix 1.

Institution

Similar to NI undergraduate students, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin are the two most popular choices with NI postgraduate students enrolled at ROI HEIs. However, at postgraduate level, University College Dublin is more popular than Trinity College Dublin, particularly in the last three years. Between them, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin accounted for 45% of NI postgraduate enrolments at ROI HEIs in 2015/16. Letterkenny IT is also a popular choice for NI postgraduate students enrolling at ROI HEIs, with 20 students from NI attending the institute in 4 of the 5 years over the period.

98% of ROI postgraduate students enrolled at NI HEIs were enrolled at either Ulster University or Queen's University Belfast. The numbers of ROI postgraduate students enrolling at Ulster University have fallen sharply over recent years – from 950 in 2011/12 to 630 in 2015/16. This explains much of the overall drop in the number of ROI postgraduate students enrolled at NI HEIs in recent years – down from 1,500 in 2011/12 to 1,060 in 2015/16.

Table 21: NI Domiciled Postgraduate Enrolments at ROI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16

Institution	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Colleges	10	10	25	15	20
Mater Dei Institute, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.	0	0	0	0	0
National College of Art and Design	5	5	5	5	5
Royal College of Surgeons	0	0	5	10	10
St. Angela's College of Home Economics, Sligo	5	5	15	0	5
St. Patrick's College Drumcondra	0	0	0	5	5
Institutes of Technology	40	45	60	60	50
Athlone IT	0	0	0	0	0
Cork IT	0	5	0	5	0
Dublin Institute of Technology	10	20	20	20	10
Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	0	0	0	0	0
Dundalk IT	5	5	5	10	10
Galway-Mayo IT	0	0	0	0	0
IT Carlow	0	0	0	0	5
IT Sligo	0	0	0	0	0
IT Tralee	0	0	0	0	0
Letterkenny IT	20	20	30	20	20
Limerick IT	0	0	0	0	0
Waterford IT	0	0	0	0	0
Universities	165	160	130	120	145
Dublin City University	5	5	5	5	0
National University of Ireland, Galway	5	5	10	5	15
Maynooth University	10	5	5	5	5
Trinity College Dublin	65	60	35	25	40
University College Cork	10	10	15	5	15
University College Dublin	65	65	60	65	60
University of Limerick	10	5	10	15	15
Total	215	215	215	195	220

Source: HEA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

Table 22: ROI Domiciled Postgraduate Enrolments at NI HEIs by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16

Institution	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Queen's University Belfast	530	475	485	445	410
Ulster University	950	760	695	685	630
Stranmillis University College	15	15	20	15	10
St Mary's University College	5	10	20	15	10
Total	1,500	1,260	1,215	1,160	1,060

Source: HESA

Note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest '5' students

3.3 ROI HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENTS IN NI FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

The total number of ROI HE enrolments in NI FE colleges fell by 28% between 2011/12 and 2015/16, from 528 to 381. The number of full-time enrolments fell proportionately more (by 40%) than the number of part-time enrolments (by 21%), particularly among male full-time enrolments (by 59%). The overall number of male enrolments fell by 43% over the period, compared with a fall of 17% in female enrolments.

Table 23: ROI Domiciled Regulated Enrolments in Higher Education at NI FE Colleges by Gender and Attendance, 2011/12-2015/16

Academic Year	Male			Female			Total		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2011/12	100	117	217	78	233	311	178	350	528
2012/13	102	267	369	82	221	303	184	488	672
2013/14	72	157	229	83	272	355	155	429	584
2014/15	72	115	187	101	250	351	173	365	538
2015/16	41	82	123	65	193	258	106	275	381

Sources: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR 2011/12-2012/13); Consolidated Data Return (CDR 2013/14-2015/16)

Notes:

1. Only 'regulated enrolments' are included in this analysis. From academic year 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those on courses that are at 'level 3 or below' and appear on the Register of Regulated Qualifications (RRQ), which contains qualifications on both the Qualifications and Credit Framework and the National Qualifications Framework or part of the Department's Prescribed List of Approved Qualifications (PLAQ)/Access list) and Higher Education qualifications ('level 4 and above').
2. For academic years prior to 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those which are not hobby & leisure, or recreational, identified through the qualification aim (999) supplied by the FE college.

The most common age bracket of ROI HE students enrolled in NI FE colleges over the period was 25 and over – 59% of the total in 2015/16. However, the largest decrease in these enrolments over the period was in the under 21 age group – a 52% fall between 2011/12 and 2015/16. The smallest decrease was in the 25 and over age group – a 10% fall over the period. There was a 31% decrease in the 21 to 24 age group enrolled over the period. The overall decrease over the period for full-time enrolments was 40%, compared with 21% for part-time enrolments.

The most popular fields of study for ROI students were Health, public services and care (40%), Arts, media and publishing (13%), Engineering and manufacturing technology (10%) and Business, administration and law (10%). The main types of courses enrolled on were Foundation Degrees (26%), Higher National Diplomas (21%), Higher National Certificates (17%) and City and Guilds NVQ Level 4 (5%).

Table 24: ROI Domiciled Regulated Enrolments in Higher Education at NI FE Colleges by Age and Attendance, 2011/12-2015/16

Academic Year	Under 21			21 to 24			25 & over			Total		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2011/12	110	61	171	36	73	109	32	216	248	178	350	528
2012/13	107	51	158	38	61	99	39	375	414	184	488	672
2013/14	85	91	176	43	56	99	27	282	309	155	429	584
2014/15	88	41	129	54	56	110	31	268	299	173	365	538
2015/16	53	29	82	26	49	75	27	197	224	106	275	381

Sources: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR 2011/12-2012/13); Consolidated Data Return (CDR 2013/14-2015/16)

Notes:

1. Only 'regulated enrolments' are included in this analysis. From academic year 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those on courses that are at 'level 3 or below' and appear on the Register of Regulated Qualifications (RRQ), which contains qualifications on both the Qualifications and Credit Framework and the National Qualifications Framework or part of the Department's Prescribed List of Approved Qualifications (PLAQ)/Access list) and Higher Education qualifications ('level 4 and above').
2. For academic years prior to 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those which are not hobby & leisure, or recreational, identified through the qualification aim (999) supplied by the FE college.

North West Regional College accounts for the majority of ROI HE enrolments in NI FE colleges over the period – almost two thirds of the total number in 2015/16. The overall drop in enrolments (28%) over the period has been reflected in five of the six FE colleges – 75% in Belfast Metropolitan College (from 56 to 14), 20% in North West Regional College (from 318 to 253), 17% in Southern Regional College (from 58 to 48) and 31% in South West College (from 88 to 61). There was a particularly sharp drop in enrolments in North West Regional College between 2014/15 and 2015/16 – from 346 to 253.

Table 25: ROI Domiciled Regulated Higher Education Enrolments to NI FE Colleges by Institution, 2011/12-2015/16

Institution	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Belfast Metropolitan College	56	81	77	34	14
Northern Regional College	6	138	18	14	3
North West Regional College	318	287	305	346	253
South Eastern Regional College	2	0	0	3	2
Southern Regional College	58	50	69	54	48
South West College	88	116	115	87	61
Total	528	672	584	538	381

Sources: Further Education Statistical Record (FESR 2011/12-2012/13); Consolidated Data Return (CDR 2013/14-2015/16)

Notes:

1. Only 'regulated enrolments' are included in this analysis. From academic year 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those on courses that are at 'level 3 or below' and appear on the Register of Regulated Qualifications (RRQ), which contains qualifications on both the Qualifications and Credit Framework and the National Qualifications Framework or part of the Department's Prescribed List of Approved Qualifications (PLAQ)/Access list) and Higher Education qualifications ('level 4 and above').
2. For academic years prior to 2013/14, 'regulated enrolments' are regarded as those which are not hobby & leisure, or recreational, identified through the qualification aim (999) supplied by the FE college.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: MAPPING ROI SUBJECT CLASSIFICATIONS TO NI SUBJECT CLASSIFICATIONS

ROI Classification (New ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(0011) Basic programmes and qualifications	Combined
(0031) Personal skills and development	Combined
(010) Basic/broad general programmes	Combined
(0110) Education not further defined or elsewhere classified	Education
(0111) Education science	Education
(0112) Training for pre-school teachers	Education
(0113) Teacher training without subject specialization	Education
(0114) Teacher training with subject specialization	Education
(0210) Arts not further defined or elsewhere classified	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0211) Audio-visual techniques and media production	Creative Arts & Design
(0212) Fashion, interior and industrial design	Creative Arts & Design
(0213) Fine arts	Creative Arts & Design
(0214) Handicrafts	Creative Arts & Design
(0215) Music and performing arts	Creative Arts & Design
(0220) Humanities (except languages) not further defined or elsewhere classified	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0221) Religion and theology	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0222) History and archaeology	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0223) Philosophy and ethics	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0230) Languages not further defined or elsewhere classified	Languages
(0231) Language acquisition	Languages
(0232) Literature and linguistics	Languages
(0288) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(0310) Social and behavioural sciences not further defined or elsewhere classified	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(0311) Economics	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(0312) Political sciences and civics	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(0313) Psychology	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(0314) Sociology and cultural studies	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)

ROI Classification (New ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(0322) Library, information and archival studies	Mass Communications & Documentation (ROI Librarianship & Information Science)
(0410) Business and administration not further defined or elsewhere classified	Business and Administrative Studies
(0411) Accounting and taxation	Business and Administrative Studies
(0412) Finance, banking and insurance	Business and Administrative Studies
(0413) Management and administration	Business and Administrative Studies
(0414) Marketing and advertising	Business and Administrative Studies
(0415) Secretarial and office work	Business and Administrative Studies
(0416) Wholesale and retail sales	Business and Administrative Studies
(0421) Law	Law
(0510) Biological and related sciences not further defined or elsewhere classified	Biological Sciences
(0511) Biology	Biological Sciences
(0512) Biochemistry	Biological Sciences
(0520) Environment not further defined or elsewhere classified	Biological Sciences
(0521) Environmental sciences	Biological Sciences
(0522) Natural environments and wildlife	Biological Sciences
(0530) Physical sciences not further defined or elsewhere classified	Physical Sciences
(0531) Chemistry	Physical Sciences
(0532) Earth sciences	Biological Sciences
(0533) Physics	Physical Sciences
(0541) Mathematics	Mathematical Sciences
(0542) Statistics	Mathematical Sciences
(0588) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	Physical Sciences
(0610) Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) not further defined or elsewhere classified	Computer Science
(0611) Computer use	Computer Science
(0612) Database and network design and administration	Computer Science
(0613) Software and applications development and analysis	Computer Science

ROI Classification (New ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(0688) Interdisciplinary programmes and qualifications involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	Computer Science
(0710) Engineering and engineering trades not further defined or elsewhere classified	Engineering & Technology
(0711) Chemical engineering and processes	Engineering & Technology
(0713) Electricity and energy	Engineering & Technology
(0714) Electronics and automation	Engineering & Technology
(0715) Mechanics and metal trades	Engineering & Technology
(0716) Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft	Engineering & Technology
(0720) Manufacturing and processing not further defined or elsewhere classified	Engineering & Technology
(0721) Food processing	Engineering & Technology
(0723) Textiles (clothes, footwear and leather)	Engineering & Technology
(0730) Architecture and construction not further defined or elsewhere classified	Architecture, Building & Planning
(0731) Architecture and town planning	Architecture, Building & Planning
(0732) Building and civil engineering	Architecture, Building & Planning
(080) Literacy and numeracy	Combined
(0811) Crop and livestock production	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(0812) Horticulture	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(0821) Forestry	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(0841) Veterinary	Veterinary Sciences
(090) Personal skills	Combined
(0910) Health not further defined or elsewhere classified	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0911) Dental studies	Medicine & Dentistry
(0912) Medicine	Medicine & Dentistry
(0913) Nursing and midwifery	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0914) Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	Medicine & Dentistry
(0915) Therapy and rehabilitation	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0916) Pharmacy	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0917) Traditional and complementary medicine and therapy	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0920) Welfare not further defined or elsewhere classified	Subjects Allied to Medicine

ROI Classification (New ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(0922) Child care and youth services	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(0923) Social work and counselling	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(1013) Hotel, restaurants and catering	Business and Administrative Studies
(1014) Sports	Education
(1015) Travel, tourism and leisure	Business and Administrative Studies
(1022) Occupational health and safety	Business and Administrative Studies
(1031) Military and defence	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(1032) Protection of persons and property	Business and Administrative Studies
(1041) Transport services	Engineering & Technology

ROI Classification (Old ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(142) Education science	Education
(144) Training for teachers at basic levels	Education
(145) Training for teachers with subject specialisation	Education
(146) Training for teachers of vocational subjects	Education
(200) Combined Arts & Humanities	Combined Arts & Humanities
(210) Combined Arts	Combined Arts & Humanities
(211) Fine arts	Creative Arts & Design
(212) Music and performing arts	Creative Arts & Design
(213) Audio-visual techniques and media production	Creative Arts & Design
(214) Design	Creative Arts & Design
(215) Craft skills	Creative Arts & Design
(220) Combined Humanities	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(221) Religion	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(222) Foreign languages	Languages
(223) Mother tongue	Languages
(225) History and archaeology	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(226) Philosophy and ethics	Historical & Philosophical Studies (ROI Humanities)
(300) Combined Social Science, Business and Law	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(310) Combined Social and behavioural science	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(311) Psychology	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(312) Sociology and cultural studies	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(313) Political Science and civics	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(314) Economics	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(321) Journalism and reporting	Mass Communications & Documentation (ROI Librarianship & Information Science)
(340) Combined Business and Administration	Business and Administrative Studies
(341) Wholesale and retail sales	Business and Administrative Studies
(342) Marketing and advertising	Business and Administrative Studies
(343) Finance, banking, insurance	Business and Administrative Studies
(344) Accounting and taxation	Business and Administrative Studies
(345) Management and administration	Business and Administrative Studies
(346) Secretarial and office work	Business and Administrative Studies
(380) Law	Law

ROI Classification (Old ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(400) Combined Science, Mathematics and Computing	Combined Science, Mathematics and Computing
(420) Combined Life Science	Biological Sciences
(421) Biology and biochemistry	Biological Sciences
(422) Environmental Science	Biological Sciences
(440) Combined Physical Science	Physical Sciences
(441) Physics	Physical Sciences
(442) Chemistry	Physical Sciences
(443) Earth Science	Biological Sciences
(460) Combined Maths and Statistics	Mathematical Sciences
(461) Mathematics	Mathematical Sciences
(462) Statistics	Mathematical Sciences
(481) Computer Science	Computer Science
(482) Computer Use	Computer Science
(500) Combined Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction	Engineering & Technology
(520) Combined Engineering & Engineering Trades	Engineering & Technology
(521) Mechanics and metal work	Engineering & Technology
(522) Electricity and energy	Engineering & Technology
(523) Electronics and automation	Engineering & Technology
(524) Chemical and process	Engineering & Technology
(525) Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft	Engineering & Technology
(541) Food processing	Engineering & Technology
(542) Textiles, clothes, footwear, leather	Engineering & Technology
(543) Materials (wood, paper, plastic, glass)	Engineering & Technology
(580) Combined Architecture and building	Architecture, Building & Planning
(581) Architecture and town planning	Architecture, Building & Planning
(582) Building and civil engineering	Architecture, Building & Planning
(620) Combined Agriculture, forestry and fishery	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(621) Crop and livestock production	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(623) Forestry	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(624) Fisheries	Agriculture & Related Subjects
(641) Veterinary	Veterinary Sciences
(700) Combined Health and Welfare	Subjects Allied to Medicine

ROI Classification (Old ISCEDs)	NI Classification
(720) Combined Health	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(721) Medicine	Medicine & Dentistry
(723) Nursing and caring	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(724) Dental Studies	Medicine & Dentistry
(725) Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	Medicine & Dentistry
(726) Therapy and Rehabilitation	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(727) Pharmacy	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(760) Combined Social Services	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(761) Child Care and youth services	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(762) Social work and counselling	Subjects Allied to Medicine
(811) Hotel, restaurant and catering	Business and Administrative Studies
(812) Travel, tourism and leisure	Business and Administrative Studies
(813) Sports	Education
(840) Transport services	Engineering & Technology
(851) Environmental protection technology	Engineering & Technology
(861) Protection of persons and property	Business and Administrative Studies
(862) Occupational health and safety	Business and Administrative Studies
(863) Military and defence	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)
(910) Balanced Combination of 'Humanities/Arts' and 'Social Sciences Business/Law'	Social Studies (ROI Social, Economic & Political Studies)

