



Heriot-Watt University

Student Information

2017-18 to 2019-20 Equality and Protected Characteristics: Student Data Summary

April 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

To help us to meet our legal requirements under the Equality Act 2010 we are publishing a range of student data linked to the protected characteristics of our student population.

Using headcount student enrolments, the student population is broken down for on-campus students, excluding Edinburgh Business School (EBS) which holds data separately. We will be undertaking work to include EBS in future student data.

It should be noted that we collect and report on our student population as follows:

- Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability data is collected at all campuses
- The additional protected characteristics of Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are not collected at the campuses in Dubai and Malaysia.

The University also gathers and reports on retention and attainment of our students which is contained under separate cover. We are taking steps to explore further integration of all student related information linked to protected characteristics for reporting, monitoring and information purposes.

Using headcount student enrolments, the student population is broken down as follows for on-campus students, EBS is included from 2019. The data presented is from 02 July 2020.

- Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability data is collected at all campuses.
- The additional protected characteristics of Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity are not collected at the campuses in Dubai and Malaysia.

2. ENROLMENT HEADCOUNT BY CAMPUS & LEVEL

(snapshot as at Feb 2018, Feb 2019, 02 Mar 2020)

The number of students enrolled at the Dubai campus (Dub), Malaysia campus (Mal) and all Scottish campuses (Sco), by academic year and level of study (foundation, undergraduate (UG), postgraduate taught (PGT) and postgraduate research (PGR)). Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 or indicated as less than 5 where applicable.

Those included in the left-hand part of the table are considered “standard” students. All “non-standard” students are included to the right, with reasons for their exclusion from the “standard” population. Throughout this report, the “standard” population is used unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Enrolment Headcount by Campus & Level

	Level	Year	Dub	Mal	Sco	Excluded	Reason for exclusion
All students	Foundation	2017-18	240	295	5	0	
		2018-19	245	365	5	0	
		2019-20	205	305	10	0	
	UG	2017-18	2,000	1,260	7,205	340	
		2018-19	1,955	1,420	7,440	360	<i>Incoming Exchange & non-grad</i>
		2019-20	1,955	1,525	7,555	345	
	PGT	2017-18	1,205	115	1,490	115	
		2018-19	1,260	105	1,370	95	<i>PGCLT (PG Cap), Writing-up</i>
		2019-20	1,345	125	1,455	95	
	PGR	2017-18	20	0	740	220	
		2018-19	20	0	755	225	<i>Writing-up</i>
		2019-20	30	<5	745	250	
	Total	2017-18	3,465	1,670	9,440	675	
		2018-19	3,480	1,890	9,575	685	
		2019-20	3,530	1,955	9,765	690	
Entrants only	Foundation	2017-18	235	135	5	0	
		2018-19	240	145	5	0	
		2019-20	205	125	10	0	
	UG	2017-18	720	530	2,180	325	
		2018-19	685	515	1,940	355	<i>Incoming Exchange & non-grad</i>
		2019-20	720	575	2,060	345	
	PGT	2017-18	650	75	1,305	30	
		2018-19	640	75	1,180	25	<i>PGCLT (PG Cap), Writing-up</i>
		2019-20	690	75	1,285	20	
	PGR	2017-18	5	0	175	0	
		2018-19	<5	0	180	0	<i>Writing-up</i>
		2019-20	10	0	175	0	
	Total	2017-18	1,615	745	3,665	355	
		2018-19	1,565	730	3,310	380	
		2019-20	1,625	775	3,530	365	

Entrant is defined by the academic year of entry, not year of study, e.g. 2019-20 includes students admitted directly into year 2 or above of a programme.

3. GENDER, ETHNICITY & DISABILITY

Table 2: Gender, ethnicity and disability by campus location

	Level	Year	% Female			% BME			% Declaring a disability		
			Dub	Mal	Sco	Dub	Mal	Sco	Dub	Mal	Sco
All students	Foundation	2017-18	39%	43%		96%	100%		7%	1%	
		2018-19	39%	45%		94%	100%		9%	1%	
		2019-20	34%	45%		93%	100%		2%	1%	
	UG	2017-18	45%	40%	41%	95%	96%	20%	4%	2%	14%
		2018-19	47%	40%	41%	95%	97%	22%	4%	2%	13%
		2019-20	49%	42%	41%	96%	94%	23%	3%	2%	13%
	PGT	2017-18	29%	36%	44%	94%	95%	44%	2%	3%	6%
		2018-19	35%	44%	44%	94%	98%	45%	2%	2%	6%
		2019-20	37%	47%	41%	94%	96%	53%	1%	2%	6%
	PGR	2017-18			31%			36%			8%
		2018-19			30%			35%			7%
		2019-20			30%			36%			7%
	Total	2017-18	39%	40%	41%	94%	96%	25%	3%	2%	12%
		2018-19	42%	41%	40%	95%	98%	26%	4%	2%	11%
		2019-20	44%	43%	40%	95%	95%	29%	2%	2%	11%
Entrants only	Foundation	2017-18	39%	40%		96%	100%		7%	1%	
		2018-19	40%	45%		94%	100%		10%	2%	
		2019-20	34%	42%		93%	100%		2%	1%	
	UG	2017-18	45%	40%	42%	95%	99%	21%	2%	2%	13%
		2018-19	48%	41%	42%	97%	99%	19%	5%	1%	11%
		2019-20	47%	48%	43%	97%	100%	21%	2%	2%	12%
	PGT	2017-18	32%	32%	44%	94%	92%	45%	1%	4%	6%
		2018-19	41%	44%	44%	95%	97%	44%	2%	3%	6%
		2019-20	39%	47%	41%	95%	94%	54%	1%	1%	6%
	PGR	2017-18			26%			33%			12%
		2018-19			28%			39%			8%
		2019-20			32%			34%			6%
	Total	2017-18	39%	39%	42%	95%	98%	30%	3%	2%	10%
		2018-19	44%	42%	42%	96%	99%	29%	5%	1%	9%
		2019-20	42%	47%	42%	95%	99%	34%	2%	1%	9%

Scottish campus Foundation, and Dubai and Malaysia PGR are excluded from the above table due to the low number of students in these categories.

Ethnicity

%BME is defined here as all categories other than White. White includes the categories White, and White – Scottish where these options were available. Calculation excludes a small number of unknown values, and values are shown to the nearest percent, therefore a value of 100% should not be taken as literal.

Note: The 2019 report contained a minor calculation error for the %BME values for PGR entrants at Scottish campuses for 2017-18 and 2018-19. They are respectively corrected from 30% to 33% and from 38% to 39% in the above table.

Disability

% declaring a disability is defined here as all categories declared by students other than 'No known disability'. Following current HESA reporting practices, it is assumed that the student has no disability if none is declared and therefore the full standard population is used here in the calculation.

4. ETHNICITY DATA

Different levels of detail are shown in the ethnicity categories for UK and non-UK campuses, to reflect local differences in the student population.

Table 3: Ethnicity, all student at Scottish campuses

	Level	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18	UK-domiciled only			19/20	18/19	17/18
		UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
All students	White	76%	46%	61%	70%	73%	74%	85%	75%	87%	85%	86%	87%
	Chinese	8%	15%	7%	9%	9%	9%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	Asian	7%	21%	10%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	3%	6%	6%	5%
	Mixed	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%
	Black	2%	6%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	8%	2%	3%	2%	2%
	Arab	1%	4%	6%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Malay	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Other*	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Not given	1%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%
Total	7,555	1,455	745	9,765	9,575	9,440	6,065	375	260	6,705	6,685	6,545	
Entrants only	White	78%	45%	62%	65%	70%	69%	84%	78%	86%	83%	84%	85%
	Chinese	7%	15%	7%	10%	10%	12%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	1%
	Asian	6%	22%	10%	12%	8%	8%	6%	7%	2%	6%	6%	6%
	Mixed	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	0%	4%	3%	3%
	Black	2%	6%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%	7%	2%	3%	3%	3%
	Arab	1%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
	Malay	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Other*	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	Not given	1%	3%	6%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	6%	1%	1%	1%
Total	2,060	1,285	175	3,530	3,310	3,665	1,715	305	65	2,085	2,075	2,170	

Totals have been rounded to the nearest 5.

White includes: White, and White – Scottish

Asian includes: Asian-Bangladeshi, Asian-Indian, Asian-Pakistani, and Asian-Other

Mixed includes: White/Black Caribbean, White/Black African, White and Asian; and Mixed Other

Black includes: Black-African, Black/British Black: Caribbean, and Black-Other

Other* includes: Other, and Gypsy or Traveller

Domicile is the student's permanent home address just prior to entry to the programme.

Note: The 2018-19 percentage for White entrants at Scottish campuses was recorded as 85% in previous reports. It is amended in the table above to 84% because Gypsy or Traveller is here included in the Other* category.

Table 4: Ethnicity, all student Dubai Campus

	Level	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18	UAE-domiciled only			19/20	18/19	17/18
		UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
All students	Indian	55%	33%		45%	45%	46%	59%	35%		50%	48%	47%
	Arab	10%	22%		15%	15%	15%	10%	30%		17%	17%	17%
	Pakistani	12%	8%		11%	11%	12%	11%	9%		11%	11%	12%
	Chinese	1%	17%		7%	6%	3%	1%	7%		3%	2%	1%
	Black	4%	6%		5%	6%	6%	2%	3%		3%	3%	4%
	White	4%	5%		5%	5%	5%	3%	6%		4%	5%	5%
	Asian - Other	6%	3%		4%	5%	5%	6%	3%		5%	6%	6%
	Not given	2%	3%		3%	2%	1%	2%	4%		3%	2%	1%
	Other*	2%	1%		2%	2%	2%	2%	1%		2%	2%	2%
	Bangladeshi	2%	0%		1%	1%	1%	2%	0%		2%	2%	2%
	Mixed	1%	1%		1%	2%	2%	1%	1%		1%	2%	2%
	Malay	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%
	Total	1,955	1,345		3,530	3,480	3,465	1,450	735		2,350	2,235	2,245
	Entrants only	Indian	57%	37%		45%	42%	45%	61%	39%		50%	45%
Arab		10%	19%		15%	15%	16%	9%	27%		16%	18%	18%
Pakistani		12%	8%		11%	11%	10%	12%	9%		12%	12%	10%
Chinese		0%	15%		7%	7%	5%	0%	6%		2%	2%	2%
Black		4%	7%		6%	6%	7%	1%	4%		2%	2%	4%
White		3%	5%		5%	4%	5%	2%	5%		4%	4%	6%
Asian - Other		4%	2%		4%	5%	5%	5%	2%		4%	6%	5%
Not given		3%	4%		4%	3%	1%	4%	5%		4%	3%	1%
Other*		2%	1%		2%	2%	2%	2%	1%		2%	2%	2%
Bangladeshi		2%	1%		1%	2%	2%	2%	1%		1%	2%	3%
Mixed		2%	1%		1%	1%	2%	1%	0%		1%	2%	2%
Malay		0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	1%		0%	0%	0%
Total		720	690		1,625	1,565	1,615	560	370		1,080	970	970

PGR percentages are not shown in the above table due to the low number of students in this category.

Totals have been rounded to the nearest 5.

This table shows the Asian ethnicity categories in more detail than the table for Scottish campuses, because a larger proportion of students at the Dubai campus declared ethnicities which were summarised as Asian in the table for Scottish campuses.

Black includes Black - African, Black/British Black: Caribbean, and Black - Other

White includes: White and White - Scottish

Mixed includes White/Black Caribbean, White/Black African, White and Asian, and Mixed Other.

Malay is listed as a distinct category because of the University's presence in Malaysia

Other* includes Other, and Gypsy or Traveller

Table 5: Ethnicity, all student Malaysia campus

	Level	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18	Malaysia-domiciled only			19/20	18/19	17/18
		UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
All students	Chinese	58%	28%		56%	55%	52%	66%	36%		64%	62%	59%
	Malay	17%	23%		18%	20%	22%	20%	33%		20%	23%	25%
	Indian	9%	17%		10%	11%	12%	10%	15%		10%	10%	11%
	Asian*	4%	11%		5%	5%	5%	1%	5%		2%	2%	2%
	White	6%	4%		5%	2%	4%	0%	1%		0%	0%	0%
	Black	1%	2%		1%	1%	1%	0%	1%		0%	0%	0%
	Arab	1%	4%		1%	2%	1%	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%
	Other*	1%	4%		1%	2%	1%	1%	2%		1%	1%	1%
	Not given	1%	5%		1%	1%	0%	1%	6%		1%	1%	0%
	Mixed	1%	2%		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%		1%	1%	1%
Total		1,525	125		1,955	1,890	1,670	1,265	85		1,610	1,600	1,420
Entrants only	Chinese	64%	29%		57%	53%	50%	68%	42%		63%	58%	58%
	Malay	18%	16%		19%	21%	22%	19%	27%		21%	24%	25%
	Indian	9%	15%		10%	11%	14%	9%	13%		10%	10%	13%
	Asian*	3%	13%		5%	6%	5%	1%	2%		1%	2%	2%
	White	0%	5%		1%	1%	2%	0%	2%		0%	0%	0%
	Black	1%	3%		2%	1%	2%	0%	2%		0%	0%	0%
	Arab	1%	5%		1%	2%	2%	0%	0%		0%	1%	0%
	Other*	1%	7%		1%	2%	2%	0%	4%		1%	1%	1%
	Not given	2%	5%		2%	2%	1%	1%	7%		1%	1%	0%
	Mixed	1%	1%		1%	2%	1%	1%	0%		1%	1%	0%
Total		575	75		775	730	745	525	45		675	600	625

PGR percentages are not shown in the above table due to the low number of students in this category.

Totals have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Asian* includes Asian – Pakistani, Asian – Bangladeshi, Asian – Other (this is different from the summary Asian category in the Scottish campuses table)

White includes: White and White - Scottish

Black includes: Black – African, Black/British Black: Caribbean, and Black – Other

Other* includes: Other, and Gypsy or Traveller

Mixed includes: White/Black Caribbean, White/Black African, White and Asian, Mixed Other

Arab is listed as a distinct category because of the University's presence in the UAE.

5. DISABILITY DATA

(Scottish campuses, those declaring a disability via enrolment)

Table 6: Disability data at Scottish campuses

Note: 'PG' in this table includes PGT and PGR due to some small cohort sizes.

Disability	All students					UK-dom				
	UG	PG	All	All	All	UG	PG	All	All	All
A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D (01, 11)	47%	40%	46%	45%	47%	46%	41%	46%	46%	47%
A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder (06)	19%	25%	19%	21%	21%	19%	24%	19%	20%	21%
A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy (07)	9%	9%	9%	11%	11%	10%	7%	9%	11%	11%
A social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder (10)	7%	5%	7%	7%	5%	8%	7%	8%	7%	6%
Two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions (08)	9%	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%	8%	9%	7%	6%
A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using arms or using a wheelchair or crutches (04)	2%	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%
A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed (05, 96)	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%
Deaf or a serious hearing impairment (03)	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Blind or a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses (02)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	975	145	1,120	1,085	1,145	900	105	1,005	955	995

Students do not always declare a disability in their first year, whether through choice or changes in circumstances.

Totals have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Between 2016/17 and 2018/19, the proportion of those declaring a mental health condition increased from 15% of those declaring a disability up to 21%. A further breakdown by year and level is provided below.

Table 7: Extended breakdown of declared disability

	Year	All students			UK-domiciled only		
		UG	PG	All	UG	PGT	All
A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder (06)	2017-18	21%	22%	21%	21%	22%	21%
	2018-19	20%	26%	21%	20%	22%	20%
	2019-20	19%	25%	19%	19%	24%	19%
Total declaring any disability	2017-18	990	155	1,145	905	95	995
	2018-19	950	140	1,085	875	85	955
	2019-20	975	145	1,120	900	105	1,005

Totals have been rounded to the nearest 5.

6. AGE PROFILE

(Entrants only)

UG 'Mature Entrants' are often defined as those aged 21 or over on entry. However, HESA also publish sector data in various age bands as do Advance HE and UCAS and a variety of different groupings are used. The current groupings used by Advance HE are the ones used here.

Table 8: Age profile . all campuses

Level	Year	Dubai				Malaysia				Scotland			
		up to 21	22-25	26-35	36+	up to 21	22-25	26-35	36+	up to 21	22-25	26-35	36+
Found.	2017-18	97%	3%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%				
	2018-19	96%	3%	1%	0%	98%	2%	0%	0%				
	2019-20	99%	1%	0%	0%	98%	1%	1%	0%				
UG	2017-18	92%	6%	2%	0%	93%	6%	1%	0%	89%	6%	4%	2%
	2018-19	93%	6%	1%	0%	96%	3%	0%	0%	83%	8%	6%	3%
	2019-20	94%	4%	1%	0%	97%	3%	1%	0%	83%	8%	6%	3%
PGT	2017-18	8%	37%	39%	16%	8%	51%	26%	14%	8%	62%	25%	5%
	2018-19	9%	33%	40%	17%	6%	50%	29%	15%	9%	59%	26%	6%
	2019-20	7%	31%	43%	19%	13%	43%	33%	11%	13%	59%	22%	5%
PGR	2017-18									4%	51%	39%	7%
	2018-19									1%	54%	38%	7%
	2019-20									1%	49%	44%	6%

7. ADDITIONAL PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS (Scottish campuses)

Coverage

Additional questions were added to the on-line enrolment process in 2013-14, with the exception of students at the Dubai and Malaysia campuses. Responses below therefore relate to students at Scottish campuses only.

Response rates

Percentage shown based on new entrant students answering the question and with a response other than 'prefer not to say'

Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity

Table 9: Response rates to additional PC enrolment questions across 2017-2020 (Scottish campuses only)

Level	Religion or belief			Sexual orientation			Gender identity		
	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20
UG	91%	89%	88%	87%	87%	86%	93%	93%	92%
PGT	83%	86%	86%	76%	78%	76%	86%	90%	88%
PGR	75%	84%	75%	71%	75%	75%	82%	88%	82%
Total	87%	87%	87%	83%	83%	82%	90%	91%	90%

In 2014-15, only new entrants were asked these questions. Since then, new entrants are asked and continuing students are given the option to amend their previous responses should they wish to do so.

Religion and Belief

Responses below relate to new and continuing students enrolled in the years shown

Question asked: *What religion, religious body, or denomination do you belong to?*

Table 10: Religion and belief response rate across 2017-2020 (Scottish campuses only)

Religion and belief	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18
	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
No religion	57%	40%	45%	54%	55%	55%
Christian - Roman Catholic	10%	8%	8%	9%	10%	10%
Christian - Other denomination	7%	10%	10%	8%	9%	9%
Muslim	6%	9%	13%	7%	6%	6%
Christian - Church of Scotland	6%	2%	2%	5%	5%	5%
Not answered	4%	8%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Prefer not to say	5%	6%	11%	6%	5%	6%
Buddhist	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Hindu	1%	13%	3%	3%	1%	1%
Any other religion or belief	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Spiritual	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Jewish	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sikh	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	7,555	1,455	745	9,765	9,575	9,440

Sexual Orientation

Totals are rounded to the nearest 5.

Question asked: *What is your sexual orientation?*

Table 11: Sexual Orientation response rate across 2017-2020 (Scottish campuses only)

Sexual orientation	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18
	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
Heterosexual	81%	69%	71%	79%	80%	80%
Prefer not to say	6%	12%	15%	8%	8%	8%
Not answered	5%	11%	8%	6%	7%	6%
Bisexual	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Gay man	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Other	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Gay woman/lesbian	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	7,555	1,455	745	9,765	9,575	9,440

Gender Identity

Totals are rounded to the nearest 5.

Question asked: *Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were originally assigned at birth?*

Table 12: Gender identity response rate across 2017-2020 (Scottish campuses only)

Gender identity	All students			19/20	18/19	17/18
	UG	PGT	PGR	All	All	All
Yes	94%	89%	88%	93%	93%	93%
No	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not answered	4%	9%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Prefer not to say	2%	3%	6%	2%	2%	2%
Total	7,555	1,455	745	9,765	9,575	9,440

Totals are rounded to the nearest 5.