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Department for  
**Employment  
and Learning**  
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# Higher Education

## Statistical Profile of Northern Ireland Higher Education

2003/04



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**May 2005**

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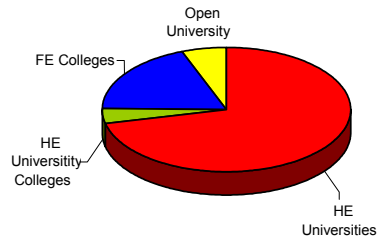
**1. Enrolments on higher education courses<sup>1</sup> at Northern Ireland institutions<sup>2</sup> from 2000/01 to 2003/04**

In 2003/04, the total number of enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions was 69,570, rising from 64,530 in 2000/01, an increase of 8%. Of the 69,570 students in 2003/04, 75% were enrolled at locally established HE institutions, 19% at FE colleges and 6% at the Open University (OU).

**Enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions 2000/01 to 2003/04**

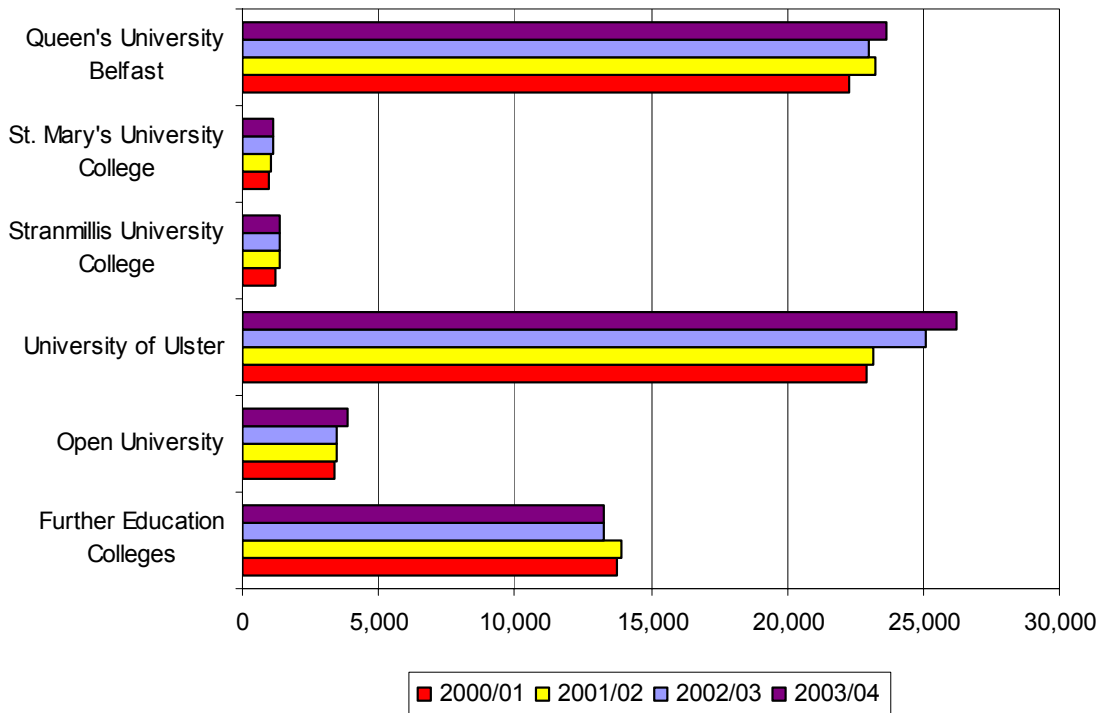
Type of institution	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Universities	45,153	46,443	48,028	49,877
University colleges	2,191	2,404	2,526	2,526
FE Colleges	13,780	13,876	13,267	13,267
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,124</b>	<b>62,723</b>	<b>63,821</b>	<b>65,670</b>
Open University	3,406	3,471	3,481	3,900
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>64,530</b>	<b>66,194</b>	<b>67,302</b>	<b>69,570</b>

**Enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions 2003/04**



Of the 69,570 enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions in 2003/04, 38% were at the University of Ulster and 34% were at Queen's University Belfast. These percentages are similar to previous years.

**Enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions 2000/01 to 2003/04**



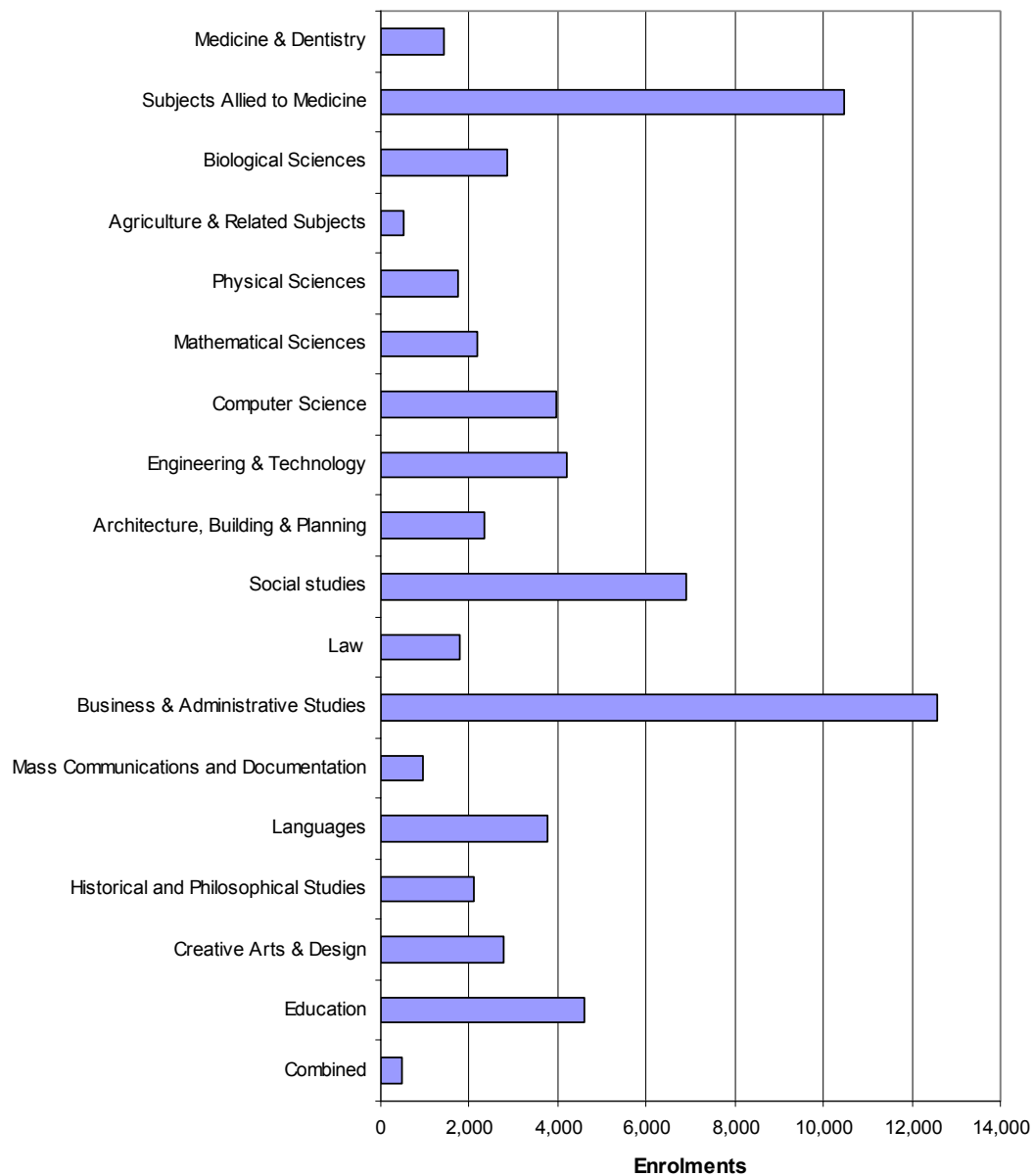
<sup>1</sup> Information on HE courses at NI FE colleges in 2003/04 has been held at 2002/03 levels.

<sup>2</sup> Includes NI domiciled students enrolled at the Open University. The OU is treated as an English institution irrespective of where the student actually studies.

## 2. Enrolments on higher education courses at locally established Northern Ireland institutions in 2003/04<sup>3</sup>

There were 65,670 enrolments on HE courses at locally established NI institutions in 2003/04. Of these, the most popular subject areas were business and administrative studies with 12,558 enrolments (19%), subjects allied to medicine with 10,486 enrolments (16%) and social studies with 6,895 enrolments (10%).

### Enrolments on HE courses at NI institutions by subject area 2003/04

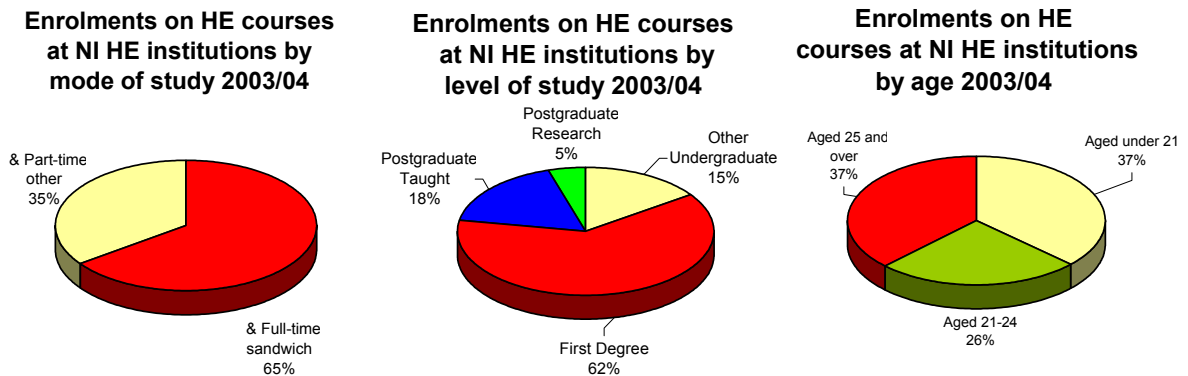


<sup>3</sup> This breakdown excludes enrolments at the Open University but includes HE courses in FE colleges, for which information in 2003/04 has been held at 2002/03 levels.

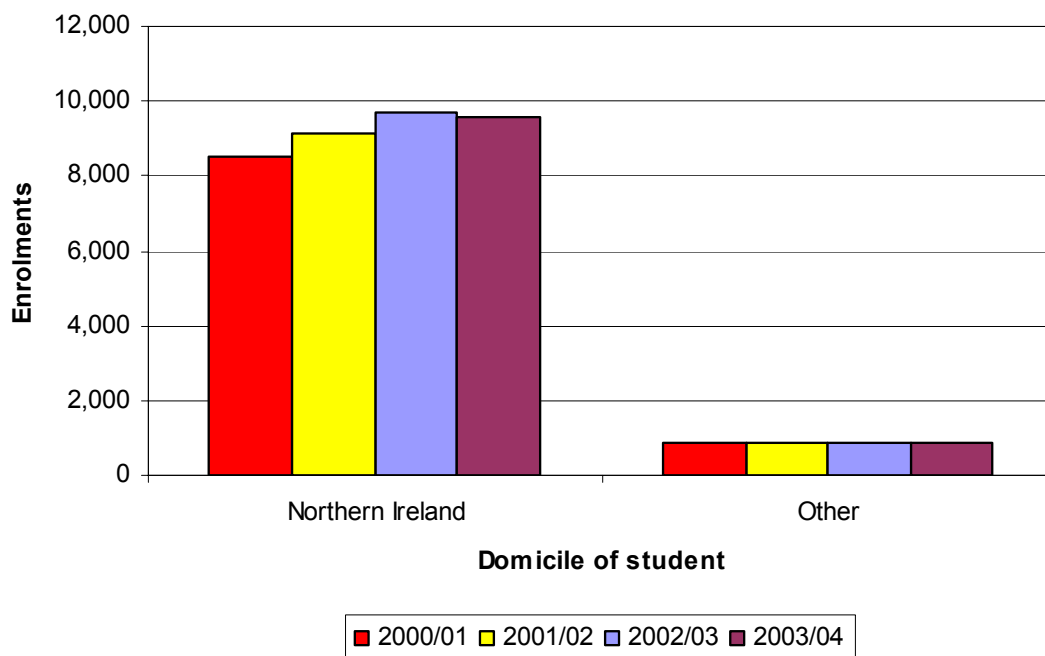
### 3. Characteristics of higher education enrolments at Northern Ireland higher education institutions<sup>4</sup> from 2000/01 to 2003/04

Of the 52,403 HE enrolments at NI HE institutions in 2003/04, 65% were enrolled on full-time and sandwich courses, 62% on a first degree course and 37% (of known age) were aged under 21.

Of the first year full-time undergraduate enrolments on HE courses at NI HE institutions in 2003/04, 92% of enrolments were NI domiciled students.



**First year full-time undergraduate enrolments on HE courses at NI HE institutions by domicile of student, 2000/01 to 2003/04**

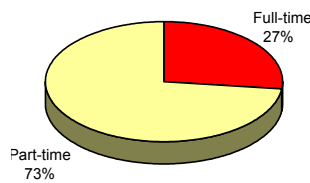


<sup>4</sup> Includes Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Stranmillis and St. Mary's University Colleges.

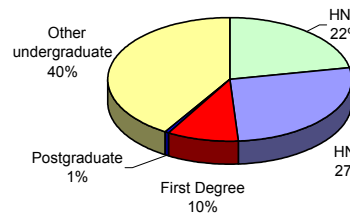
#### 4. Enrolments on higher education courses at Northern Ireland further education colleges in 2002/03<sup>5</sup>

Of the 13,267 HE enrolments at NI FE colleges in 2002/03, 73% were on part-time courses while 27% were enrolled on a HND course, 22% on a HNC course and 53% were aged 25 and over. The most popular subject area was business and administrative studies with 5,020 enrolments (38%) followed by social studies with 2,280 enrolments (17%), and mathematical and computing sciences with 1,792 enrolments (14%).

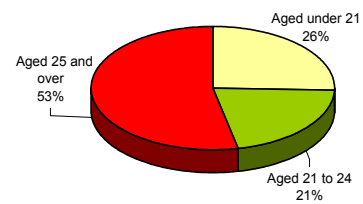
Enrolments on HE courses at NI FE colleges by mode of study 2002/03



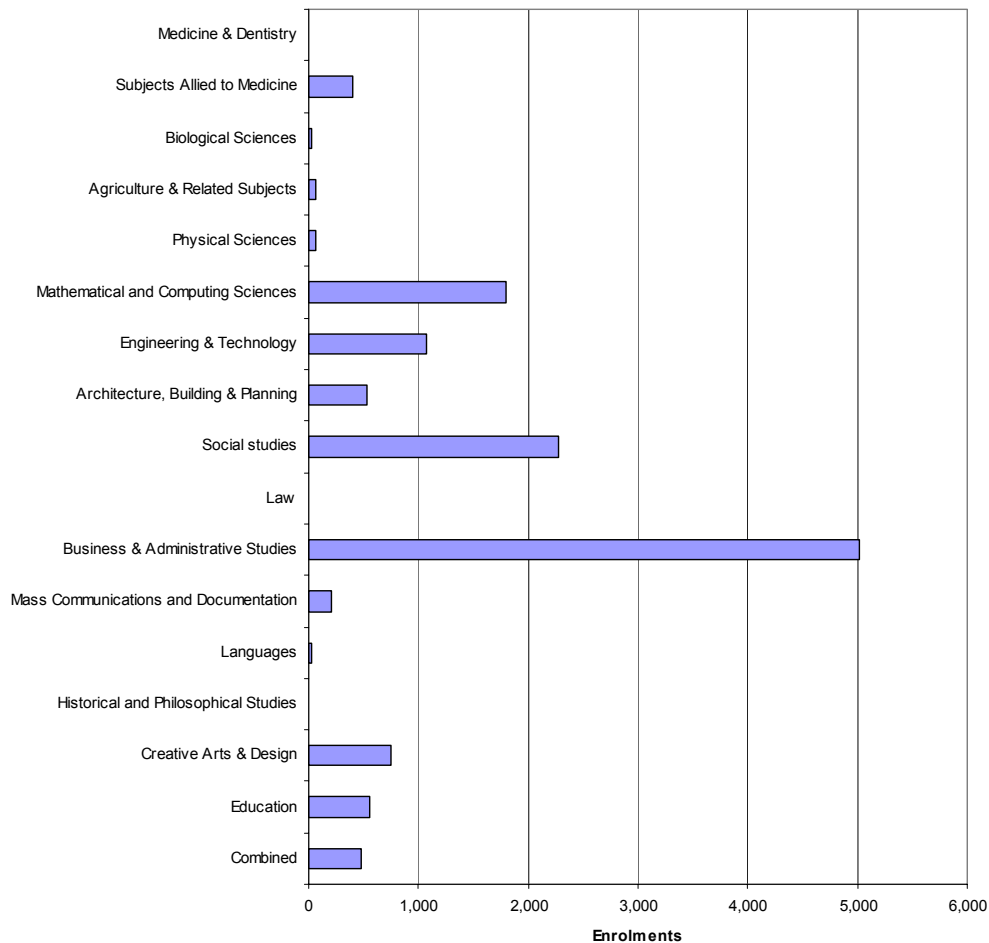
Enrolments on HE courses at NI FE colleges by level of study 2002/03



Enrolments on HE courses at NI FE colleges by age 2002/03



#### Enrolments on HE courses at NI FE colleges by subject area 2002/03

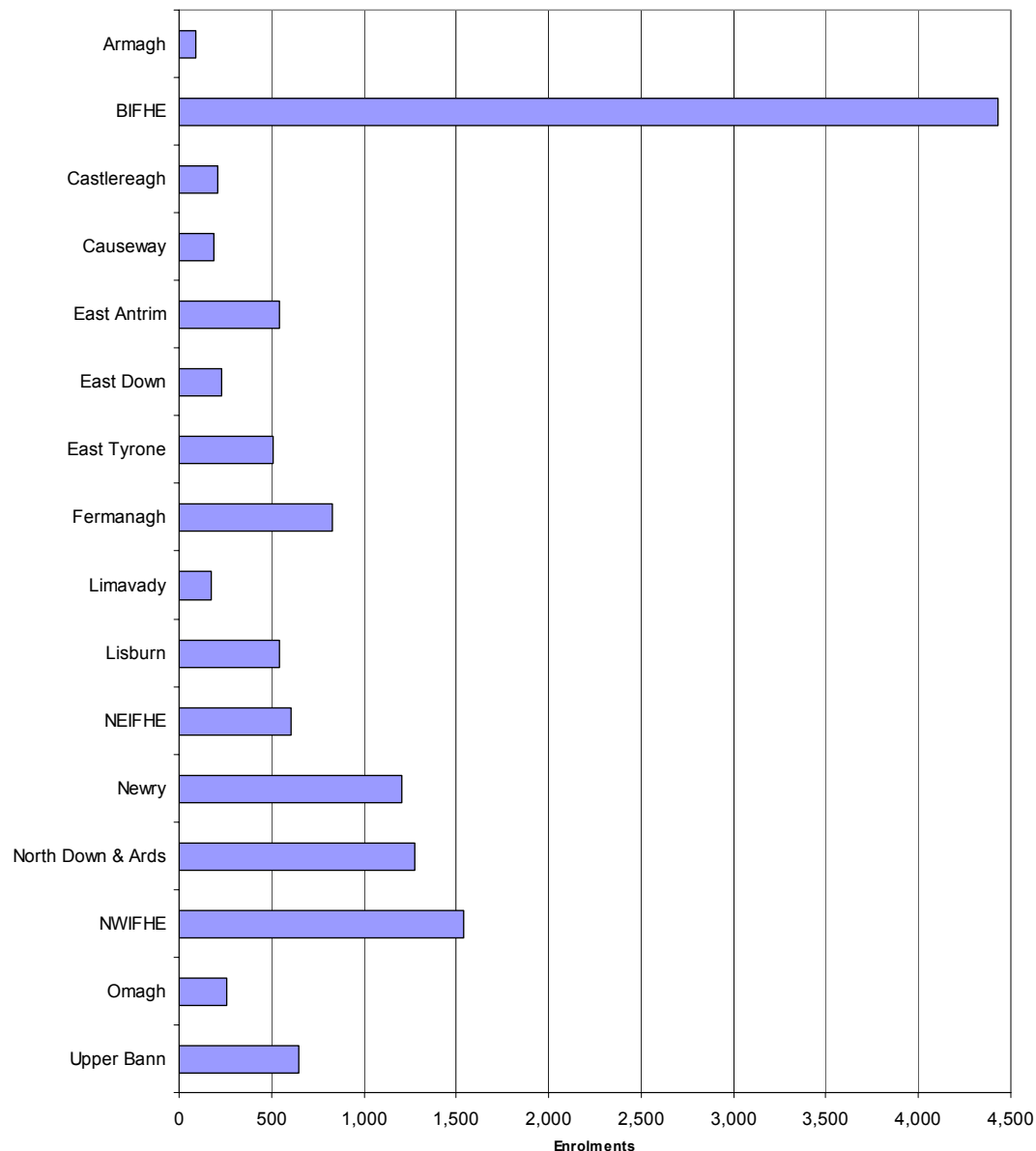


<sup>5</sup> The latest information available on HE courses at NI FE colleges relates to 2002/03.

## Enrolments on higher education courses at Northern Ireland further education colleges in 2002/03 (continued)

Of the 13,267 HE enrolments at NI FE colleges in 2002/03, Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education had the highest number of HE enrolments with 4,431 students (33%). North West Institute of Further and Higher Education had 1,536 enrolments (12%) and North Down & Ards Institute of Further and Higher Education had 1,275 enrolments (10%).

### Enrolments on higher education courses at NI further education colleges<sup>6</sup> 2002/03

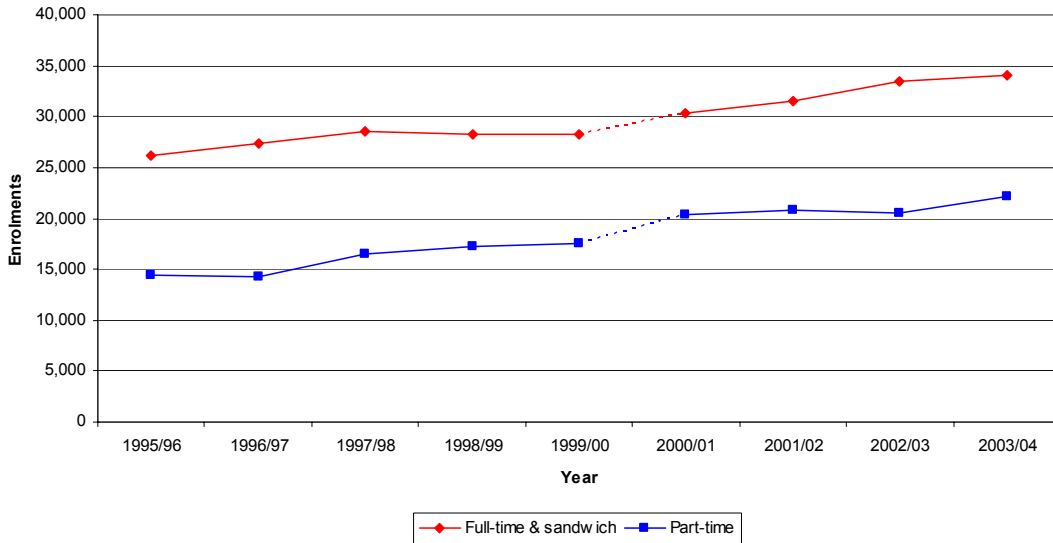


<sup>6</sup> College name abbreviations are as follows:  
 BIFHE: Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education.  
 NEIFHE: North East Institute of Further and Higher Education.  
 NWIFHE: North West Institute of Further and Higher Education.

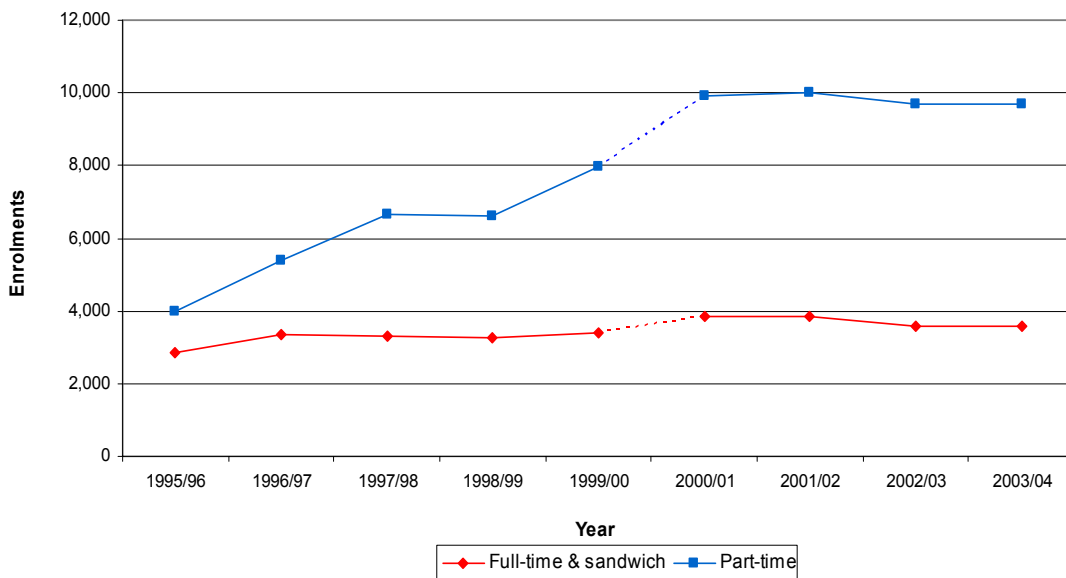
### 5. Higher education enrolment trends in Northern Ireland institutions from 1995/96 to 2003/04<sup>7</sup>

Over the period 1995/96 to 2003/04 the number of full-time HE enrolments at NI HE institutions has increased by 30% while part-time enrolments have increased by 54%. Over the same period, full-time HE enrolments at NI FE colleges have increased by 26% while part-time enrolments have increased by 142%.

**Enrolments on HE courses at NI HE institutions<sup>8</sup> by mode of study, 1995/96 to 2003/04**



**Enrolments on HE courses at NI FE colleges<sup>9</sup> by mode of study, 1995/96 to 2003/04**



<sup>7</sup> HE/FE data from 1995/96 to 1999/00 is based on a snapshot of enrolments at 1<sup>st</sup> December/1<sup>st</sup> November. Data from 2000/01 to 2003/04 is based on enrolments counted over the full year.

<sup>8</sup> Includes enrolments at the Open University.

<sup>9</sup> Information on HE courses at NI FE colleges in 2003/04 has been held at 2002/03 levels.

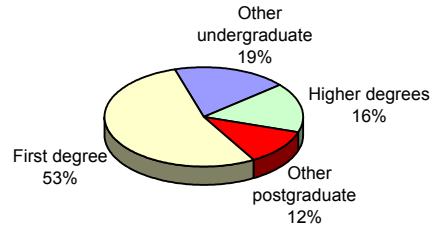
**6. Students gaining higher education qualifications at Northern Ireland higher education institutions<sup>10</sup> from 2000/01 to 2003/04**

In 2003/04, the total number of students gaining higher education qualifications at NI HE institutions was 13,860, rising from 12,248 in 2000/01, an increase of 13%. Of the 13,860 students in 2003/04, 53% gained first degree qualifications.

**Students gaining qualifications at NI HE institutions 2000/01 to 2003/04**

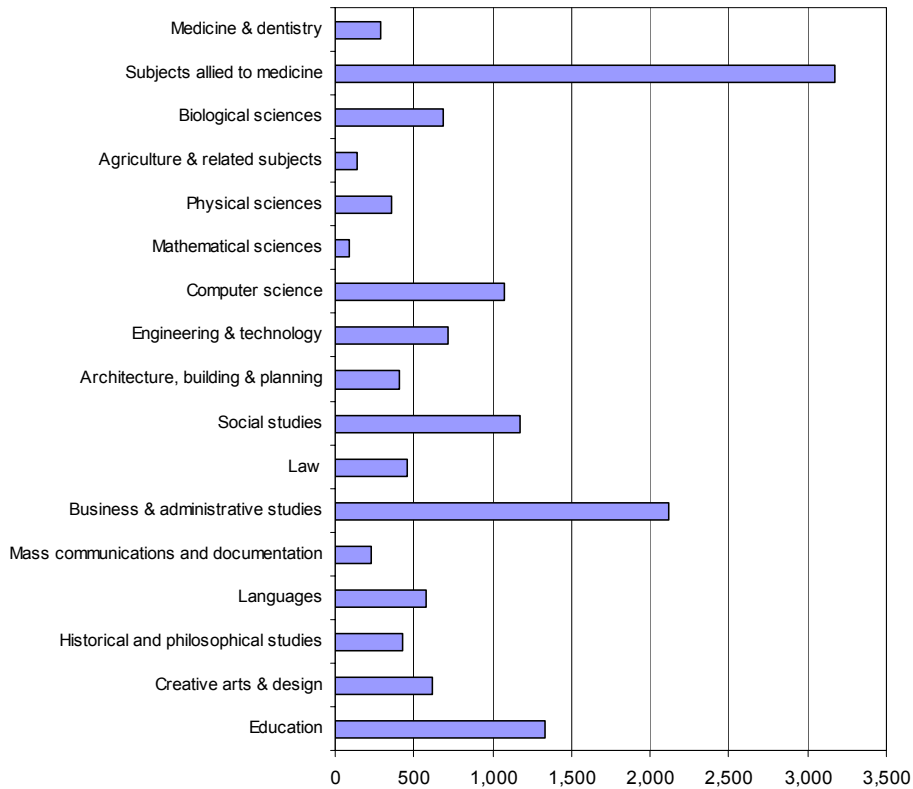
Qualification	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Higher degrees	2,106	2,352	2,486	2,247
Other postgraduate	1,473	1,480	1,641	1,621
First degree	6,723	6,931	7,096	7,411
Other undergraduate	1,946	2,313	1,992	2,581
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,248</b>	<b>13,076</b>	<b>13,215</b>	<b>13,860</b>

**Students gaining full time qualifications at NI HE institutions 2003/04**



In 2003/04, the most popular subjects for the 13,860 graduates from NI HE institutions were subjects allied to medicine with 3,174 students (23%), business and administrative studies with 2,116 students (15%) and education with 1,330 students (10%).

**Students gaining qualifications at NI HE institutions 2003/04**



<sup>10</sup> Includes Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Stranmillis and St. Mary's University Colleges.

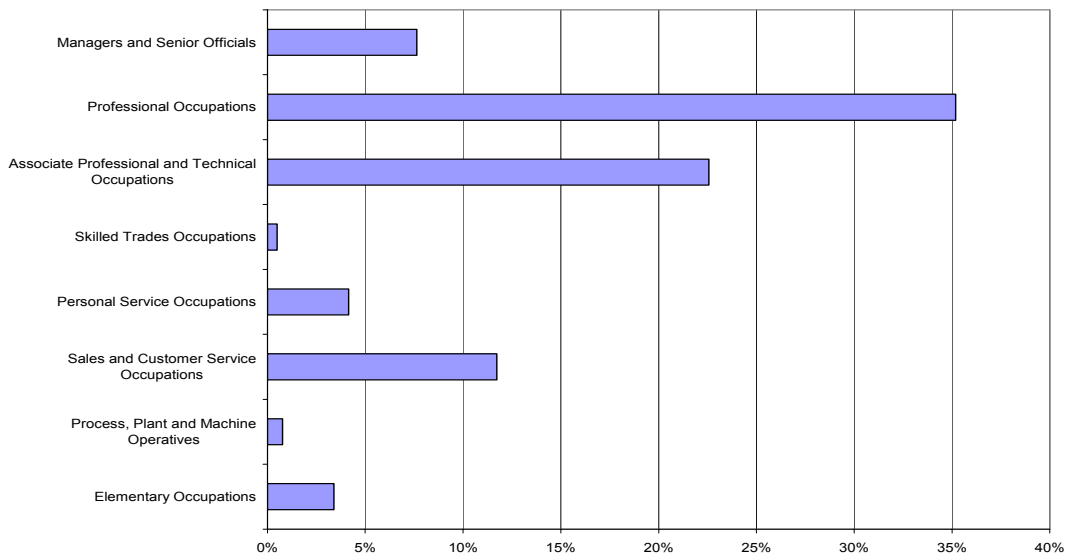
## 7. Destinations of Leavers from Northern Ireland higher education institutions in 2002/03<sup>11</sup>

There were 5,959 full-time first degree students graduating from NI HE institutions in 2002/03. Of the 5,382 students who had destinations data returned to the Higher Education Statistics Agency and whose activity was known, 68% entered employment and 30% went on to further study (both figures include 8% of leavers both employed and in further study). Of the 3,615 students entering employment, 86% took up their first activity in NI, and 35% took up their first position in professional occupations.

### Full-time first degree graduates from NI HE institutions entering employment by location of employment 2002/03



### Full-time first degree graduates from NI HE institutions entering employment by Standard Occupational Classification 2002/03



<sup>11</sup> The latest information available on destinations of leavers from NI institutions relates to 2002/03.

## 8. Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled on higher education courses<sup>12</sup> in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland from 2000/01 to 2003/04

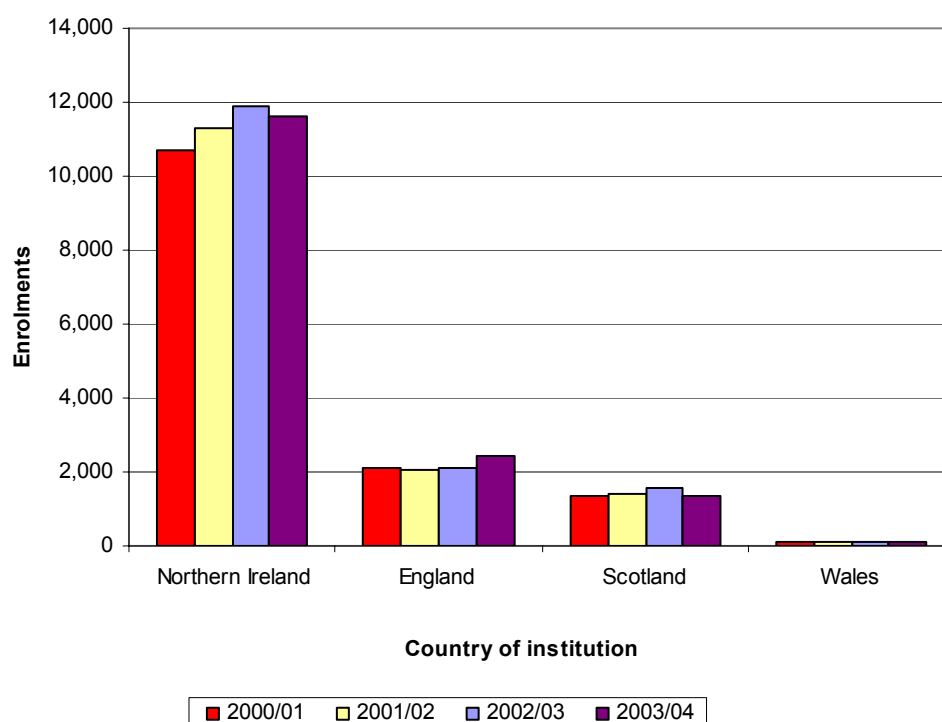
In 2003/04, the number of NI domiciled students enrolled on HE courses in the UK and RoI was 78,438, rising from 74,048 in 2000/01, an increase of 6%. Of the 78,438 enrolments in 2003/04, 74% were enrolled at NI institutions, 19% at GB institutions, 5% at the Open University and 1% at RoI institutions.

### NI domiciled students enrolled on HE courses in the UK and RoI, 2000/01 to 2003/04

Type of institution	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
NI institutions	54,547	56,060	56,827	58,396
GB institutions	15,010	14,518	14,506	15,049
Open University	3,406	3,471	3,481	3,900
RoI	1,085	1,088	1,093	1,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,048</b>	<b>75,137</b>	<b>75,907</b>	<b>78,438</b>

There were 15,496 NI domiciled first year full-time undergraduate enrolments on HE courses at UK HE institutions and NI FE colleges in 2003/04. Of these, 75% of students were enrolled in NI, 16% in England, 9% in Scotland and less than 1% in Wales.

### NI domiciled first year full-time undergraduate enrolments<sup>13</sup> at UK HE institutions and NI FE colleges by country of institution 2003/04



<sup>12</sup> Information on NI domiciled students enrolled on HE courses at NI and GB FE colleges and RoI institutions in 2003/04 has been held at 2002/03 levels.

<sup>13</sup> Includes enrolments on HE courses at HE institutions in the UK and FE colleges in NI. A breakdown of students at FE colleges in GB and at RoI institutions by level and mode of study is not available.

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## 9. Sources of information

Information on HE students has been obtained from the following sources:

- **Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)**

Information on students enrolled at and gaining qualifications from UK HE institutions and destinations of leavers from UK HE institutions.

- **Further Education Statistical Record (FESR)**

Information on students enrolled at NI FE colleges.

- **Higher Education Authority (HEA)**

Information on NI students enrolled at Republic of Ireland institutions.

- **Department for Education and Skills (DfES)**

Information on NI students enrolled on HE courses at English FE colleges.

- **Scottish Executive**

Information on NI students enrolled on HE courses at Scottish FE colleges.

- **Welsh Assembly**

Information on NI students enrolled on HE courses at Welsh FE colleges.

## 10. Further reading

The following DEL publications provide additional information about HE:

- Student enrolments on HE courses: NI
- Enrolments on vocational courses at NI FE colleges
- Students gaining HE qualifications: NI
- Destinations of Leavers from HE institutions: NI

These news releases / statistical bulletins are available on the Department's web-site:

[www.delni.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.delni.gov.uk/statistics)

More detailed information on HE is also available from the NI Compendium of HE statistics. The latest publication can be accessed at the following web-page:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index.cfm/area/library/site/StatisticsResearch>

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## 11. Regional contacts for institutions in Northern Ireland

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Queen's University of Belfast  
University Road  
BELFAST Tel 028 902 45133  
BT7 1NN [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

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St. Mary's University College  
191 Falls Road  
BELFAST Tel 028 903 27678  
BT12 6FE [www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk](http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk)

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Stranmillis University College  
Stranmillis Road  
BELFAST Tel 028 903 81271  
BT9 5DY [www.stran-ni.ac.uk](http://www.stran-ni.ac.uk)

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University of Ulster (Headquarters)  
Cromore Road  
COLERAINE Tel 08 700 400 700  
BT52 1SA [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)

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The Open University  
40 University Road  
BELFAST Tel 028 903 23722  
BT7 1SU [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

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