

Student Data Analysis 2015-16

AGE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Overall, in 15/16 the university received approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of its applications from mature applicants.
- This figure is inflated by a very high proportion of mature applications in HAS, particularly in Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Health Professions.
- In 15/16, the university enrolled an identical proportion of mature students and again, this figure is inflated by Nursing and Midwifery where the enrolment rate for mature students is the highest across the university (63%).
- Conversely, FBL enrol the lowest proportion of mature students, with Law enrolling the lowest proportion across the university (10%).
- In 15/16, the non-continuation rate is the same overall for mature students as it is for those who are under 21. However, when broken down by faculty, this varies: in FBL, the rate of non-continuation is higher for mature students whereas in HAS, it is lower (both rates are likely to have been affected by the difference in mature enrolment); across ACE and FET, non-continuation rates for mature students have fluctuated over time.
- Overall, mature students are less satisfied with the university; this is consistent across all measures of satisfaction; most notably, mature students have expressed low levels of satisfaction with the students' union and organisation and management.
- Over time, mature students have been consistently achieving good honours at a lower rate than young students have; since 14/15, a higher proportion of mature students have achieved a 2.2 or a third.
- Across the four faculties, there is variation in the rate of good honours achieved by mature students: over time, in ACE and FBL the proportion of mature students achieving good honours has increased whilst in HAS and FET, the proportion has decreased.
- 14/15 DLHE data highlights correlation between age and graduate outcomes: levels of professional level employment increased as age increased, with those who graduated over the age of 34 being largely in professional employment.

APPLICATIONS

Table 1 shows a breakdown of 15/16 applications by age for faculty and departments

			Under 21	21 +	Under 21 %	21+ %
University			20,080	6463	76%	24%
	ACE		4878	879	85%	15%
		Art and Design	1744	319	85%	15%
		Arts and Cultural Industries	906	136	87%	13%
		Education	728	198	79%	21%
		Film and Journalism	1500	226	87%	13%
	FBL		3823	475	89%	11%
		Accounting, Economics and Finance	628	81	89%	11%
		Business and Management	2320	290	89%	11%
		Law	875	104	89%	11%
	FET		4338	790	85%	15%
		Architecture and the Built Environment	1346	209	87%	13%
		Computer Science and Creative Technologies	1200	254	83%	17%
		Engineering, Design and Mathematics	1150	221	84%	16%
		Geography and Environmental Management	642	106	86%	14%
	HAS		6590	4208	61%	39%
		Allied Health Professions	1489	1115	57%	43%
		Applied Sciences	1241	317	80%	20%
		Health and Social Sciences	2085	568	79%	21%
		Nursing and Midwifery	1775	2208	45%	55%

Key highlights from the admissions data broken down by age across faculties and departments are:

- Overall, in 15/16, the university received approximately ¼ of its applications from mature applicants.
- This figure is inflated by a very high proportion of mature applications in HAS, particularly in Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Health Professions.
- FBL have relatively low numbers of mature applications and this is consistent across all departments.
- The rate of mature applications received across departments in both ACE and FET is variable; notably, the departments of Education and Computer Science and Creative Technologies, received more mature applications than the faculty average (21% and 17%).

ENROLMENTS

Table 2 Breakdown of new enrolments in 15/16 by age

			Under 21	Over 21	Under 21	Over 21
University			4331	1405	76%	24%
	ACE		921	243	79%	21%
		Art and Design	260	73	78%	22%
		Arts and Cultural Industries	224	38	85%	15%
		Education	134	74	64%	36%
		Film and Journalism	303	58	84%	16%
	FBL		1070	163	87%	13%
		Accounting, Economics and Finance	211	30	88%	12%
		Business and Management	616	105	85%	15%
		Law	243	28	90%	10%
	FET		951	254	79%	21%
		Architecture and the Built Environment	202	93	69%	31%
		Computer Science and Creative Technologies	277	60	82%	18%
		Engineering, Design and Mathematics	294	78	79%	21%
		Geography and Environmental Management	178	24	88%	12%
	HAS		1062	648	62%	38%
		Allied Health Professions	152	127	54%	46%
		Applied Sciences	292	81	78%	22%
		Health and Social Sciences	427	117	79%	21%
		Nursing and Midwifery	191	323	37%	63%

Table 2 shows that overall, the university enrolls far more students aged under 21, than mature students; however, when broken down by faculty and department, there are greater differences across particular subject areas:

- In ACE, departments generally enrolled more under 21 students than the institutional average however, within Education, there was a higher than average proportion of mature students enrolled (36%).
- In FBL, the proportion of mature students enrolled is below the average proportion and is most pronounced within LAW where only 10% of students enrolled are mature.
- In FET, proportions of mature enrolment are variable: Architecture have the greatest proportion of mature enrolments (31%) and Geography the least (12%).
- In HAS, there are higher levels of mature enrolment with the proportion being most notable within the department of Nursing and midwifery: the proportion is greater than

the proportion of under 21 students enrolled in the department and it is the greatest proportion in the university (63%).

Figure 1

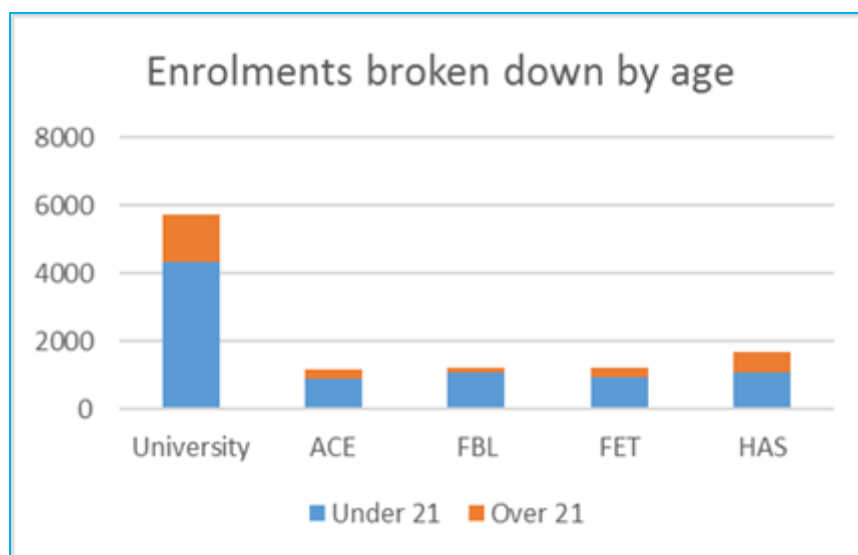


Table 3 Breakdown of new enrolments over time by age

		13/14		14/15		15/16	
		Under 21	Over 21	Under 21	Over 21	Under 21	Over 21
University		75%	25%	74%	26%	76%	24%
	ACE	79%	21%	81%	19%	79%	21%
	Art and Design	79%	21%	82%	18%	78%	22%
	Arts and Cultural Industries	83%	17%	87%	13%	85%	15%
	Education	67%	33%	69%	31%	64%	36%
	Film and Journalism	86%	14%	84%	16%	84%	16%
	FBL	90%	10%	89%	11%	87%	13%
	Accounting, Economics and Finance	90%	10%	87%	13%	88%	12%
	Business and Management	91%	9%	89%	11%	85%	15%
	Law	88%	12%	88%	12%	90%	10%
	FET	82%	18%	79%	21%	79%	21%
	Architecture and the Built Environment	80%	20%	75%	25%	69%	31%
	Computer Science and Creative Technologies	81%	19%	78%	22%	82%	18%
	Engineering, Design and Mathematics	80%	20%	80%	20%	79%	21%
	Geography and Environmental Management	87%	13%	87%	13%	88%	12%

	HAS		60%	40%	58%	42%	62%	38%
		Allied Health Professions	54%	46%	53%	47%	54%	46%
		Applied Sciences	81%	19%	79%	21%	78%	22%
		Health and Social Sciences	73%	27%	72%	28%	79%	21%
		Nursing and Midwifery	35%	65%	36%	64%	37%	63%

Table 3 shows that over time the patterns identified are largely consistent with those identified in table 2, in 15/16; over time, approximately a quarter of student enrolments have been mature.

- ACE have consistently enrolled more young students than mature.
- HAS consistently have the greatest proportion of mature students within their faculty and proportions within Nursing and Midwifery remain notably higher than other departments across the university.
- Conversely, FBL have consistently enrolled the lowest proportion of mature students.
- Over time in FET, the gap between young and mature enrolment has reduced by 6pp.

National Comparison: HEFCE have noted that the number of home students aged 21 or over starting full time degree programmes has steadily increased over the past decade; however, mature numbers have been decreasing.¹

NON-CONTINUATION

Table 4 Non-continuation rates over time, broken down by age

			13/14		14/15		15/16	
			21+	Under 21	21+	Under 21	21+	Under 21
University			10.9%	8.6%	6.9%	6.9%	7.4%	7.4%
	ACE		14.8%	7.6%	6.9%	7.2%	7.1%	8.7%
		Art and Design	17.9%	11.9%	10.2%	6.2%	11.1%	10.2%
		Arts and Cultural Industries	17.5%	3.8%	7.5%	6.3%	5%	8.8%
		Education	5.8%	4.1%	4.1%	6%	4.2%	7.5%
		Film and Journalism	23.9%	9.3%	6.6%	9.9%	7.4%	7.8%
	FBL		17.9%	6.6%	9.4%	5.3%	14.5%	6.3%
		Accounting, Economics and Finance	6.7%	8.8%	7.7%	4.7%	13.9%	6.6%
		Business and Management	28.1%	5.5%	11.7%	6%	16.7%	7.2%

¹ HEFCE (2016) *Higher Education in England 2016: Key Facts*. Available from: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2016/201620/>

		Law	11.1%	6.4%	7.1%	4.1%	8%	3.7%
	FET		14.2%	12.3%	9.9%	9.1%	10.4%	8%
		Architecture and the Built Environment	10.8%	10%	4.5%	7.2%	3.2%	6.5%
		Computer Science and Creative Technologies	13.2%	15.3%	18.6%	13.4%	15.9%	11.2%
		Engineering, Design and Mathematics	16.7%	13.2%	8.8%	8.8%	12.%	8.3%
		Geography and Environmental Management	22.7%	7.9%	0%	5.1%	14.8%	8.1%
	HAS		7.1%	8%	5.5%	6%	4.9%	6.1%
		Allied Health Professions	2.5%	1.7%	4.9%	3.4%	3.9%	1.9%
		Applied Sciences	19%	13.7%	13.6%	9.3%	7.6%	9%
		Health and Social Sciences	9.4%	7.2%	3.2%	4.1%	7.1%	7%
		Nursing and Midwifery	5.5%	4.4%	5.1%	6.8%	4.1%	3.8%

Table 4 shows non-continuation rates broken down by age. Key highlights from the data include:

- The non-continuation rate across the university was slightly higher in 13/14 for mature students; this rate improved by 4pp in 14/15. Whilst it has increased in 15/16, the proportion remains the same as the non-continuation rate for students under 21 (7.4%).
- Over time in ACE, mature non-continuation rates have fluctuated; overall, in ACE, the non-continuation rate for mature students has improved by more than 50% from 13/14 to 15/16. Conversely, over time, the non-continuation rate for students under 21 has increased slightly (1.1pp).
- In FBL, the non-continuation rate for mature students has consistently remained higher than the rate for students under 21. This trend is consistent across all departments and is particularly pronounced within Business and Management (16.7pp).
- In FET, the gap in non-continuation between mature and young students has been minimal but consistently, the rate has been higher for mature students. This pattern is not applicable to all departments: within Architecture and the Built Environment, the rate of non-continuation for mature students has improved, decreasing over time by 7.6pp; furthermore, since 14/15 the rate has been lower than the rate for students under 21.
- Overall in HAS, the rate of non-continuation for mature students is lower than the rate for students under 21 however, when broken down by department this trend is often reversed, particularly due to the lower numbers of mature students enrolled within particular departments which consequently, leads to inflated proportions.

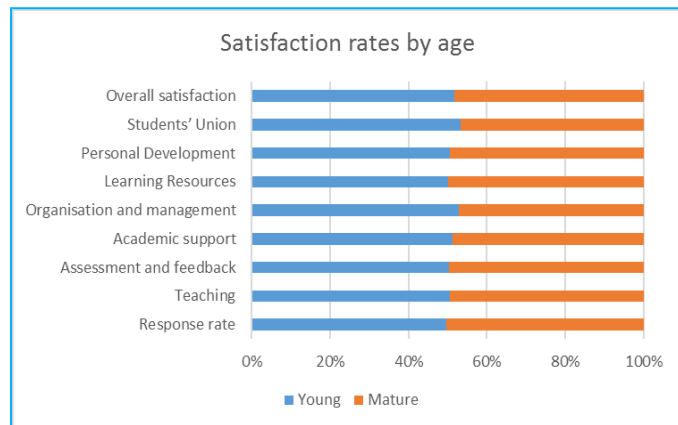
STUDENT SATISFACTION

Table 5 NSS satisfaction rates for 15/16 broken down by age

	No. of respondents	Response rate	Teaching	Assessment and feedback	Academic support	Organisation and management	Learning Resources	Personal Development	Students' Union	Overall satisfaction
Young	2569	75	90	76	86	83	91	87	74	89
Mature	935	76	88	75	82	74	91	85	65	83

Table 5 shows that overall, mature students are less satisfied with the university; this is consistent across all criteria points within the survey and in particular, quite notable within the areas of organisation and management and the students' union.

Figure 2 illustrates satisfaction rates for 15/16 broken down by age



National Comparison: 'HEFCE notes that graduates who expressed greater levels of satisfaction when completing the NSS are, on average, less likely to say they would choose something completely different.'

Data from across the sector suggests that on average, more mature graduates are satisfied with their study choices than young students. This has largely been attributed to the expectation that mature students have a greater knowledge and understanding about what they want to study at university and what outcome they are intending to pursue.²

² HEFCE (2016) *Graduate Satisfaction with Undergraduate Choices*. Available from: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2016/201628/>

GOOD HONOURS AND DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

Table 6 Good honours rates for the university by age over time

	13/14		14/15		15/16	
	Enrols	Good Hons %	Enrols	Good Hons %	Enrols	Good Hons %
Under 21	3,821	76.5%	3,224	77.0%	3,109	78.4%
21 and above	1,167	73.7%	972	70.0%	1,019	73.7%

Figure 3

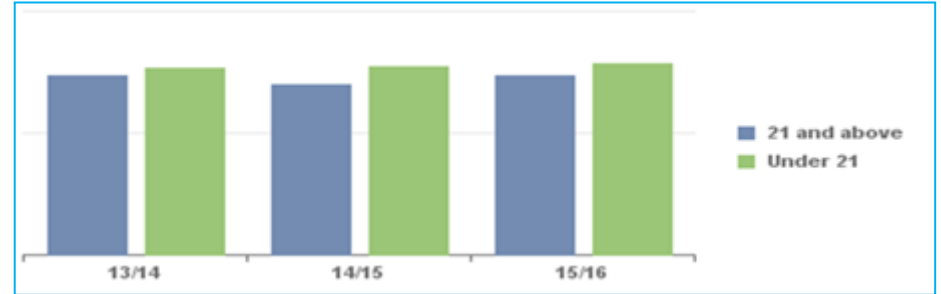


Table 6 shows that over the three-year period, mature students have been consistently achieving good honours at a lower rate than young students have.

Table 7 Degree classification rates for the university by age over time

%	13/14				14/15				15/16			
	1st	U2	L2	3rd	1st	U2	L2	3rd	1st	U2	L2	3rd
21 and above	30.6%	45.5%	21.3%	2.60%	27.8%	43.8%	24.7%	3.71%	26.0%	47.7%	23.0%	3.30%
Under 21	21.0%	54.8%	21.7%	2.58%	22.8%	53.6%	20.6%	2.99%	24.2%	54.0%	19.2%	2.54%

Table 7 shows that over time whilst mature students are achieving a first at a higher rate than young students are, the rate has decreased by 4.6pp across the period. The rate at which mature students are achieving a 2.1 has also varied and remains lower than the rate young students are achieving a 2.1. There has also been a slight increase in the proportion of 2.2s and thirds achieved by mature students across the period.

Table 8 Breakdown of good honours rate broken down by age and faculty, over time

Faculty	Category	13/14		14/15		15/16	
		Enrols	Good Hons %	Enrols	Good Hons %	Enrols	Good Hons %
Arts, Creative Industries and Education	Under 21	959	81.1%	799	78.7%	764	82.7%
	21 and above	263	77.0%	185	78.9%	196	80.6%
Business and Law	Under 21	922	75.3%	862	80.8%	765	82.2%
	21 and above	86	66.3%	76	65.8%	80	75.9%
Environment and Technology	Under 21	735	75.0%	599	77.1%	572	72.0%
	21 and above	140	78.6%	110	71.8%	122	74.6%
Health and Applied Sciences	Under 21	1029	76.1%	767	75.8%	798	78.7%
	21 and above	580	75.4%	523	70.3%	547	72.4%

Table 8 shows the variation in good honours rates by faculty, over the period. We can see that within ACE, the rate of mature students achieving good honours has increased across the period by 3.6pp. There has also been a significant increase within FBL (9.6pp). Good honours rates for mature students within both FET and HAS, decreased in 14/15 and whilst improving in 15/16, still demonstrate an overall decrease across the period.

Table 9 Breakdown of degree classification rates broken down by age and faculty, over time

Faculty / Age		13/14				14/15				15/16			
		1st	2:1	2:2	3rd	1st	2:1	2:2	3rd	1st	2:1	2:2	3rd
ACE	21 and above	28.5%	51.4%	19.3%	0.81%	27.9%	51.3%	17.2%	3.56%	28.1%	52.2%	16.9%	2.81%
ACE	Under 21	19.3%	61.0%	17.1%	2.56%	20.6%	58.0%	18.8%	2.58%	21.9%	60.9%	14.6%	2.69%
FBL	21 and above	22.4%	44.3%	29.6%	3.73%	22.4%	42.1%	34.2%	1.32%	22.6%	51.6%	23.4%	2.42%
FBL	Under 21	24.4%	50.7%	22.3%	2.50%	25.7%	55.2%	17.2%	1.86%	25.6%	56.7%	15.7%	1.90%
FET	21 and above	36.7%	43.2%	19.4%	0.72%	24.3%	49.5%	25.2%	0.93%	30.2%	43.1%	24.1%	2.59%
FET	Under 21	26.2%	48.5%	23.9%	1.36%	31.2%	45.5%	21.6%	1.66%	31.5%	40.8%	25.1%	2.60%
HAS	21 and above	32.4%	43.8%	20.5%	3.33%	30.1%	40.3%	25.2%	4.33%	25.6%	46.7%	24.9%	2.83%
HAS	Under 21	16.7%	59.0%	21.8%	2.49%	18.2%	57.4%	20.9%	3.45%	20.0%	58.7%	19.8%	1.56%

Table 9 shows further evidence of differentials in degree outcome by age:

- Within ACE, good honours rates are comparable however, table 9 shows that mature students have achieved a higher rate of firsts but young students consistently achieve a higher rate of 2.1s.
- In FBL, the greatest differential is between mature students and young achieving a 2.2. The rate of mature students achieving a 2.2 has varied but has been consistently greater than the rate of young students achieving a 2.2.
- In FET, there has been a decline in the proportion of mature students achieving a first and an increase in the proportion achieving a third.
- In HAS, mature students were consistently more likely to achieve a first but concurrently, across the period, increasingly more likely to achieve a 2.2 or a third affecting their overall good honours rate.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Table 10 Breakdown of graduate outcomes by age grouping from the 14/15 DLHE survey

Age	KPI %	Prof %	Study %	Self-employed %	U/E %	R.R.%
Under 25	72%	72%	12%	4%	4%	86%
25-34	85%	88%	10%	2%	4%	86%
Over 34	90%	94%	7%	3%	4%	87%

Prof = professional/ graduate level work and constitutes a 'good' outcome,

KPI = our institutional KPI

U/E = unemployed

R.R. = response rate

Table 10 shows that students who were under 25 when graduating (i.e. those students who are considered young in other metrics because they started their course before their 21st birthday) were least likely to be in a positive graduate outcome. They were also least likely to be employed at graduate level but were most likely to be studying further.

Levels of professional level employment increased as age increased, with those who graduated over the age of 34 being largely in professional employment.

Figure 4

