## AGE - STUDENT DATA

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY-AGE

- More of the mature population has disclosed a disability than the young population. In particular, disclosure of mental health difficulties and learning difficulties are greater within the mature cohort.
- More mature students with a disability than young are in receipt of DSA.
- In all faculties, the proportion of mature students who are BME is higher than the proportion of young students who are BME and mature students are particularly more likely to be Black than young students.
- There is a greater gender imbalance within the mature population - nearly $21 \%$ more are female.
- The university recruits better from its mature pool of applicants, enrolling a greater proportion than young applicants.
- In the cohort analysis from years 1-2 (2010/11 to $2011 / 12$ ), a greater proportion of mature students withdrew than young students.
- Young students were more satisfied with the university according to NSS results.
- Over the 3 year period, mature students have achieved comparatively fewer good honours whereas young students have achieved more.


## STUDENT POPULATION ANALYSIS

Table 1 Faculty breakdown of students by age band (under/over 21)

|  | Under 21 |  |  | $\mathbf{2 1}$ and above |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Faculty | $\mathbf{1 2 / 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 / 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 / 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 / 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 / 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 / 1 5}$ |
| Arts, Creative <br> Industries <br> and <br> Education | 3210 | 2938 | 2755 | 716 | 654 | 550 |
| Business and <br> Law | 3417 | 3514 | 3461 | 326 | 312 | 310 |
| Environment <br> and <br> Technology | 3326 | 3414 | 3301 | 780 | 724 | 715 |
| Health and <br> Applied <br> Sciences | 3294 | 3278 | 3087 | 2016 | 2072 | 2114 |
| University <br> total | $\mathbf{1 3 2 4 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 1 4 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 6 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 3 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 7 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 8 9}$ |

As can be seen from table 1 almost $80 \%$ of our students are under 21 on entry. This university average disguises some variation between faculties, with HAS having many more mature students (38\%) and FBL very few mature students (9\%).


Figure 1 14/15 data
Figure 1 shows the differing proportion of mature students across each faculty by year of study. From this we can see:

- In ACE, mature student numbers increase over year of study suggesting strong retention for mature students and also a possibility of decreasing recruitment for mature students.
- In FBL, low levels of mature students across all 3 years.
- In FET, high numbers of mature students in year 0 but decreasing student numbers over time, suggesting potential retention issues.
- In HAS, low numbers of mature students in year 0 programmes and then high proportions of mature students across years 1-3.

Table 2 Total numbers of students broken down by age, department and year

| Faculty | Department | Under 21 |  |  | 21 and above |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 |
| Arts, Creative Industries and Education | Art and Design | 824 | 788 | 748 | 199 | 176 | 151 |
|  | Arts and Cultural Industries | 1020 | 808 | 699 | 152 | 135 | 105 |
|  | Education | 620 | 561 | 516 | 264 | 241 | 191 |
|  | Film and Journalism | 746 | 781 | 792 | 101 | 102 | 103 |
| Business and Law | Accounting, Economics and Finance | 867 | 919 | 864 | 71 | 71 | 83 |
|  | Business and Management | 1767 | 1807 | 1883 | 147 | 139 | 139 |
|  | Law | 783 | 788 | 714 | 108 | 102 | 88 |
| Environment and Technology | Architecture and the Built Environment | 895 | 905 | 825 | 238 | 212 | 212 |
|  | Computer Science and Creative Technologies | 983 | 994 | 945 | 219 | 208 | 210 |
|  | Engineering, Design and Mathematics | 773 | 853 | 885 | 156 | 162 | 165 |
|  | Geography and Environmental Management | 675 | 662 | 646 | 167 | 142 | 128 |
| Health and Applied Sciences | Allied Health Professions | 350 | 350 | 363 | 358 | 362 | 362 |
|  | Biological, Biomedical and Analytical Sciences | 963 | 1032 | 877 | 177 | 205 | 191 |
|  | Health and Social Sciences | 1480 | 1340 | 1233 | 452 | 401 | 363 |
|  | Nursing and Midwifery | 501 | 556 | 614 | 1029 | 1104 | 1198 |

Table 2 shows the total number of mature students over a 3 year period by department and displays further variation within faculties. In particular:

- Within ACE, the greatest proportion of mature students is within Education and the numbers of mature students in Art \& Design have been falling.
- In FBL, Business and Management have the greatest number of mature students but numbers have been falling over the past 3 years. Numbers in Accounting, Economics and Finance have risen over the past year.
- In FET, Architecture and the Built Environment have the greatest number of mature students but broadly, numbers of mature students have been falling in most departments.
- In HAS, Nursing and Midwifery have considerably more mature, rather than young, students; Allied Health Professions have roughly equal numbers. The number of young students on Nursing and Midwifery programmes has been increasing over the 3 year period.


## CHANGES IN THE AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE STUDENT BODY OVER TIME



## Figure 2

Figure 2 shows that the number of mature students has stayed fairly static over the 3 year period, although the number of young students has fallen slightly in the 2014/15 year.

## UNDERSTANDING AGE WITH OTHER PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

The following section will provide a simple $2 \times 2$ breakdown of the total number of students within the university (and at faculty level) by age and the other protected characteristics in this report. Further analysis will be required to further investigate the significance of these comparisons.

## AGE AND DISABILITY

Table 3 Age and disability

| Broad <br> category | Type of disability | 21 and <br> above | Under <br> $\mathbf{2 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 1}$ and <br> above | Under <br> $\mathbf{2 1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Disability |  | $\mathbf{2 3 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 6 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 . 1 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 . 9 9 \%}$ |
|  | LEARNING DIFFICULTIES | 1206 | 3558 | $10.12 \%$ | $8.49 \%$ |
|  | AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER | 38 | 143 | $0.33 \%$ | $0.35 \%$ |
|  | BLIND/PARTIALLY SIGHTED | 23 | 45 | $0.20 \%$ | $0.11 \%$ |
|  | DEAF/HEARING IMPAIRMENT | 36 | 94 | $0.31 \%$ | $0.21 \%$ |
|  | DISABILITY NOT IN LIST | 141 | 273 | $1.17 \%$ | $0.66 \%$ |
|  | MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES | 387 | 545 | $3.26 \%$ | $1.30 \%$ |
|  | MULTIPLE DISABILITIES | 222 | 273 | $1.74 \%$ | $0.63 \%$ |
|  | UNSEEN DISABILITY, E.G. <br> DIABETES, ASTHMA | 179 | 436 | $1.49 \%$ | $1.02 \%$ |
|  | WHEELCHAIR USER/MOBILITY <br> DIFFICULTIES | 73 | 101 | $0.57 \%$ | $0.23 \%$ |
| NO DISABILITY | $\mathbf{9 5 7 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 5 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 . 1 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 . 9 9 \%}$ |  |
| not known |  | $\mathbf{2 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 7}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 4 \%}$ |

Table 3 shows that more of the mature student population has disclosed a disability than the young population. In particular, the incidences of learning difficulties and mental health difficulties are greater within the mature student population. However, due to the larger number of young students, the total number of young students with a disability is greater than for mature students.

Table 4 comparison of DSA status for disabled students by age

| Row Labels | 21 and above | Under 21 | 21 and above | Under 21 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| In receipt of DSA | 521 | 1073 | $73 \%$ | $67 \%$ |
| Has disability but not in <br> receipt of DSA | 23 | 43 | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| Has disability but not <br> known if in receipt of DSA | 167 | 489 | $23 \%$ | $30 \%$ |

Table 4 shows that a greater proportion of mature students with a disability are in receipt of DSA than young students.

Table 5 breakdown of students by faculty summarised by age and disabled/not disabled

|  |  | 21 and <br> above | Under 21 | 21 and <br> above | Under 21 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ACE | Disabled | 438 | 1307 | $22.81 \%$ | $14.97 \%$ |
|  | Not disabled | 1482 | 7596 | $77.19 \%$ | $85.03 \%$ |
| FBL | Disabled | 177 | 1170 | $18.48 \%$ | $11.20 \%$ |
|  | Not disabled | 771 | 9222 | $81.52 \%$ | $88.80 \%$ |
| FET | Disabled | 480 | 1375 | $21.06 \%$ | $13.51 \%$ |
|  | Not disabled | 1739 | 8666 | $78.94 \%$ | $86.49 \%$ |
| HAS | Disabled | 1120 | 1319 | $18.02 \%$ | $13.63 \%$ |
|  | Not disabled | 5082 | 8340 | $81.98 \%$ | $86.37 \%$ |

As can be seen from Table 5, ACE has the largest proportion of its mature student population who disclose a disability, followed closely by FET.

Table 6 DSA status by faculty broken down by age

|  | Row Labels | 21 and above | Under 21 | 21 and above | Under 21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ACE | In receipt of DSA | 107 | 282 | 77\% | 68\% |
|  | Has disability but not in receipt of DSA | 2 | 5 | 1\% | 1\% |
|  | Has disability but not known if in receipt of DSA | 29 | 128 | 21\% | 31\% |
| FBL | In receipt of DSA | 36 | 231 | 70\% | 66\% |
|  | Has disability but not in receipt of DSA | 1 | 7 | 2\% | 2\% |
|  | Has disability but not known if in receipt of DSA | 14 | 114 | 28\% | 32\% |
| FET | In receipt of DSA | 99 | 294 | 70\% | 69\% |
|  | Has disability but not in receipt of DSA | 6 | 10 | 4\% | 2\% |
|  | Has disability but not known if in receipt of DSA | 36 | 125 | 26\% | 29\% |
| HAS | In receipt of DSA | 280 | 266 | 73\% | 65\% |
|  | Has disability but not in receipt of DSA | 14 | 21 | 4\% | 5\% |
|  | Has disability but not known if in receipt of DSA | 88 | 122 | 23\% | 30\% |

Table 6 shows that the pattern of more mature students with a disability being in receipt of DSA is replicated across all faculties. The greatest prevalence of disabled students not being in receipt of DSA is in FET and HAS; these faculties also have higher proportions of students for whom it is unknown whether they receive DSA.

## AGE AND ETHNICITY

Table 7 Age and ethnicity

| Broad <br> category | Type of ethnicity | $\mathbf{2 1}$ and <br> above | Under <br> $\mathbf{2 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 1}$ and <br> above | Under <br> $\mathbf{2 1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BME |  | $\mathbf{1 9 5 4}$ | $\mathbf{5 6 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 . 2 5 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 3 . 0 7 \%}$ |
|  | Asian | 315 | 1910 | $2.57 \%$ | $4.52 \%$ |
|  | Black | 1111 | 1563 | $9.26 \%$ | $3.53 \%$ |
|  | Chinese | 42 | 328 | $0.36 \%$ | $0.76 \%$ |
|  | Mixed | 412 | 1549 | $3.44 \%$ | $3.65 \%$ |
|  | Other | 74 | 254 | $0.61 \%$ | $0.60 \%$ |
| White | White | $\mathbf{9 8 7 2}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 3 6 4}$ | $\mathbf{8 3 . 0 5 \%}$ | $\mathbf{8 6 . 5 7 \%}$ |
| Not Known | Not Known | 85 | 149 | $0.71 \%$ | $0.36 \%$ |

Table 7 shows that overall a greater proportion of BME students are mature compared to young students however, there is a smaller proportion of Asian mature students than Asian young students. In particular, the mature student population is more likely to be Black.

Table 8 breakdown of students by faculty summarised by age and ethnicity

|  |  | 21 and <br> above | Under 21 | 21 and <br> above | Under 21 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Arts, Creative <br> Industries and <br> Education | BME | 192 | 741 | $9.97 \%$ | $8.31 \%$ |
|  | White | 1714 | 8132 | $89.29 \%$ | $91.34 \%$ |
| Business and <br> Law | Unknown | 14 | 30 | $0.74 \%$ | $0.35 \%$ |
|  | WhE | 321 | 1928 | $33.42 \%$ | $18.34 \%$ |
|  | Unite | 619 | 8436 | $65.64 \%$ | $81.37 \%$ |
| Environment and <br> Technology | BME | 8 | 28 | $0.94 \%$ | $0.29 \%$ |
|  | White | 1789 | 1532 | $18.37 \%$ | $14.97 \%$ |
|  | Unknown | 25 | 8483 | $80.58 \%$ | $84.79 \%$ |
| Health and <br> Applied Sciences | BME | 998 | 26 | $1.06 \%$ | $0.23 \%$ |
|  | White | 5184 | 8417 | $16.10 \%$ | $12.57 \%$ |
|  | Unknown | 20 | 25 | $83.58 \%$ | $87.17 \%$ |

In all faculties, the proportion of mature students who are BME is higher than the proportion of young students who are BME. This is particularly noticeable in FBL where a third of all mature students are BME and less than $20 \%$ of young students are BME.

## AGE AND GENDER

Table 9 breakdown of student numbers by gender and age

| Gender | 21 and above | Under 21 | 21 and above | Under 21 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| FEMALE | 7114 | 20450 | $60.60 \%$ | $48.93 \%$ |


| MALE | 4797 | 21667 | $39.40 \%$ | $51.07 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Table 9 shows that the gender imbalance is greater for mature students than young students, with parity almost being achieved in the young student population.

Table 10 breakdown of students by faculty summarised by age and gender

|  |  | 21 and above | Under 21 | 21 and above | Under 21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Arts, Creative Industries and Education | Female | 1218 | 6014 | 64.01\% | 67.76\% |
|  | Male | 702 | 2889 | 35.99\% | 32.24\% |
| Business and Law | Female | 376 | 4185 | 41.36\% | 40.92\% |
|  | Male | 572 | 6207 | 58.64\% | 59.08\% |
| Environment and Technology | Female | 373 | 1878 | 16.88\% | 17.89\% |
|  | Male | 1846 | 8163 | 83.12\% | 82.11\% |
| Health and Applied Sciences | Female | 4819 | 6365 | 77.78\% | 65.94\% |
|  | Male | 1383 | 3294 | 22.22\% | 34.06\% |

Table 10 shows that the traditional gender patterns (with more female students in HAS and more male students in FET) is further pronounced with mature students in comparison to young students. The gender breakdown is largely the same in FBL and ACE for mature and young students.

## STUDENT METRICS ANALYSIS - 2014/15 DATA

## APPLICATIONS

Table 11 breakdown of 2014/15 applications by age for faculty and departments

|  |  | Under 21 | Over 21 | Under 21 \% | Over 21 \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| University |  | 21,245 | 7,099 | 75\% | 25\% |
| ACE | Faculty total | 5,576 | 949 | 85\% | 15\% |
|  | Art and Design | 1,575 | 286 | 85\% | 15\% |
|  | Arts and Cultural Industries | 1,215 | 158 | 88\% | 12\% |
|  | Education | 1,142 | 293 | 80\% | 20\% |
|  | Film and Journalism | 1,644 | 212 | 89\% | 11\% |
| FBL | Faculty total | 4,022 | 547 | 88\% | 12\% |
|  | Accounting, Economics and Finance | 715 | 85 | 89\% | 11\% |
|  | Business and Management | 2,483 | 334 | 88\% | 12\% |
|  | Law | 824 | 128 | 87\% | 13\% |
| FET | Faculty total | 4,698 | 917 | 84\% | 16\% |
|  | Architecture and the Built Environment | 1,271 | 185 | 87\% | 13\% |
|  | Computer Science and Creative Technologies | 1,412 | 303 | 82\% | 18\% |
|  | Engineering, Design and Mathematics | 1,271 | 262 | 83\% | 17\% |
|  | Geography and Environmental Management | 744 | 167 | 82\% | 18\% |
| HAS | Faculty total | 6,397 | 4,530 | 59\% | 41\% |
|  | Allied Health Professions | 1,477 | 1,152 | 56\% | 44\% |
|  | Biological, Biomedical and Analytical Sciences | 1,176 | 315 | 79\% | 21\% |
|  | Health and Social Sciences | 1,924 | 531 | 78\% | 22\% |

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

- Overall, the university receives around $1 / 4$ of all applications from mature applicants.
- This figure is inflated by a very high mature proportion of applications in HAS, particularly in the healthcare related departments (Nursing \& midwifery and Allied Health Professions).
- Excluding these two departments from the total university application pool reduces the proportion of mature applicants to $15 \%$ - as such the other HAS departments still have a higher than average proportion of mature applications.
- ACE, have relatively low numbers of mature applications with the exception of Education. Applications from mature applicants are particularly low in Arts \& Creative Industries and Film and Journalism.
- Applicants in FBL tend to be young, with only between 11 and $13 \%$ of applicants being mature across departments. This is likely to be related to the faculty's postgraduate provision that welcomes applicants with evidence of work related prior learning.
- In FET the proportion of mature applicants is higher than average except in Architecture and the Built Environment.


## ENROLMENTS AND CONVERSION

Table 12 breakdown of new enrolments in 2014/15 and conversion rates by age

|  |  | Under 21 | Over 21 | Under 21 \% | Over 21 \% | Under 21 conversion | Over 21 conversion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| University |  | 4585 | 1575 | 74\% | 26\% | 22\% | 22\% |
|  | ACE | 1026 | 239 | 81\% | 19\% | 18\% | 25\% |
|  | Art and Design | 286 | 63 | 82\% | 18\% | 18\% | 22\% |
|  | Arts and Cultural Industries | 245 | 37 | 87\% | 13\% | 20\% | 23\% |
|  | Education | 169 | 75 | 69\% | 31\% | 15\% | 26\% |
|  | Film and Journalism | 327 | 65 | 84\% | 16\% | 20\% | 30\% |
|  | FBL | 1081 | 138 | 89\% | 11\% | 27\% | 25\% |
|  | Accounting, Economics and Finance | 232 | 33 | 87\% | 13\% | 33\% | 39\% |
|  | Business and Management | 642 | 77 | 89\% | 11\% | 26\% | 23\% |
|  | Law | 207 | 28 | 88\% | 12\% | 25\% | 22\% |
|  | FET | 1051 | 272 | 79\% | 21\% | 22\% | 30\% |
|  | Architecture and the Built Environment | 237 | 79 | 75\% | 25\% | 19\% | 42\% |
|  | Computer Science and Creative Technologies | 304 | 86 | 78\% | 22\% | 22\% | 28\% |
|  | Engineering, Design and Mathematics | 310 | 78 | 80\% | 20\% | 24\% | 30\% |
|  | Geography and Environmental Management | 200 | 30 | 87\% | 13\% | 27\% | 18\% |
|  | HAS | 1122 | 815 | 58\% | 42\% | 18\% | 18\% |
|  | Allied Health Professions | 134 | 117 | 53\% | 47\% | 9\% | 10\% |
|  | Biological, Biomedical and Analytical Sciences | 315 | 82 | 79\% | 21\% | 27\% | 26\% |
|  | Health and Social Sciences | 425 | 169 | 72\% | 28\% | 22\% | 32\% |
|  | Nursing and Midwifery | 248 | 447 | 36\% | 64\% | 14\% | 18\% |

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

- Across the university there is a similar conversion rate for mature and young students, meaning that around $26 \%$ of our new students are mature.
- However, when you exclude the large entrant of mature students into Health related programmes in HAS (in Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Health Professions), the proportion of mature students in the new first year intake decreases to $18 \%$ with a conversion rate of $27 \%$ (compared to $22 \%$ for young students). This means that even when we exclude the large intakes of largely mature students, the university recruits better from its mature applicant population, enrolling a greater proportion than young applicants.
- This strong conversion rate is echoed across the university's departments and faculties, with most having a stronger conversion rate for mature than young applicants.
- Exceptions to this pattern are in FBL (Business and Management and Law) where already low numbers of mature applicants are less likely to enrol than young applicants.
- In addition, Geography, despite relatively strong applications from mature applicants, sees low levels of enrolment from mature students and a lower conversion rate for mature applicants than young applicants


## PROGRESSION

Table 13 cohort comparison across 4 years by age

| Transition point | Age group | Total \# | No HE | No Progression | Progression | Qualified | No HE \% | No Progression | Progression \% | Qualified \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Year 1-2 | Under 21 | 3607 | 428 | 191 | 2988 |  | 12\% | 5\% | 83\% | 0\% |
| 2011) | 21 and over | 949 | 133 | 44 | 771 | 1 | 14\% | 5\% | 81\% | 0\% |
| Year 2-3 | Under 21 | 3180 | 184 | 132 | 2864 |  | 6\% | 4\% | 90\% | 0\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { (2011 to } \\ & \text { 2012) } \end{aligned}$ | 21 and over | 816 | 70 | 49 | 693 | 4 | 9\% | 6\% | 85\% | 0\% |
| Year 3-4 | Under 21 | 3008 | 145 | 192 | 186 | 2485 | 5\% | 6\% | 6\% | 83\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { (2012 to } \\ & \text { 2013) } \end{aligned}$ | 21 and over | 748 | 48 | 71 | 46 | 583 | 6\% | 9\% | 6\% | 78\% |
| Year 4-5 | Under 21 | 407 | 69 | 37 | 33 | 268 | 17\% | 9\% | 8\% | 66\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & (2013 \text { to } \\ & 2014) \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 21 and over | 128 | 26 | 25 | 11 | 66 | 20\% | 20\% | 9\% | 52\% |

Table 13 shows that at the transition from year 1 to year 2 , a greater proportion of mature students withdrew than young students. In years 2 and 3 , mature students were also less likely to make appropriate progress and were more likely to withdraw. At the end of year 3, mature students were less likely to have qualified and in year $4 / 5$, were more likely to have left HE or have failed to make further progress.

## SATISFACTION

Suzanne Carrie and Graham Parsons

Table 14 NSS satisfaction scores broken down by age category

|  | Number of respondents | Response rate | The teaching on my course | Assessment and feedback | Academic support | Organisation and management | Learning resources | Personal development | Overall Satisfaction | Students <br> Union |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Young | 2568 | 76\% | 87\% | 70\% | 83\% | 76\% | 88\% | 83\% | 85\% | 70\% |
| Mature | 929 | 76\% | 87\% | 72\% | 80\% | 69\% | 88\% | 83\% | 83\% | 63\% |

Table 14 shows that young students were more satisfied overall with the university but both groups were equally likely to take part in the survey.
In particular, young students were significantly more satisfied with the Students' Union and with the organisation and management on their programme. Mature students gave significantly lower ratings to the question "Any changes in the course or teaching have been communicated effectively" with only $65 \%$ reporting agreement with this statement in comparison to $76 \%$ of young students.

GOOD HONOURS AND DEGREE CLASSIFICATION
Table 15 good honours rates for the university by age over time

|  | $\mathbf{1 2 / 1 3}$ |  | $\mathbf{1 3 / 1 4}$ |  | $14 / 15$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Enrols | Good <br> Honours <br> Rate | Enrols | Good <br> Honours <br> Rate | Enrols | Good <br> Honours <br> Rate |
| 21 and above | 915 | $76.94 \%$ | 1019 | $75.27 \%$ | 845 | $71.72 \%$ |
| Under 21 | 3141 | $75.07 \%$ | 3539 | $77.11 \%$ | 2899 | $78.75 \%$ |

Table 16 degree classification rates for the university by age over time

|  | $12 / 13$ | $13 / 14$ | $14 / 15$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

[^0]|  | 1st |  | U2 |  | L2 |  | 3rd |  | 1st |  | U2 |  | L2 |  | 3rd |  | 1st |  | U2 |  | L2 |  | 3rd |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Row Label | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% | \# | \% |
| $21+$ | $\begin{aligned} & 29 \\ & 0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 31.33 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 414 | $\begin{aligned} & 45.46 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 18 \\ & 4 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20.36 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \\ & 7 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.85 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 31 \\ & 7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30.36 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | 455 | $\begin{aligned} & 44.54 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 22 \\ & 2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 22.22 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \\ & 0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.87 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23 \\ & 2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 27.16 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | 374 | $\begin{aligned} & 44.64 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \\ & 8 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24.59 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \\ & 1 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3.61 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| U21 | $\begin{aligned} & 61 \\ & 6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 19.00 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 174 \\ & 2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 56.27 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $71$ | $\begin{aligned} & 22.48 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | 7 | $\begin{aligned} & 2.25 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 75 \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 21.17 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 197 \\ & 6 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 56.06 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73 \\ & 7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 20.69 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | 7 3 | $\begin{aligned} & 2.08 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 68 \\ & 8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 23.55 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 159 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 55.03 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 54 \\ & 8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 19.09 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6 \\ & 8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.33 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ |

Table 15 shows that over the 3 year period mature students have achieved less good honours whilst young students have achieved more. Table 16 shows that this is likely to be due to:

- A decrease in the proportion of mature students receiving a $1^{\text {st }}$ in this period
- An increase in the proportion of mature students receiving a 2.2 (L2) or a $3^{\text {rd }}$ in this period
- An increase in the proportion of young students receiving a $1^{\text {st }}$ in this period
- In each year, mature students were more likely to achieve a $3^{\text {rd }}$ than young students and over this period have become both more likely to achieve a 2.2 (L2) than young students and less likely to achieve a $1^{\text {st }}$.

National Comparison: Within its statistical report 2015, the Equality Challenge Unit reports that the degree attainment gap between age groups was widest in England, where $76.0 \%$ of qualifiers aged 21 and under received a first/ $2: 1$ compared with $62.7 \%$ of those aged $26-35$ (a 13.3 percentage point difference). ${ }^{1}$ They also report that 'the proportion of qualifiers receiving a first increased with age. However, the proportion of students receiving a third/pass also increased with age. ${ }^{2}$
${ }^{1}$ Equality in higher education: statistical report 2015,p167
${ }^{2}$ Equality in higher education: statistical report 2015, p241

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Table 17. breakdown of good honours rate by year and faculty broken down by age

|  |  | 12/13 |  | 13/14 |  | 14/15 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Row Labels | Enrols | Good Honours Rate | Enrols | Good Honours Rate | Enrols | Good <br> Honours <br> Rate |
| Arts, Creative <br> Industries <br> and <br> Education | 21 and above | 249 | 81.73\% | 244 | 76.84\% | 171 | 79.47\% |
|  | Under 21 | 929 | 81.66\% | 937 | 81.09\% | 774 | 79.01\% |
| Business and Law | 21 and above | 72 | 65.45\% | 79 | 65.99\% | 63 | 68.25\% |
|  | Under 21 | 711 | 69.55\% | 888 | 75.33\% | 816 | 81.38\% |
| Environment and Technology | 21 and above | 154 | 71.43\% | 127 | 78.74\% | 101 | 70.30\% |
|  | Under 21 | 664 | 71.06\% | 711 | 75.39\% | 563 | 77.80\% |
| Health and Applied Sciences | 21 and above | 441 | 78.02\% | 569 | 75.11\% | 511 | 69.83\% |
|  | Under 21 | 838 | 75.63\% | 1002 | 76.20\% | 746 | 76.33\% |

Table 17 shows the variation in good honours rates by faculty over the period. You can see that while ACE has a similar set of good honours rates for mature and young students, all other faculties have a significantly lower good honours rate for mature students. The gap in good honours by age has been widening in FBL and in HAS (where there has been a reversal in the past 3 years (in 12/13 mature students achieved a better good honours rate than young students).

Table 18 - breakdown of 2014/15 degree classification broken down by age and faculty

|  |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { 1st } \\ \hline \# \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \mathbf{U 2} \\ \hline \# \\ \hline \end{array}$ | \% | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { L2 } \\ & \hline \# \end{aligned}$ | \% | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { 3rd } \\ & \hline \# \end{aligned}$ | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | \% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arts, Creative Industries and Education | 21 and above |  | 46 | $\begin{aligned} & 26.9 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 90 | $\begin{aligned} & 52.6 \\ & 3 \% \end{aligned}$ | 29 | $\begin{aligned} & 16.9 \\ & 6 \% \end{aligned}$ | 6 | $\begin{aligned} & 3.51 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Under 21 | 160 | $\begin{aligned} & 20.0 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 452 | $\begin{aligned} & 59.3 \\ & 8 \% \end{aligned}$ | 144 | $\begin{aligned} & 18.2 \\ & 6 \% \end{aligned}$ | 19 | $\begin{aligned} & 2.36 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Business and Law | 21 and above | 12 | $\begin{aligned} & 18.5 \\ & 7 \% \end{aligned}$ | 31 | $\begin{aligned} & 50.0 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 19 | $\begin{aligned} & 30.0 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 1 | $\begin{aligned} & 1.43 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Under 21 | 213 | $\begin{aligned} & 26.3 \\ & 7 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 452 | $\begin{aligned} & 54.1 \\ & 0 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 136 | $\begin{aligned} & 17.5 \\ & 1 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 16 | $\begin{aligned} & 2.02 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Environment and Technology | 21 and above | 23 | $\begin{aligned} & 21.5 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 48 | $\begin{aligned} & 48.6 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 28 | $\begin{aligned} & 28.0 \\ & 4 \% \end{aligned}$ | 2 | $\begin{aligned} & 1.87 \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Under 21 | 179 | $\begin{aligned} & 31.6 \\ & 2 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 259 | $\begin{aligned} & 45.7 \\ & 0 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 118 | $\begin{aligned} & 21.3 \\ & 1 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 7 | $\begin{aligned} & 1.37 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| Health and Applied Sciences | 21 and above | 151 | $\begin{aligned} & 29.6 \\ & 1 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 206 | $\begin{aligned} & 40.3 \\ & 9 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 132 | $\begin{aligned} & 25.6 \\ & 9 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 22 | $\begin{aligned} & 4.31 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Under 21 | 136 | $\begin{aligned} & 17.8 \\ & 9 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 433 | $\begin{aligned} & 58.6 \\ & 2 \% \end{aligned}$ | 151 | $\begin{aligned} & 20.1 \\ & 0 \% \end{aligned}$ | 26 | $\begin{aligned} & 3.39 \\ & \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |

Table 18 provides further evidence of differentials in degree outcome by age.

- In Ace, despite overall similar good honours rates, mature students were less likely to achieve a $1^{\text {st. }}$.
- In FBL, the lower good honours rate for mature students translates into more 2.2.s (L2) as they were slightly less likely to get a $3^{\text {rd }}$ class degree.
- In FET, mature students were slightly more likely to achieve both a 2.1 (U2) and a 2.2. (L2) but were less likely to achieve a $1^{\text {st }}$.
- In HAS, mature students were more likely to achieve a $1^{\text {st }}$ or a 2.2 (L2) but were less likely to achieve a 2.1 (U2).


## GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Table 19. Breakdown of graduate outcomes by age grouping from the 2014/15 DLHE survey

| Age Category <br> (at Census <br> date) |  <br> Study | Work + Work \& Study <br> (Prof) | Prof <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | KPI <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | U/E <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | Study <br> $\mathbf{\%}$ | R.R.\% |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Under 25 | $\mathbf{2 , 2 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 4 7 7}$ | $67.5 \%$ | $67.9 \%$ | $4.9 \%$ | $12.3 \%$ | $86.3 \%$ |
| 25 to 34 | $\mathbf{6 8 8}$ | $\mathbf{5 6 1}$ | $82.5 \%$ | $79.6 \%$ | $5.5 \%$ | $8.8 \%$ | $82.9 \%$ |
| Over 34 | $\mathbf{2 0 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 8 8}$ | $92.6 \%$ | $90.7 \%$ | $4.3 \%$ | $9.1 \%$ | $84.9 \%$ |

Prof = professional/ graduate level work and constitutes a 'good' outcome,
KPI = our institutional KPI
U/E = unemployed
R.R. response rate

Table 19 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 $21^{\text {st }}$ 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 employment and likelihood to be in professional level employment increased as age increased, with those who graduated over the age of 34 being largely in professional employment.

National Comparison: The Equality Challenge Unit reports that $50.1 \%$ of leavers aged 21 and under entered full-time work compared with $68.7 \%$ of leavers aged $26-35$ and $59.4 \%$ of leavers aged 36 and over. ${ }^{3}$

[^1]
[^0]:    Suzanne Carrie and Graham Parsons

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ Equality in higher education: statistical report 2015, p279

