



Department
for Education

Participation in Foundation Degrees

This ad hoc release of statistics about Foundation Degrees provides equality of access to analysis that has been provided to the Post-18 Funding Review Panel. The data have been used to create Figure 2.3.

A foundation degree is a combined academic and vocational qualification in higher education, equivalent to two thirds of an honours bachelor's degree. Foundation degrees are classified at level 5 of the National Qualifications Framework that applies in England:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/search-results?indexCatalogue=global&searchQuery=Foundation%20Degree%20Characteristics&wordsMode>

Data have been compiled on entrants and enrolments (in all years of study) to Foundation Degrees at English Higher Education Institutions since 2001/02. Students with the Open University have been included in the series if registered with the administrative centre in England.

The data tables attached show that participation in Foundation Degrees peaked in 2009/10 at 81,000 enrolments, and has fallen to 30,000 enrolments by 2017/18.

The data provided is from the Department for Education's analysis of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record.

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