



20th June 2019

This release focuses on outcomes in the 2016/17 tax year for those who graduated with a Level 7 (masters) or Level 8 (doctoral) postgraduate degree one, three, five and ten years after graduation from an English higher education institution (HEI).

Gender gap in postgraduate earnings five years after graduation

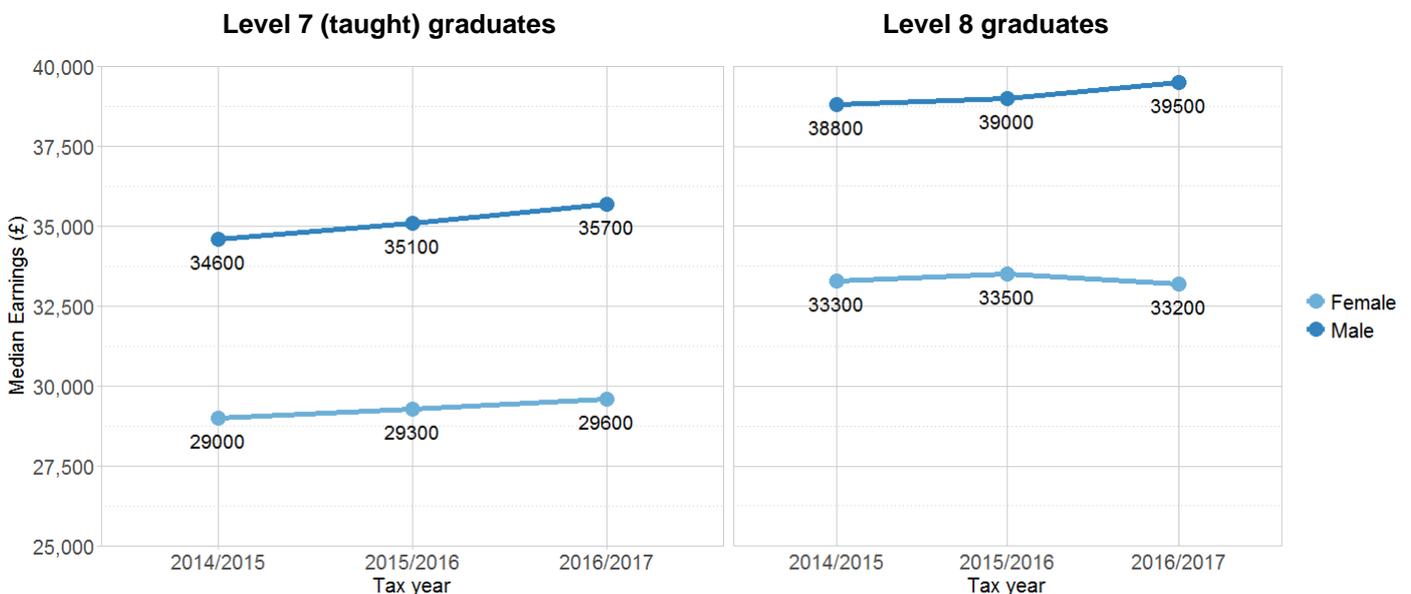
The chart below presents the earnings five years after graduation for UK domiciled postgraduates by sex for the last three years. Since the 2014/15 tax year, there has been a modest increase in earnings five years after graduation for Level 7 (taught) graduates, however this did not fall equally between males and females – the £1,100 increase in average earnings for males over this period was nearly double the £600 increase for females.

On average, earnings for Level 8 graduates did not increase over time, however there was still a gender gap, with females earning £100 less five years after graduation in 2016/17 than they did in 2014/15, whilst males earned £700 more.

Median earnings of UK domiciled Level 7 (taught) and Level 8 graduates five years after graduation by sex, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 (5 years after graduation), 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 tax years



Overall earnings for Level 7 (taught) graduates went up over time (by £800 from £30,900 to £31,700), whilst for Level 8 graduates, average earnings five years after graduation stayed the same (£36,400) between 2014/15 and 2016/17.

For the small number of Level 7 (research) graduates who are not included in the above chart, average earnings five years after graduation went down over time but the gender gap was reversed, with male graduates earning £2,100 less and female graduates £900 less in 2014/15 than they had done in 2016/17.

Please note: The outcomes in this release are presented as raw figures. They do not seek to control for differences in graduate characteristics that may influence outcomes over time or across different graduate populations.

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About this release

This official statistics publication provides employment and earnings outcomes from the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) data for **postgraduates**. The following characteristics are included:

Sex
Domicile
Level of study
Subject studied
An extension of subject level breakdowns for Level 7 (taught) graduates who completed Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

The commentary and figures within this publication focus on outcomes and earnings in the 2016/17 tax year for the 2005/06, 2010/11, 2012/13 and 2014/15 cohorts ten, five, three and one years after graduation respectively. The release includes data from English Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) only. In line with the last LEO release, data on UK domiciled, EU domiciled and Non-EU domiciled graduates has been included.

Data for graduate outcomes and earnings in the 2014/15 tax year and the 2015/16 tax year for the respective cohorts ten, five, three and one years after graduation is also provided in the accompanying csv file

In this publication

The following tables are included in this release:

Main tables

Underlying data for UK graduates

Underlying data for international graduates

Feedback

We welcome feedback on this release and the data presented within it. Contact details are provided in [section 7: Get in touch](#).

1. Introduction

The LEO dataset links information about students, including

- personal characteristics such as sex, ethnic group and age
- education, including schools, colleges and higher education institution attended, courses taken and qualifications achieved
- employment and income
- benefits claimed

By combining these sources, we can look at the progress of higher education leavers into the labour market. Further information on the data included in the LEO dataset can be found in the [accompanying methodology note in our previous publication](#) on the 28th March 2019. This note also contains further information on the data quality, match rates and methodology.

Coverage

This publication looks at those who graduated with a postgraduate qualification from higher education providers in England.

Designated alternative providers were not required to return student level data to HESA prior to the 2014/15 academic year. In the 2014/15 academic year, all alternative providers covered by HESA¹ did submit student level data for the first time, and these are included in this publication where applicable. The University of Buckingham has historically returned HESA data every year and so is included in all cohorts.

All figures are based on UK tax, benefit and student records only, activity of those who move abroad to work or study after graduating is not reflected in the employment or further study figures. Instead, these individuals are categorised as ‘activity not captured’. This has potentially important implications when looking at the outcomes of non-UK domiciled students.

Years after graduation

The time periods used in this publication are one, three, five and ten years after graduation, which refers to the first, third, fifth and tenth full tax year after graduation, respectively. For instance, for the 2014/15 graduation cohort, the figures one year after graduation refer to employment and earnings outcomes in the 2016/17 tax year. This time period was picked as graduates are unlikely to have been engaged in economic activity for the whole tax year that overlaps with the graduation date. This is displayed graphically in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Relationship between academic year, tax year and definitions of ‘years after graduation’ used in this publication

	Tax year										
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
2003/04	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years
2004/05	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 years	11 years
2005/06		1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 years
2006/07			1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years
2007/08				1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years
2008/09					1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years
2009/10						1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years
2010/11							1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
2011/12								1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years
2012/13									1 year	2 years	3 years
2013/14										1 year	2 years
2014/15											1 year

Cohorts in **bold** are covered in this publication

¹For more information on the AP population please see the [methodology note](#) accompanying our March release.

Domicile categories

Domicile categories have been based upon graduate domicile prior to the start of their course, as recorded in the HESA Student Record for graduates from HEIs. Graduates have been grouped into three top level domicile categories: UK, EU (non-UK) and Non-EU.

Please note that country of domicile is not the same as nationality (as recorded in the HESA Student Record or ILR). For instance, in 2012/13, 91% of UK domiciled graduates were classified as UK nationals, 7% EU domiciled graduates were classified as UK nationals, and 4% of Non-EU domiciled graduates were classified as UK nationals.

Degree level

Level of study categories have been based upon the qualification obtained by a given graduate, as recorded in the HESA Student record. Graduates were broadly grouped into Level 7 and Level 8, more commonly known as master's degrees and doctoral degrees respectively. Enhanced undergraduate courses (e.g. MMath, MEng) that give you a postgraduate-level qualification are not included in our Level 7 population. These degree courses are included in our first degree population as you do not need to have completed a Level 6 qualification to apply for these courses.

Level 7 data was also broken down into Level 7 (taught) for taught master's degrees and Level 7 (research) for research masters degrees. In addition, Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Masters in Business Administration were also split from the overall Level 7 (taught) numbers. For subject level breakdowns, these two courses were also split from the other 34 subject categories.

Employment outcomes for UK domiciled graduates

Outcomes for **UK domiciled** graduates are presented for graduates who have been **successfully matched** to the Department for Work and Pensions' Customer Information System (CIS) or matched to a further study instance on the HESA Student Record.

Graduates who have been matched are then placed in the following five outcome categories:

Activity not captured: graduates who have been successfully matched to CIS but do not have any employment, out-of-work benefits or further study records in the tax year in question. Reasons for appearing in this category include: moving out of the UK after graduation for either work or study or voluntarily leaving the labour force.

No sustained destination: graduates who have an employment or out-of-work benefits record for the tax year in question but were not classified as being 'in sustained employment' and do not have a further study record.

Sustained employment only: graduates are only considered to be in sustained employment if they were employed for at least one day for five out of the six months between October and March of the tax year in question or, for those self-employed, if they had recorded a profit from partnership and/or sole trader enterprises record in that tax year. To be in the sustained employment only category, graduates must not have a record of further study in the tax year in question.

Sustained employment with or without further study: includes all graduates with a record of sustained employment, regardless of whether they also have a record of further study. A graduate is defined as being in further study if they have a valid higher education study record at any UK HEI or on the HESA database in the relevant tax year. The further study does not have to be at postgraduate level to be counted. Further study undertaken at further education colleges is not reflected in these figures as this information is not collected by HESA.

Sustained employment, further study or both: includes all graduates with a record of sustained employment or further study. This category includes all graduates in the 'sustained employment with or without further study' category as well as those with a further study record only.

It is important to note that our definition of sustained employment does not distinguish between the different types of work that graduates are engaged in and so cannot provide an indication of the proportion of

graduates who are employed in graduate occupations. Furthermore, we cannot distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

Employment outcomes for international graduates

Outcomes for **international** graduates are presented for **all graduates** within the specific academic years (i.e. graduates that are 'unmatched' are included in the denominator).

Unmatched graduates are placed in a separate '**unmatched**' outcome category. For these populations, the match rates are much lower as international graduates are much more likely to leave the UK after graduation. Including these graduates in the calculations means we get a better indication of the proportion of graduates who have stayed in the UK to work or study after graduation, making it easier to compare countries with different match rates. For international domiciled graduates, the employment outcomes categories should not be used as an indication of success in finding employment after graduation. It is likely that the majority of graduates in the 'unmatched' or 'activity not captured' categories are employed outside of the UK.

Contextual Information

There are a number of factors that can influence the employment and earnings outcomes of graduates beyond the subject studied. The outcomes presented in this release are 'raw' outcomes, they **do not control for differences in the characteristics of students or university attended** that might influence graduate employment outcomes. This should be borne in mind when making comparisons between domiciles. In addition international domiciled graduates may be subject to minimum salary criteria before being granted a visa to work in the UK.

2. Results for UK postgraduates

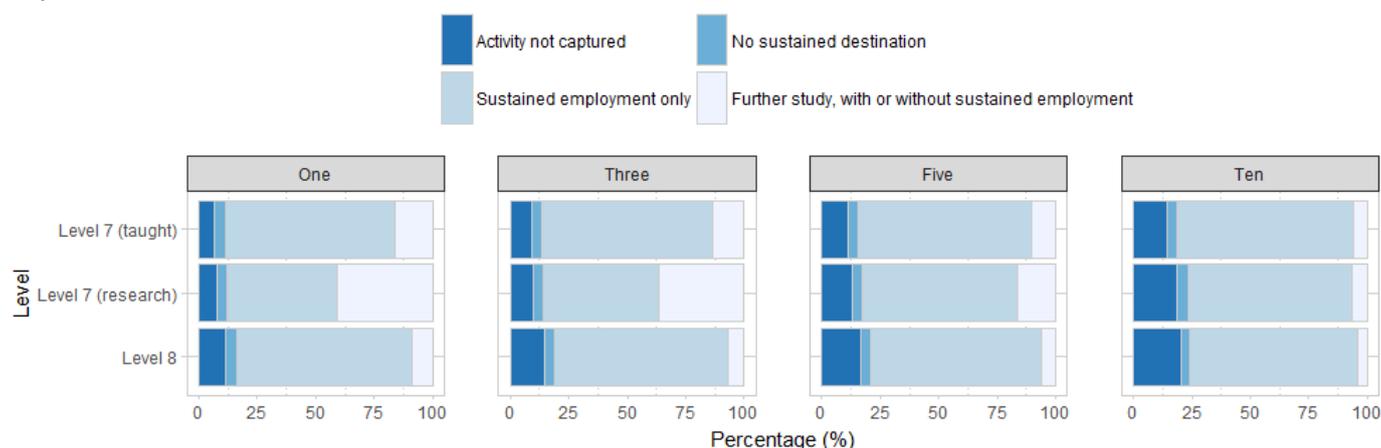
Employment outcomes for UK postgraduates

This section focuses on the employment and/or further study outcomes of UK postgraduates at one, three, five and ten years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year. Employment and/or further study outcomes for UK postgraduates are calculated as a percentage of those matched to CIS or a HESA further study record.

Chart 1 shows the proportion of Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates whose activity was not captured, who had no sustained destination, who were in sustained employment, or who were in further study (with or without sustained employment).

Chart 1: Activity of UK postgraduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation by level of study

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year)
Tax year: 2016/17



At one and three years after graduation, the proportion of UK postgraduates in further study (with or without sustained employment) is particularly high for Level 7 (research) and to a lesser extent for Level 7 (taught). This proportion falls by ten years after graduation as the number in sustained employment increases, reflecting the movement of these Level 7 graduates from further study to employment. A small proportion of Level 8 graduates are also listed as being in further study.

At all years after graduation, the proportion of Level 8 graduates whose activity was not captured was higher than that of Level 7 graduates. This may reflect the movement of these Level 8 graduates in seeking employment outside of the UK.

Regardless of the level of study, the proportion of graduates in sustained employment, further study or both was higher for females than for males (Table 2). This corresponds with a higher proportion of males whose activity was not captured for each level of study.

Table 2: Activity of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by level of study and sex

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)
Tax year: 2016/17

Study level	Sex	Number of graduates	Activity not captured (%)	No sustained destination (%)	Sustained employment only (%)	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)
Level 7 (taught)	Female	62,335	10.4	4.2	74.9	85.4
	Male	42,345	12.7	4.3	73.1	83.0
Level 7 (research)	Female	815	12.3	3.9	67.9	83.8
	Male	815	13.8	4.5	64.6	81.7
Level 8	Female	4,300	15.1	3.8	74.3	81.1
	Male	4,660	18.6	3.5	72.8	77.9

Earnings for UK postgraduates

This section focuses on the median earnings of UK postgraduates in sustained employment at one, three, five and ten years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year.

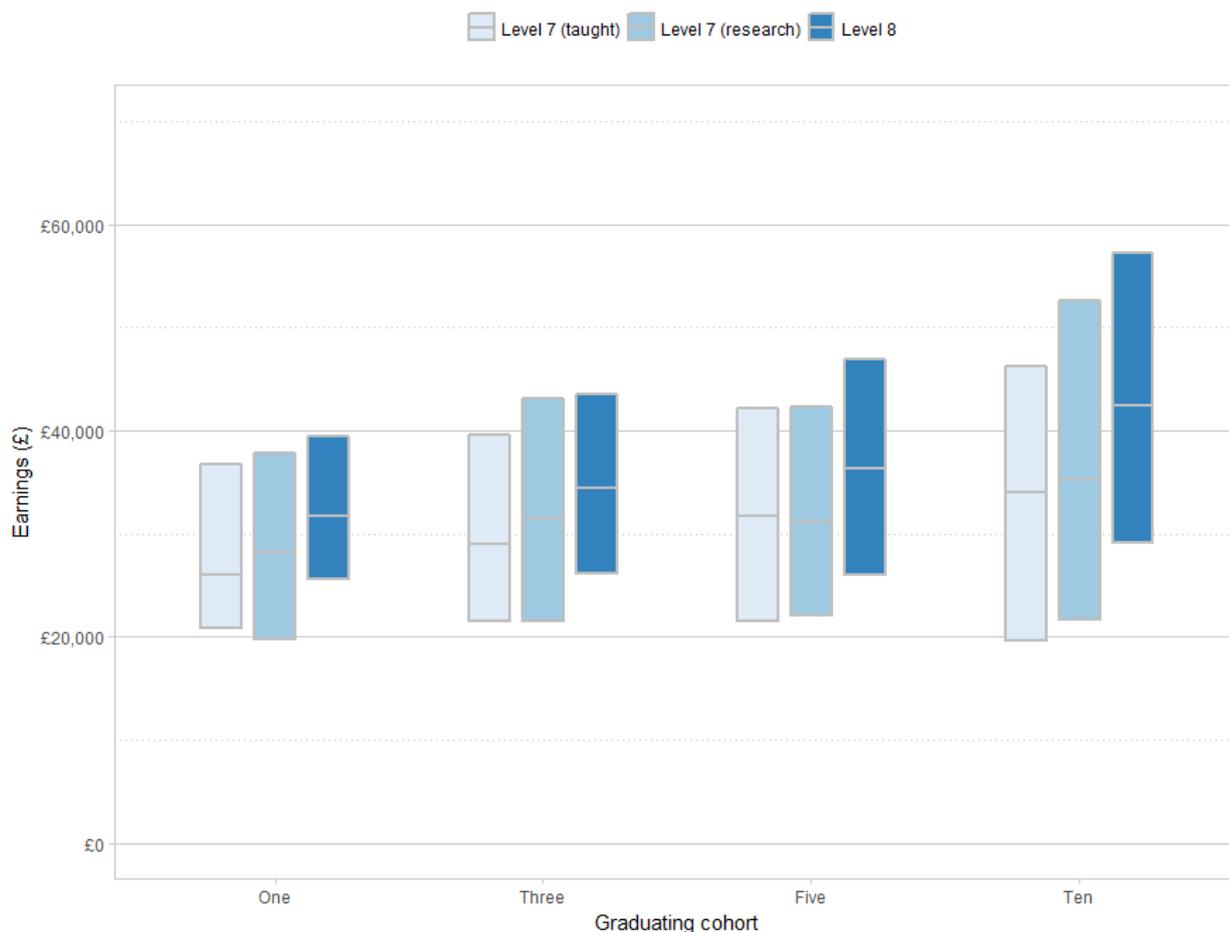
Chart 2 shows the earnings of Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates. In all boxplots throughout this release, the middle grey line indicates the median earnings figure and the boxes either side of the grey line indicate the interquartile range (the range between the upper and lower quartile values).

Chart 2: Earnings of UK postgraduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation by level of study

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year)

Tax year: 2016/17



For all levels of study, median earnings were higher ten years after graduation compared to one year after graduation. Level 7 (taught) earnings were £26,000 one year after graduation and £34,000 ten years after graduation. Level 7 (research) earnings were £28,200 one year after graduation and £35,300 ten years after graduation. Level 8 earnings were £31,700 one year after graduation and £42,400 ten years after graduation.

At each time point after graduation, Level 8 graduates had higher median earnings than Level 7 graduates, at each point except five years after graduation, Level 7 (research) had higher median earnings than Level 7 (taught) graduates. The gap between Level 8 and Level 7 (research) was £3,500 one year after graduation compared to £7,100 ten years after graduation. Meanwhile, the gap between Level 7 (research) and Level 7 (taught) was £2,200 one year after graduation compared to £1,300 ten years after graduation.

To compare between tax years, Table 3 shows the median earnings of Level 7 (taught) graduates in the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years in nominal and real² terms.

There were some small changes in graduate earnings between the tax years in nominal terms. The difference from the 2014/15 to the 2016/17 tax year was £800 (3%) for the one year after graduation cohorts, £700 (2%) for the three years after graduation cohorts, £800 (3%) for the five years after graduation cohorts and a decrease of £100 (-0.3%) for the ten years after graduation cohorts.

The increase in earnings between the tax years for Level 7 (taught) graduates is less than the increase seen for those who graduated with a first degree³. Earnings one year after graduation for those who graduated with a first degree rose 9% between 2014/15 to 2016/17.

Table 3: Median nominal and real earnings of Level 7 (taught) graduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female Level 7 (taught) graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15
 Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17

Years after graduation	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year
	Median nominal earnings (£)			Median real earnings (£)		
One	25,200	25,400	26,000	25,200	25,200	25,200
Three	28,300	28,900	29,000	28,300	28,700	28,100
Five	30,900	31,300	31,700	30,900	31,100	30,700
Ten	34,100	34,000	34,000	34,100	33,700	33,000

The adjustment for inflation used the 2014/15 tax year as a base year, hence real earnings in this year are presented as equal to nominal earnings. For 2015/16 and 2016/17 nominal earnings were adjusted using Consumer Price Index inflation rates at the end of each tax year⁴ relative to the end of the previous tax year.

Table 3 shows that in real terms, all cohorts saw a decrease in earnings between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 tax years, with the exception of the one year after graduation cohorts, where earnings remained stable across the three years. From 2014/15 to 2016/17, the difference was £200 less for the three and five years after graduation cohorts (compared with nominal increases of £700 and £800 respectively), and £1,100 less for the ten years after graduation cohorts, a 3.2% decrease. This shows that whilst average earnings are generally on the rise, the value of these earnings in terms of the goods and services that they can buy has mostly declined over the last three years.

Chart 3 below illustrates the differences in nominal earnings for all four points after graduation.

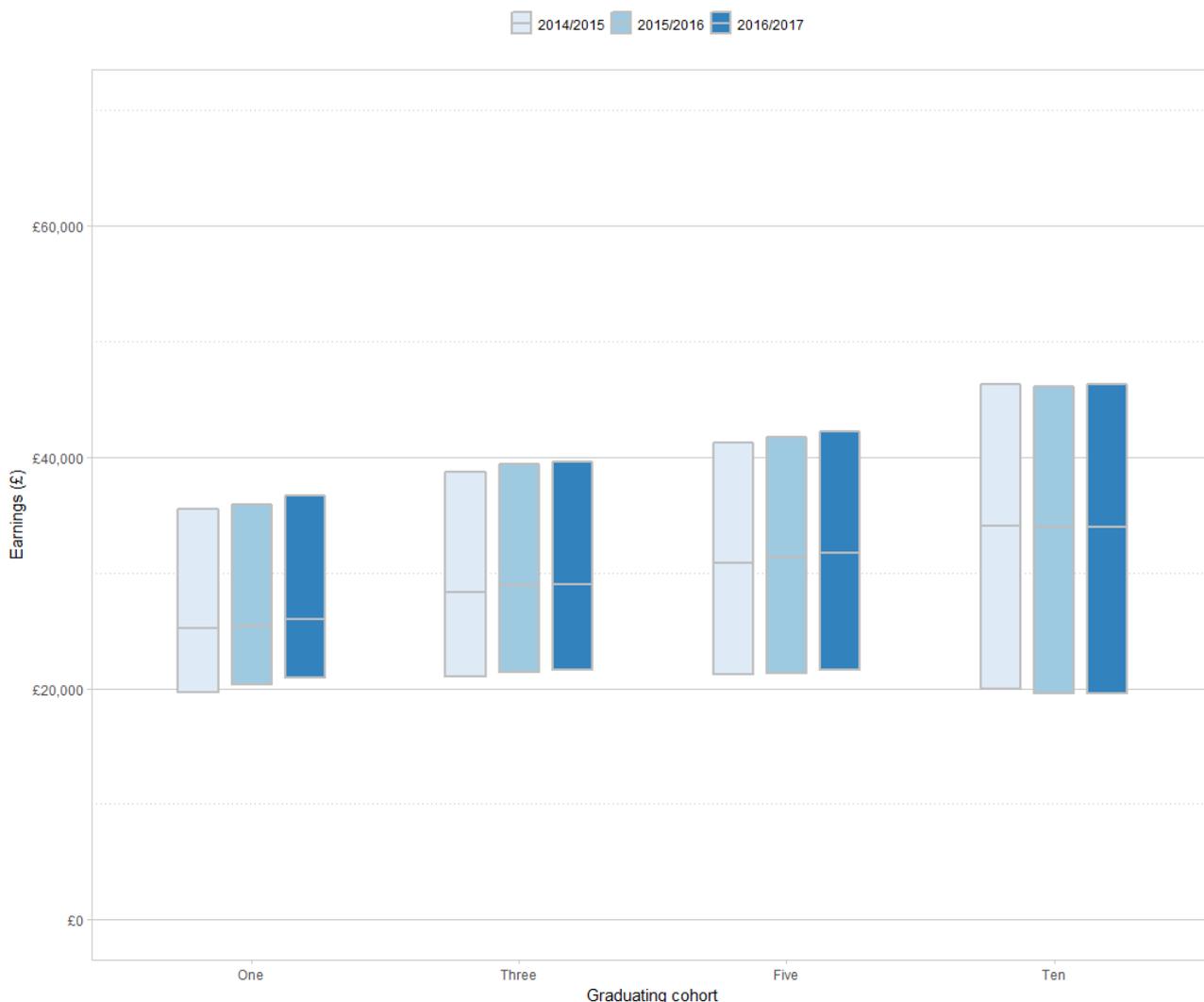
²Earnings in real terms are adjusted for inflation to better reflect what an individual can afford to buy with those earnings. To calculate real earnings, nominal earnings are divided by the inflation rate for that year. The rates used in this publication are shown in footnote 3 below.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/graduate-outcomes-leo-outcomes-in-2016-to-2017>

⁴Inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) in March 2017 (end of the 2016/17 tax year) was 2.3%, compared with 0.8% in March 2016. See <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices> for more information.

Chart 3: Median nominal earnings of Level 7 (taught) graduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female Level 7 (taught) graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15
 Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17



We also see a similar pattern with Level 8 earnings over time, as shown in Table 4 below. There were some small increases in graduate earnings between the tax years in nominal terms. The difference from the 2014/15 to the 2016/17 tax year was £900 for the one year after graduation cohorts, £700 for the three years after graduation cohorts, no increase for the five years after graduation cohorts and £600 for the ten years after graduation cohorts.

Meanwhile, in real terms, again all cohorts saw a decrease in earnings between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 tax years, From 2014/15 to 2016/17, the difference was £100 less for the one year after graduation cohorts (compared with a nominal increase of £900), £300 less for the three years after graduation cohorts (compared with a nominal increase of £700), £1,100 less for the three years after graduation cohorts (compared with stable nominal earnings) and £700 less for the ten years after graduation cohorts, (compared with a nominal increase of £600). As with Level 7 (taught) graduate earnings, nominal earnings appear to be increasing, but their value in real terms is has recently been declining.

Chart 4 below illustrates the differences in nominal earnings for all four points after graduation.

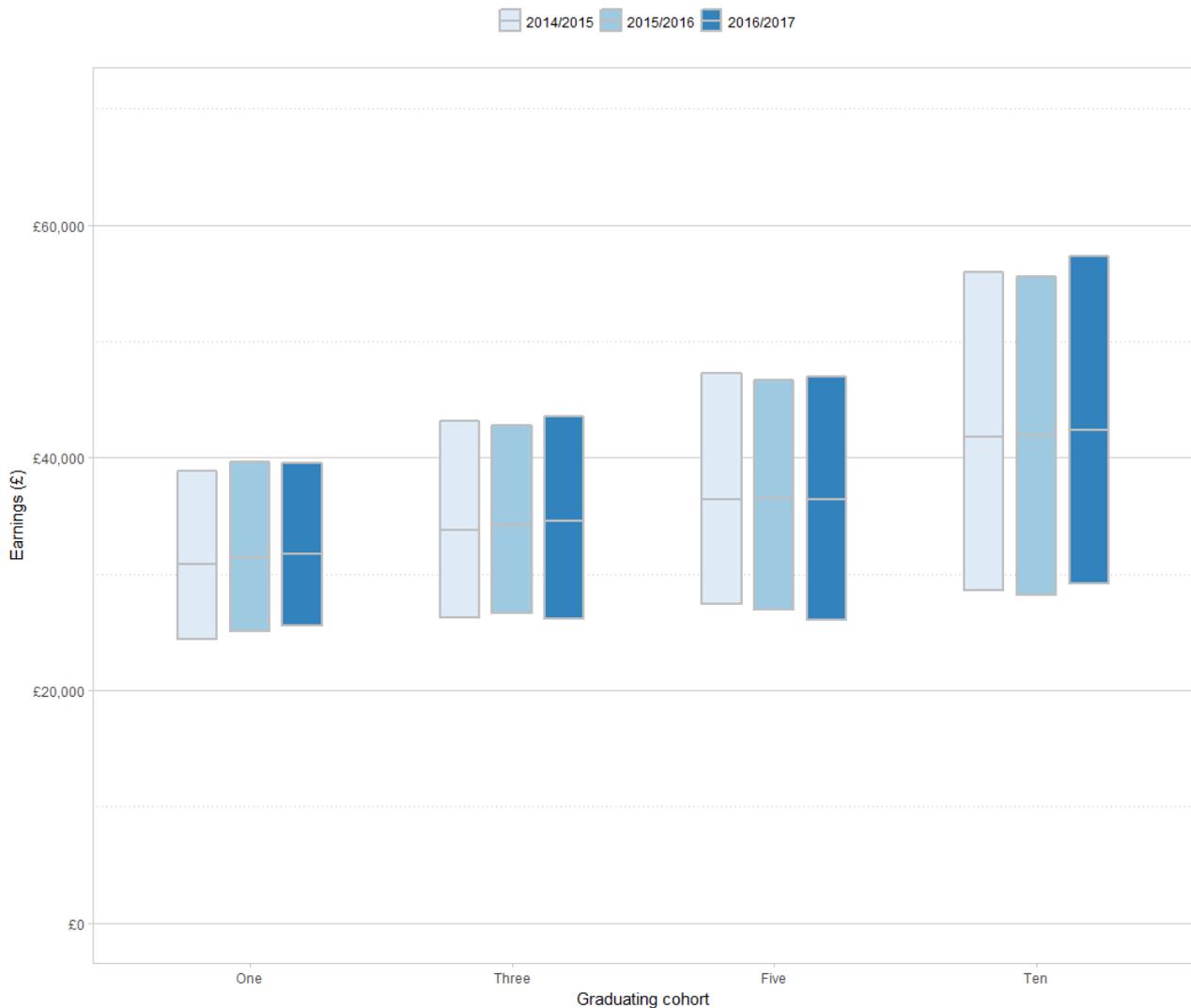
Table 4: Median nominal and real earnings (£) of Level 8 graduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15
 Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17

Years after graduation	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year
	Median nominal earnings (£)			Median real earnings (£)		
One	30,800	31,400	31,700	30,800	31,200	30,700
Three	33,800	34,200	34,500	33,800	33,900	33,500
Five	36,400	36,500	36,400	36,400	36,200	35,300
Ten	41,800	41,900	42,400	41,800	41,600	41,100

Chart 4: Median nominal earnings (£) of Level 8 graduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled male and female Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15
 Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17



Regardless of the level of study, males had higher median earnings than females (Table 5). The difference between male and female earnings was similar for both Level 7 (taught) (£6,100) and Level 8 (£6,300).

Table 5: Earnings of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by level of study and sex

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Study level	Sex	Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - lower quartile (£)	Earnings - median (£)	Earnings - upper quartile (£)
Level 7 (taught)	Female	41,210	19,600	29,600	38,100
	Male	27,715	25,400	35,700	50,000
Level 7 (research)	Female	495	19,600	29,500	39,200
	Male	470	24,000	33,000	47,300
Level 8	Female	2,745	21,300	33,200	42,000
	Male	3,070	31,000	39,500	53,700

There is a mixed picture when comparing male and female earnings five years after graduation across tax years (Table 6). Overall earnings for Level 7 (taught) graduates went up over time (by £800 from £30,900 to £31,700); both males and females experienced increases, however whilst female earnings increased by £600 on average, male earnings increased by nearly double this (£1,100).

For Level 8 graduates, average earnings five years after graduation stayed the same (£36,400) between 2014/15 and 2016/17. However again there was a gender difference, with males earning £700 more on average in 2016/17 than 2014/15, whilst females earned £100 less.

For the small number of Level 7 (research) graduates, average earnings five years after graduation went down over time but the gender gap was reversed, with male graduates earning £2,100 less in 2014/15 than they had done in 2016/17, and female graduates earning £900 less.

Table 6: Earnings of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by level of study and sex, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17

Study level	Sex	Median earnings (£)		
		2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year
Level 7 (taught)	Female	29,000	29,300	29,600
	Male	34,600	35,100	35,700
Level 7 (research)	Female	30,400	29,800	29,500
	Male	35,100	33,400	33,000
Level 8	Female	33,300	33,500	33,200
	Male	38,800	39,000	39,500

Subject level employment outcomes for UK postgraduates

This section focuses on the employment and/or further study outcomes of UK postgraduates five years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year, split by subject.

This release for the first time provides subject breakdowns using a new classification. The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are changing the way they report subjects from the 2019/20 academic year; the current Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) is being replaced by the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS). HESA have produced the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH)

which bridges between the two systems, and to maintain consistency across years we are using level 2 of the CAH to report breakdowns by subject area.

The main difference using this approach is that the number of subject categories increases to 34, compared with 23 using the previous JACS groupings. In many cases the CAH categories map exactly to a JACS category (e.g. Medicine and dentistry, Mathematical sciences, Creative arts and design); in the remainder of cases, the CAH categories provide a more detailed split compared with JACS groups (e.g. the JACS group 'Engineering & Technology' is now split into 'Engineering' and 'Technology' separately; similarly for 'Historical and Philosophical Studies' split into 'History and archaeology' and 'Philosophy and religious studies'). More information on HECoS and CAH can be found here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos>.

Due to the small numbers taking Level 7 (research) degrees, these subject level breakdowns are not shown separately. Instead, outcomes for all Level 7 courses (i.e. Level 7 (taught) and Level 7 (research)) are combined for each subject. In addition, PGCE and MBA graduates have been separated out rather than including them in the relevant subject breakdowns.

Employment outcomes data on Level 8 graduates can be found in the tables accompanying this release.

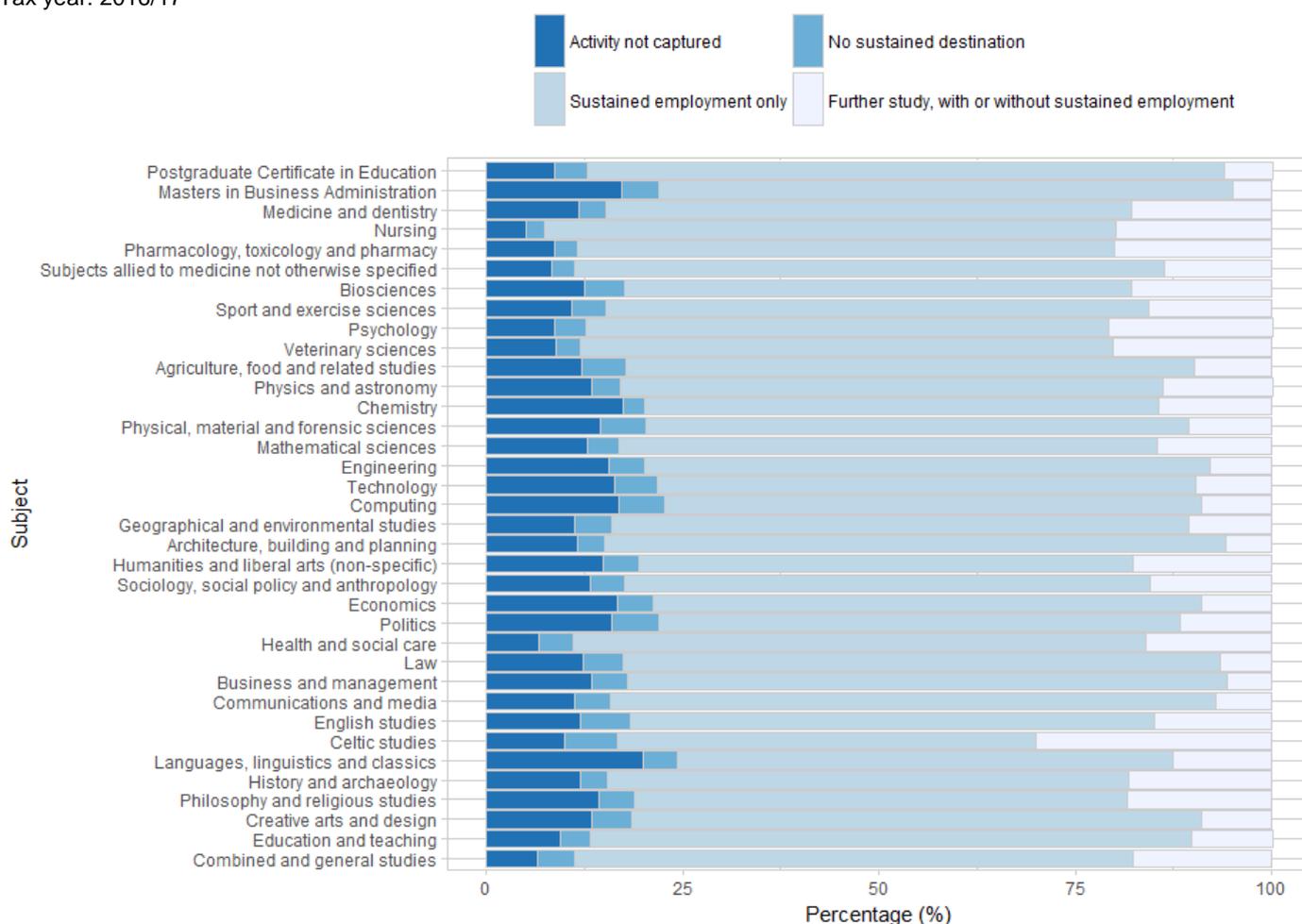
Chart 5 shows the proportion of Level 7 graduates whose activity was not captured, who had no sustained destination, or who were in sustained employment, or who were in further study (with or without sustained employment).

Chart 5: Activity of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by subject

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17



Graduates with a PGCE had the highest level of sustained employment only (81.1%), while graduates in Celtic Studies had the lowest level of sustained employment only (53.3%). Languages, linguistics and classics graduates had the highest proportion classified as activity not captured (20.0%). This is not surprising as, given the nature of their degrees, it is more likely that these graduates would seek employment overseas. Graduates in Nursing (5.0%), Combined and general studies (6.5%) and Health and social care (6.6%) had the lowest levels of activity not captured.

Graduates with an MBA (4.9%), Business and management (5.6%) or Architecture, building & planning (5.8%) qualification had the lowest additional proportion of graduates in further study (with or without sustained employment), while graduates in Psychology (20.8%) and Veterinary Sciences (20.2%) had the highest additional proportion of graduates in further study (with or without sustained employment).

Comparing between females and males, 21 subjects had a higher proportion of female graduates in sustained employment, further study or both and 14 subjects had a higher proportion of male graduates in sustained employment, further study or both (Table 7), and 1 subject (Creative arts and design) where there was no difference. The difference between females and males was small for subjects such as Health and social care (0.1%) but larger for other subjects such as Agriculture (4.4% - female proportion higher) and Humanities (12.3% - male proportion higher).

Table 7: Percentage of UK postgraduates five years after graduation in sustained employment, further study or both by sex

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Subject	Female		Male	
	Number of graduates	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)	Number of graduates	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	12,100	87.2	5,160	87.3
Master's in Business Administration	980	79.1	2,160	77.7
Medicine and dentistry	1,580	86.2	1,020	82.7
Nursing	2,525	92.7	500	92.2
Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	540	88.3	265	88.6
Subjects allied to medicine not otherwise specified	4,360	88.9	1,535	88.2
Biosciences	765	82.5	560	82.3
Sport and exercise sciences	215	85.4	375	84.4
Psychology	2,790	87.2	845	87.9
Veterinary sciences	70	88.2	25	87.3
Agriculture, food and related studies	250	84.3	195	79.9
Physics and astronomy	95	77.2	265	85.2
Chemistry	90	77	140	81.6
Physical, material and forensic sciences	445	80.2	455	79.2
Mathematical sciences	225	82.7	445	83.4
Engineering	580	77.3	2,645	80.3
Technology	250	76.6	465	79.3
Computing	465	73	1,945	78.3
Geographical and environmental studies	655	85.3	785	83.1
Architecture, building and planning	1,530	85.9	2,475	84.3
Humanities and liberal arts (non-specific)	80	76.4	35	88.7
Sociology, social policy and anthropology	2,020	83	1,115	81.2
Economics	250	80.7	545	78

	Female		Male	
Politics	795	76.9	1,300	78.9
Health and social care	2,330	88.9	550	88.8
Law	2,420	83.2	1,935	81.8
Business and management	7,200	82.8	6,230	81.1
Communications and media	1,510	83.5	1,005	85.4
English studies	1,325	81.2	770	82.1
Celtic studies	10	76.5	5	92.3
Languages, linguistics and classics	1,110	76.3	600	74.3
History and archaeology	1,220	84.7	1,100	84.4
Philosophy and religious studies	380	81.3	555	80.9
Creative arts and design	2,515	81.5	1,685	81.5
Education and teaching	9,030	87.1	3,295	86.2
Combined and general studies	440	89.2	180	87.5

Subject level earnings for UK postgraduates

This section focuses on the median earnings of UK postgraduates in sustained employment five years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year, split by subject and sex.

As with the employment outcomes, these subject level breakdowns include all of the Level 7 data rather than splitting by taught or research. PGCE and MBA graduates have been highlighted rather than including them in the relevant subject breakdowns. Only Level 7 graduates have been included in this section.

Subject level earnings data for Level 8 graduates can be found in the tables accompanying this release. Chart 6 shows the earnings of Level 7 graduates; data may be omitted in the chart due to the suppression of categories with low numbers of graduates.

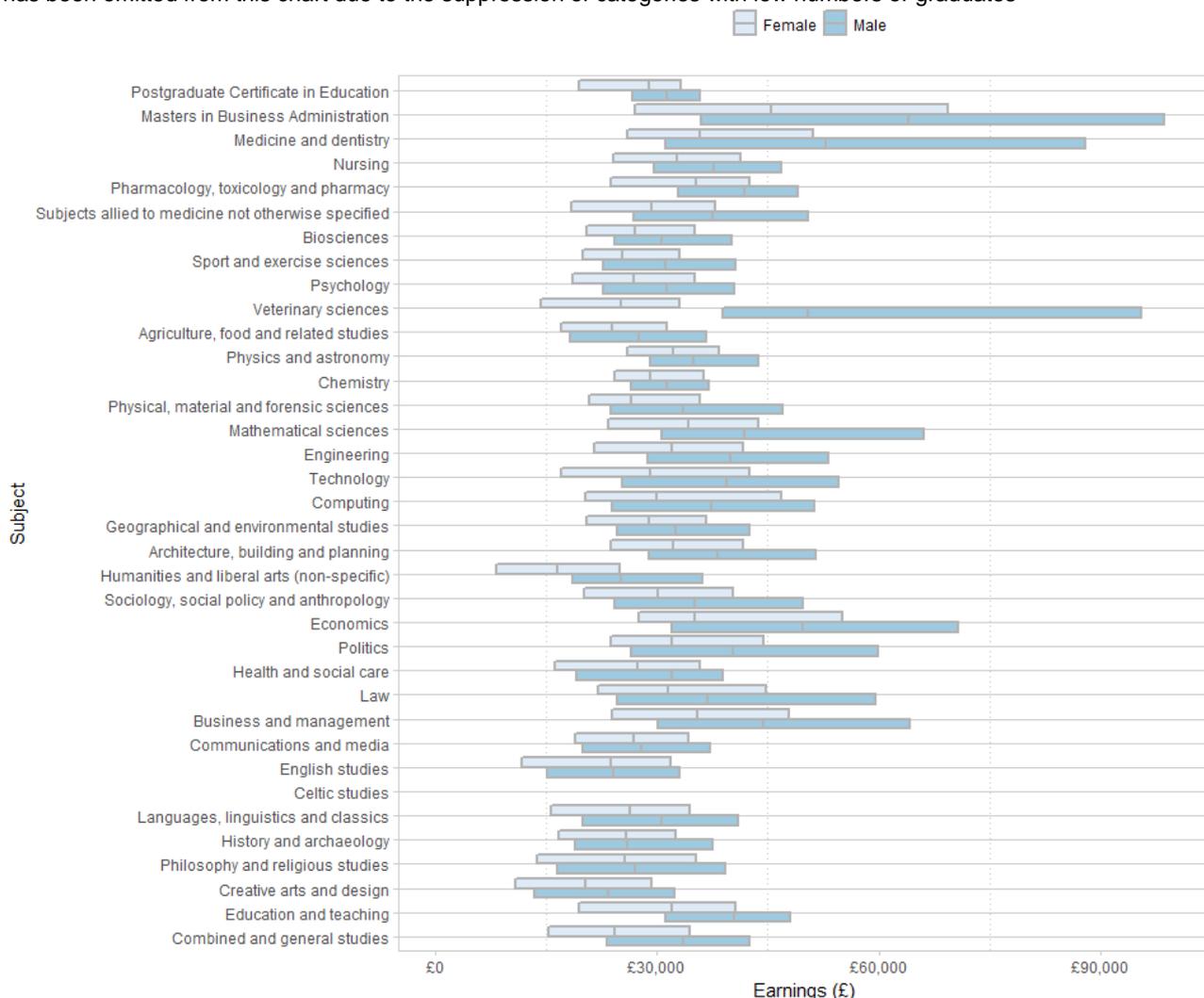
Chart 6: Earnings of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by subject and sex

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Data has been omitted from this chart due to the suppression of categories with low numbers of graduates



Median earnings were highest for those with a Master’s in Business Administration (£57,800) and lowest for those who studied Humanities and liberal arts (£20,000). Large variability in interquartile earnings can be seen from subject to subject. For example, graduates with an MBA had an interquartile range of £59,600, compared with £10,400 for Chemistry graduates and £12,300 for PGCE graduates.

Comparing between females and males, males had higher median earnings in all subjects. The difference between female and male earnings varied heavily between subjects. The smallest difference between female and male median earnings was for History and archaeology (£200) and the largest difference was for Medicine and dentistry (£25,300).

Table 8: Earnings of UK postgraduates five years after graduation by sex

Coverage: UK domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Data has been omitted from this table due to the suppression of categories with low numbers of graduates

Subject	Female		Male	
	Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - median (£)	Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - median (£)
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	9,180	29,000	3,940	31,300
Master's in Business Administration	580	45,500	1,360	64,100
Medicine and dentistry	925	35,900	575	52,900
Nursing	1,685	32,700	305	37,700
Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	335	35,300	155	41,900
Subjects allied to medicine not otherwise specified	2,830	29,200	990	37,500
Biosciences	445	27,100	320	30,600
Sport and exercise sciences	140	25,300	240	31,100
Psychology	1,635	26,900	515	31,300
Veterinary sciences	40	25,100	15	50,400
Agriculture, food and related studies	160	23,900	125	27,600
Physics and astronomy	65	32,200	165	35,000
Chemistry	55	29,100	90	31,400
Physical, material and forensic sciences	275	26,600	295	33,500
Mathematical sciences	135	34,200	275	41,900
Engineering	335	32,000	1,695	39,900
Technology	140	29,100	300	39,500
Computing	220	30,000	1,215	37,300
Geographical and environmental studies	445	29,000	520	32,600
Architecture, building and planning	1,060	32,200	1,795	38,200
Humanities and liberal arts (non-specific)	40	16,500	20	25,200
Sociology, social policy and anthropology	1,205	30,100	650	35,100
Economics	155	35,200	335	49,700
Politics	440	32,100	790	40,300
Health and social care	1,540	27,400	350	32,000
Law	1,615	31,600	1,280	36,900
Business and management	4,815	35,400	4,110	44,500
Communications and media	990	26,800	710	27,900
English studies	755	23,800	475	24,200
Celtic studies	c	c	c	c
Languages, linguistics and classics	605	26,300	305	30,700
History and archaeology	725	25,900	675	26,100
Philosophy and religious studies	200	25,700	275	27,000
Creative arts and design	1,495	20,400	1,010	23,500
Education and teaching	6,150	32,000	2,220	40,400
Combined and general studies	290	24,300	100	33,600

Comparison with first degree graduates

At first glance, the earnings for Level 7 graduates in certain subjects appear substantially higher than the [earnings of first degree graduates](#) in the same subjects. For example, first degree Business and management graduates had median earnings of £27,200 five years after graduation compared with £39,000 for those who completed a Level 7 qualification in the same academic year.

Earnings for level 7 graduates were higher in most subject areas although there are subjects where the first degree graduates had higher earnings. For example, Humanities and liberal arts first degree graduates had median earnings of £21,800 five years after graduation compared with £20,000 for those who completed a Level 7 qualification in the same academic year. However, average earnings for level 7 (taught) graduates (£31,700) were overall higher than for first degree graduates (£26,000) who completed their qualification in the same academic year.

It must be noted that this difference cannot solely be attributed to the impact of having a postgraduate degree. The first degree graduates that go on to study at postgraduate level are a non-random subset of the first degree population, typically being the higher attaining graduates. For more detail on the comparison between first degree and postgraduate outcomes, please refer to last year's [postgraduate outcomes LEO publication](#).

3. Results for international postgraduates

This section looks at employment and earnings outcomes for international postgraduates, comparing those with Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 degrees.

As in [other LEO releases](#), there is comparatively poor LEO coverage for international domiciled graduates compared to UK domiciled graduates. This is because LEO relies on graduates having been issued with a National Insurance number to match them to an employment record. However, international students who have no intention of working or claiming benefits in the UK are less likely to apply for a National Insurance number and so would not appear in the LEO data.

It is important to emphasise that the results presented in this release do not reflect the likelihood of an international graduate being in employment or achieving a certain level of earnings. Instead, they reflect the average outcome when an international graduate has remained in the UK.

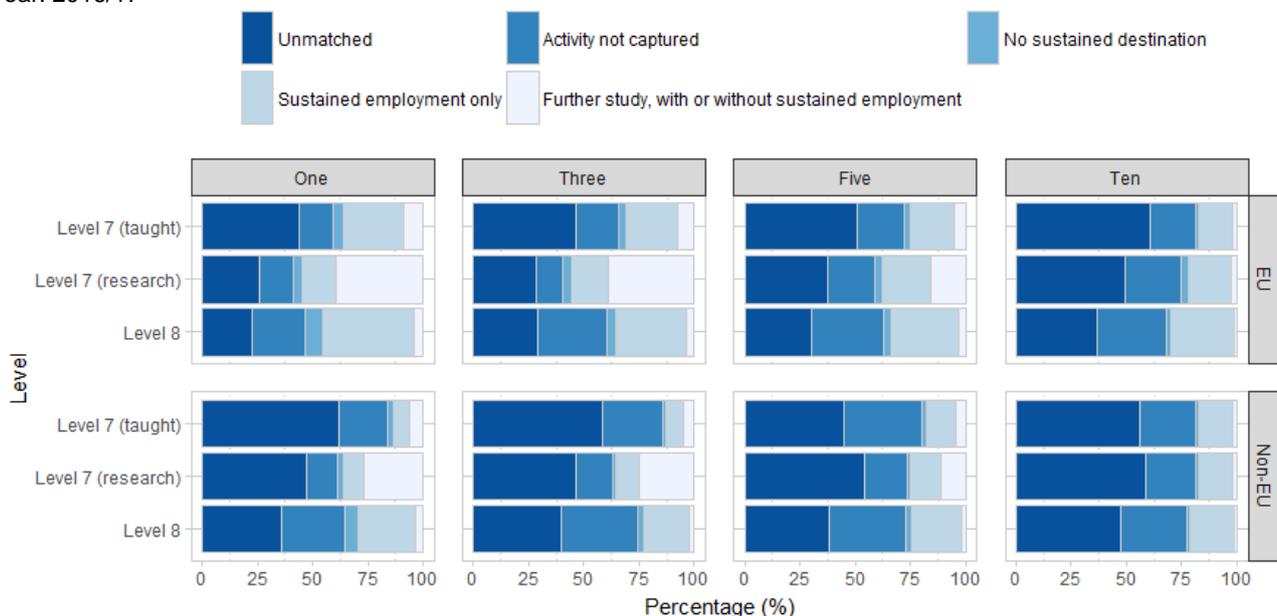
Employment outcomes for international postgraduates

This section focuses on the employment and/or further study outcomes of international postgraduates at one, three, five and ten years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year. Employment and/or further study outcomes for the UK postgraduates are calculated as a percentage of all graduates within the specified academic years. Data may be omitted in the chart due to the suppression of categories with low numbers of graduates.

Chart 7 shows the proportion of Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates who were not matched to CIS or a further study record, whose activity was not captured, who had no sustained destination, who were in sustained employment, or who were in further study (with or without sustained employment).

Chart 7: Activity of international postgraduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation by level of study

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year)
 Tax year: 2016/17



Match rates for both EU and Non-EU domiciled postgraduates were low ten years after graduation but improved for the cohorts who graduated one, three and five years ago. In line with the UK domiciled results, the proportion of EU and Non-EU postgraduates in further study (with or without sustained employment) is particularly high for Level 7 (research). This proportion falls by ten years after graduation as the number in sustained employment increases, reflecting the movement of these Level 7 graduates from further study to employment.

For EU domiciled graduates, those who completed a Level 8 qualification were more likely to be in sustained employment and/or further study in the UK after graduation compared to those who completed a Level 7 (taught) qualification. For example, 45.7% of Level 8 graduates were in sustained employment and/or further study one year after graduation compared to 35.9% of Level 7 (taught) graduates. This pattern is also true for Non-EU graduates where 29.4% of Level 8 graduates were in sustained employment and/or further study one year after graduation compared to 13.7% of Level 7 (taught) graduates.

Overall, Non-EU domiciled graduates were less likely to be in sustained employment and/or further study in the UK than EU domiciled graduates. However, when looking at those who graduated with a Level 7 (taught) qualification ten years after graduation, nearly the same proportion of EU (17.1%) and Non-EU (17.2%) domiciled graduates were still working and/or studying in the UK.

When comparing over time (Table 9) the percentage of EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) graduates in sustained employment and/or further study has increased between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 tax years; all cohorts saw an increase of at least 2 percentage points across the three years. For Non-EU domiciled graduates, the picture is mixed and appears to depend much more on the individual cohort. For instance, three years after graduation, the proportion in sustained employment and/or further study decreased by 7.4 percentage points between 2014/15 and 2016/17, whilst ten years after graduation, the proportion increased by 2.6 percentage points.

Table 9: Proportion of international Level 7 (taught) postgraduates in sustained employment, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15
 Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16
 Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17

Years after graduation	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)					
	EU			Non-EU		
	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year
One	33.5	34.8	35.9	14.2	14.2	13.7
Three	28.1	29.6	30.8	20.3	18.8	12.9
Five	22.9	24.9	25.4	19.7	18.3	18.1
Ten	15.0	16.2	17.1	14.6	16.0	17.2

In line with the UK domiciled results, female EU domiciled graduates were more likely to be in sustained employment, further study or both than male EU domiciled graduates irrespective of the level of study (Table 10). However, for Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) and Level 8 graduates, males were more likely to be in sustained employment than females.

Table 10: Proportion of international postgraduates five years after graduation in sustained employment, further study or both by level of study and sex

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs
 Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)
 Tax year: 2016/17

Study level	Sex	EU		Non-EU	
		Number of graduates	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)	Number of graduates	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)
Level 7 (taught)	Female	9,350	27.3	30,635	15.7
	Male	7,890	23.1	35,950	20.1
Level 7 (research)	Female	170	47.6	410	25.2
	Male	155	26.8	440	25.3
Level 8	Female	1,110	35.3	2,040	24.4
	Male	1,305	32.2	3,190	24.8

Earnings for international postgraduates

This section focuses on the median earnings of international postgraduates in sustained employment at one, three, five and ten years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year.

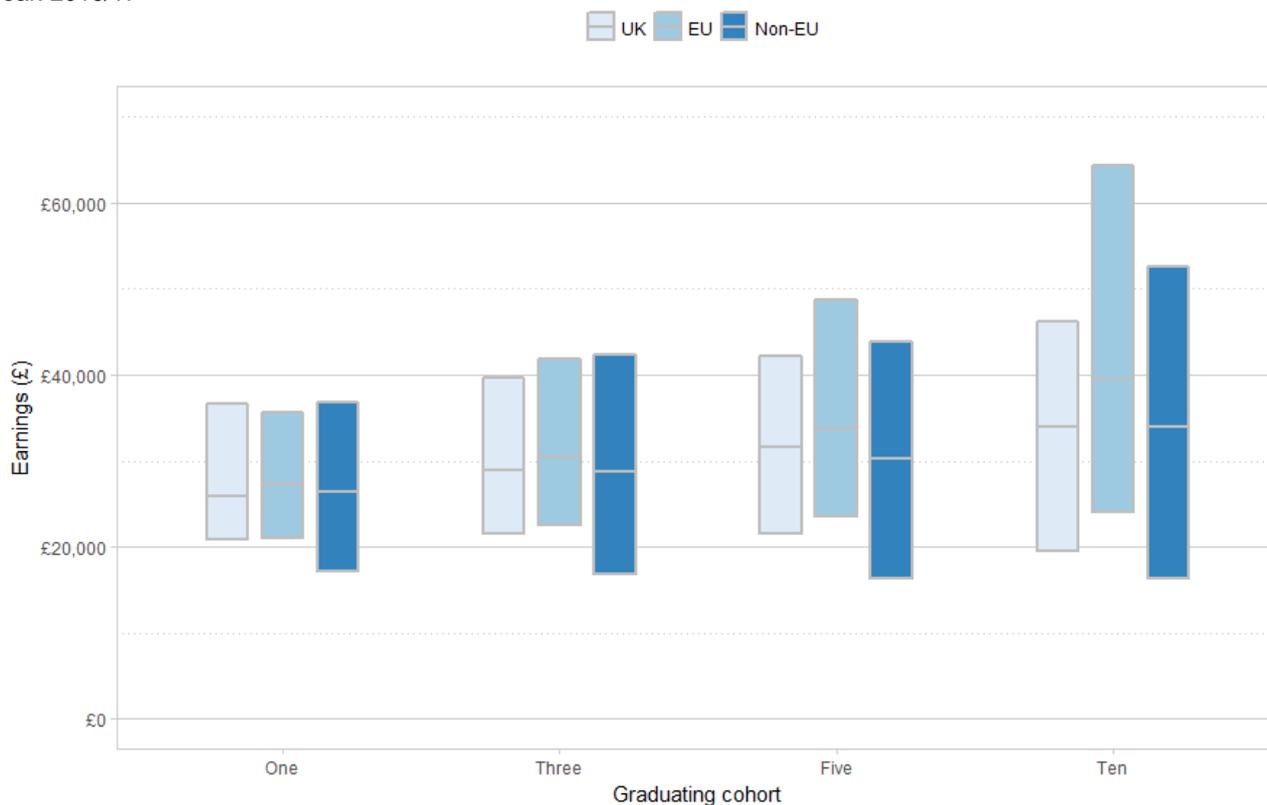
Chart 8 shows the earnings of Level 7 (taught) graduates. Only Level 7 (taught) graduates have been included in this section. Earnings data for Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates can be found in the tables accompanying this release. UK graduates have also been included in the chart for comparison with international graduates.

Chart 8: Earnings of UK and international postgraduates one, three, five and ten years after graduation by level of study

Coverage: UK, EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year)

Tax year: 2016/17



In line with the UK domiciled results, median earnings were higher for all levels of study ten years after graduation compared to one year after graduation. For UK graduates, Level 7 (taught) earnings were £26,000 one year after graduation and £34,000 ten years after graduation. This compares with £27,300 and £39,500 respectively for EU graduates, and £26,500 and £34,000 for Non-EU graduates.

Looking at changes over time (Table 11), every cohort of both EU and Non-EU domiciled graduates who have remained in employment in the UK has seen their earnings go up between 2014/15 and 2016/17. The largest increases are for graduates one year after graduation, increasing by £2,300 for EU domiciled graduates and £3,000 for Non-EU domiciled graduates.

For Non-EU graduates, the increase in average earnings over time goes down with years after graduation, and ten years after graduation the difference between 2014/15 and 2016/17 was only £300. However, the picture is more mixed for EU graduates – the second highest increase was for the ten years after graduation cohorts (£1,800), whilst the lowest increase was for the three years after graduation cohorts (£200).

Table 11: Earnings of international Level 7 (taught) postgraduates, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 tax years

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2003/04 (10 years after graduation), 2008/09 (5 years), 2010/11 (3 years), 2012/13 (1 year) Tax year: 2014/15

Cohorts: 2004/05 (10 years after graduation), 2009/10 (5 years), 2011/12 (3 years), 2013/14 (1 year) Tax year: 2015/16

Cohorts: 2005/06 (10 years after graduation), 2010/11 (5 years), 2012/13 (3 years), 2014/15 (1 year) Tax year: 2016/17

Years after graduation	Median earnings (£)					
	EU			Non-EU		
	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year	2014/15 tax year	2015/16 tax year	2016/17 tax year
One	25,000	26,100	27,300	23,500	24,400	26,500
Three	30,300	30,800	30,500	26,000	27,000	28,800
Five	32,400	33,300	33,800	28,900	30,100	30,200
Ten	37,700	39,300	39,500	33,700	33,500	34,000

For EU and Non-EU domiciled graduates, regardless of the level of study, males had higher median earnings than females (Table 12). The difference between female and male earnings was highest for EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) graduates (£7,500) and was lowest for Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught) graduates (£2,600).

Table 12: Median earnings of international postgraduates five years after graduation by level of study and sex

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 (taught), Level 7 (research) and Level 8 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Study level	Sex	EU		Non-EU	
		Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - median (£)	Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - median (£)
Level 7 (taught)	Female	1,905	31,500	3,110	28,500
	Male	1,360	39,000	4,840	31,100
Level 7 (research)	Female	45	31,000	55	27,000
	Male	20	36,100	55	29,800
Level 8	Female	330	36,200	410	34,500
	Male	360	40,300	630	40,000

Employment outcomes by country

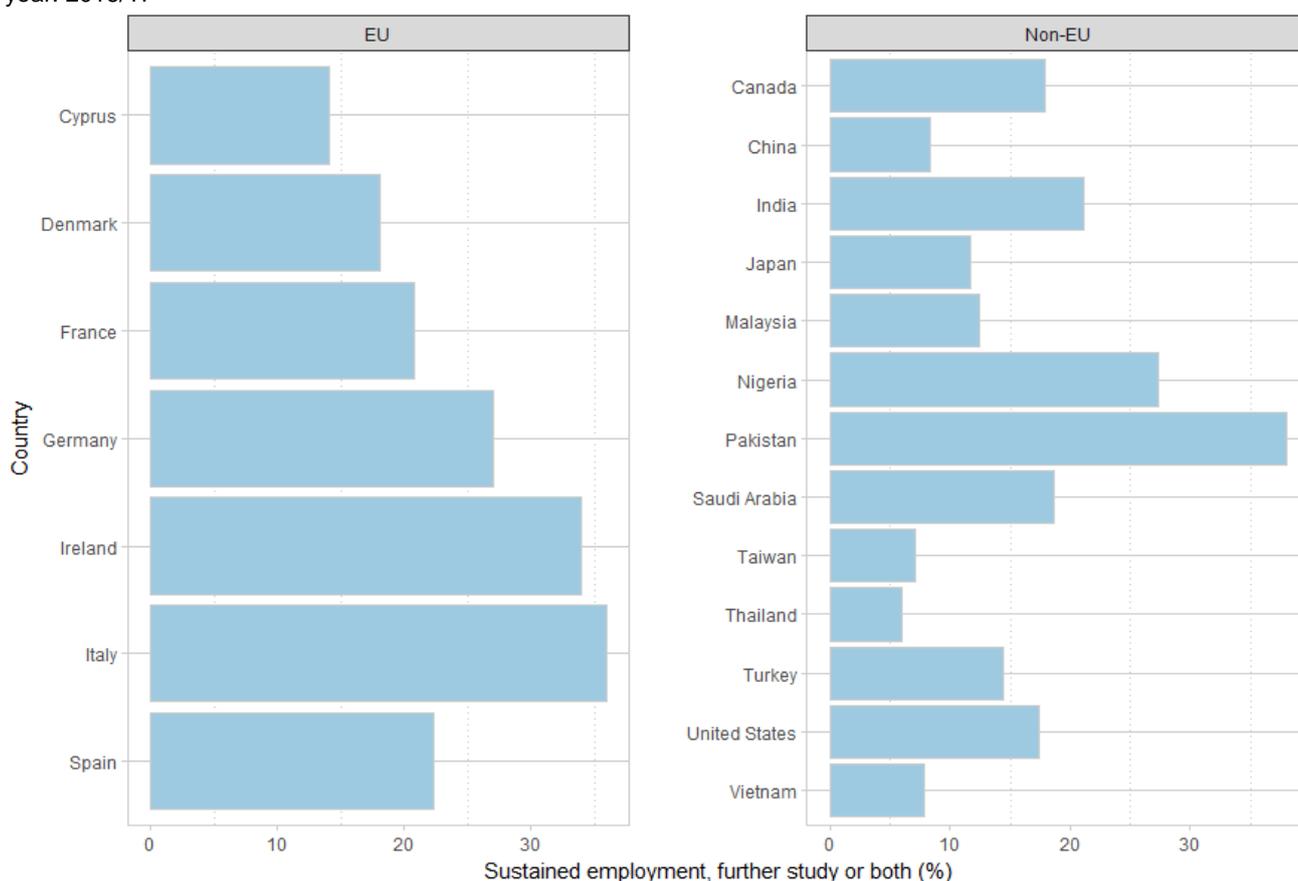
This section focuses on the employment and/or further study outcomes of international postgraduates five years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year, concentrating specifically on the twenty countries⁵ with the largest international graduate populations. This country level analysis was only performed on Level 7 graduates. Chart 9 shows the proportion of Level 7 graduates who were in sustained employment, further study or both.

Chart 9: Proportion of international postgraduates five years after graduation in sustained employment, further study or both by country

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17



Irrespective of domicile, the proportion of graduates in sustained employment, further study or both varied considerably between country. Of the EU countries, Italy had the highest proportion in sustained employment, further study or both (36%) and Cyprus had the lowest proportion (14.1%). Of the Non-EU countries, Pakistan had the highest proportion in sustained employment, further study or both (38%) and Thailand had the lowest proportion (6%).

⁵The top twenty countries by graduate population were initially identified from the 2016/17 tax year, one year after graduation. These countries were then used for subsequent analysis to allow for comparison between the remaining tax and academic years.

Table 13: Activity of international postgraduates five years after graduation by country

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Country	Domicile	Number of graduates	Unmatched (%)	Activity not captured (%)	No sustained destination (%)	Sustained employment only (%)	Sustained employment, further study or both (%)
India	Non-EU	14,230	16.5	60.7	1.7	19.3	21.1
China	Non-EU	14,055	65.3	25.5	0.8	6.4	8.4
Nigeria	Non-EU	4,930	18.9	50.6	3.2	20.6	27.4
United States	Non-EU	3,895	55.9	25.0	1.7	12.9	17.4
Germany	EU	2,655	55.9	14.8	2.3	20.3	27.0
Pakistan	Non-EU	2,490	15.4	42.8	3.9	33.0	38.0
Denmark	EU	2,470	60.6	19.2	2.1	13.1	18.1
France	EU	2,115	56.3	20.9	2.0	18.9	20.8
Thailand	Non-EU	2,080	67.2	26.2	0.6	4.0	6.0
Saudi Arabia	Non-EU	1,840	74.8	6.0	0.5	1.7	18.7
Taiwan	Non-EU	1,835	77.7	14.3	0.8	5.6	7.1
Ireland	EU	1,735	33.8	28.6	3.6	27.3	34.0
Cyprus	EU	1,510	72.1	12.3	1.6	9.7	14.1
Italy	EU	1,260	32.8	28.1	3.1	28.5	36.0
Canada	Non-EU	1,195	53.6	26.4	2.1	13.6	17.9
Malaysia	Non-EU	1,030	54.8	31.8	0.9	9.0	12.5
Turkey	Non-EU	995	61.1	23.4	1.1	10.4	14.4
Spain	EU	940	53.8	20.8	3.1	18.1	22.3
Japan	Non-EU	870	70.6	17.1	0.6	8.0	11.7
Vietnam	Non-EU	620	63.0	27.9	1.3	5.2	7.8

Earnings by country

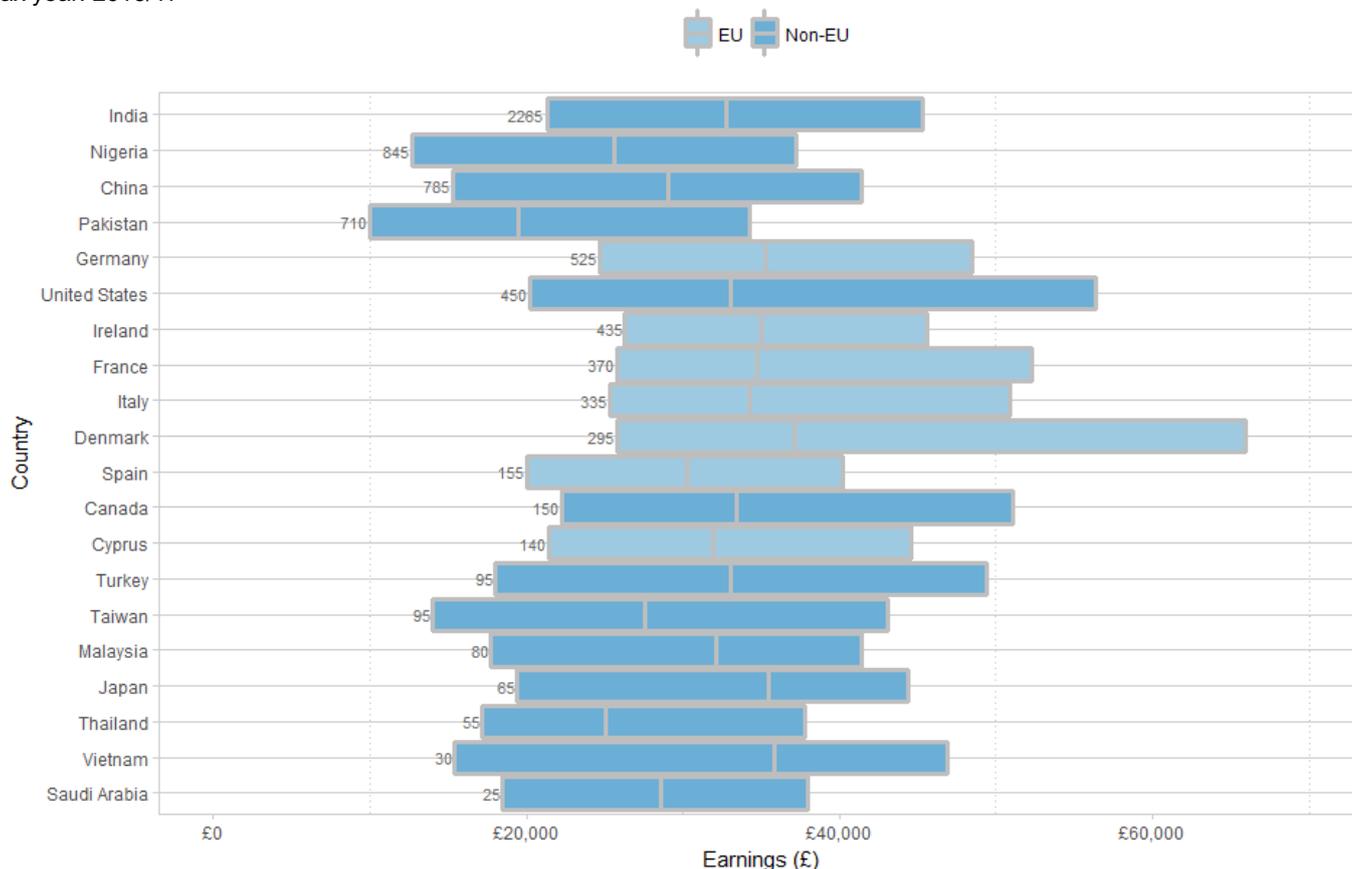
This section focuses on the median earnings of international postgraduates five years after graduation for the 2016/17 tax year, concentrating specifically on the twenty countries with the largest international graduate populations. This country level analysis was only performed on Level 7 graduates. Chart 10 shows the earnings of Level 7 graduates.

Chart 10: Earnings of international postgraduates five years after graduation by country

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17



For the EU countries, there was only a small amount of variability in earnings with Denmark having the highest median earnings (£37,100) and Spain having the lowest median earnings (£30,300). For the Non-EU countries, there was a larger amount of variability in earnings with Vietnam having the highest median earnings (£35,800) and Pakistan having the lowest median earnings (£19,500). For comparison, UK domiciled Level 7 median earnings were £31,700 five years after graduation.

There was also variability in the interquartile range of earnings between countries (Table 14). Ireland had the smallest interquartile range (£19,300) while Denmark had the largest interquartile range (£40,200).

Table 14: Earnings of international postgraduates five years after graduation by country

Coverage: EU and Non-EU domiciled Level 7 graduates from English HEIs

Cohorts: 2010/11 (5 years after graduation)

Tax year: 2016/17

Country	Domicile	Number of graduates	Number included in the earnings figures	Earnings - lower quartile (£)	Earnings - median (£)	Earnings - upper quartile (£)
India	Non-EU	14,230	2,265	21,300	32,800	45,300
China	Non-EU	14,055	785	15,300	29,100	41,400
Nigeria	Non-EU	4,930	845	12,700	25,600	37,200
United States	Non-EU	3,895	450	20,200	33,100	56,400
Germany	EU	2,655	525	24,700	35,300	48,500
Pakistan	Non-EU	2,490	710	10,000	19,500	34,300
Denmark	EU	2,470	295	25,800	37,100	66,000
France	EU	2,115	370	25,800	34,700	52,300
Thailand	Non-EU	2,080	55	17,200	25,100	37,800
Saudi Arabia	Non-EU	1,840	25	18,500	28,600	38,000
Taiwan	Non-EU	1,835	95	14,000	27,600	43,100
Ireland	EU	1,735	435	26,300	35,000	45,600
Cyprus	EU	1,510	140	21,400	31,900	44,600
Italy	EU	1,260	335	25,300	34,300	50,900
Canada	Non-EU	1,195	150	22,300	33,400	51,100
Malaysia	Non-EU	1,030	80	17,700	32,100	41,400
Turkey	Non-EU	995	95	18,000	33,100	49,400
Spain	EU	940	155	20,000	30,300	40,200
Japan	Non-EU	870	65	19,400	35,500	44,400
Vietnam	Non-EU	620	30	15,400	35,800	46,900

4. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-higher-education-graduate-employment-and-earnings>:

Main tables

Table 1: Employment outcomes of Level 7 UK graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 2: Employment outcomes of Level 7 international graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 3: Earnings of Level 7 UK and international graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 4: Activity of top 20 Level 7 international graduate populations one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 5: Employment outcomes of Level 8 UK graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 6: Employment outcomes of Level 8 international graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Table 7: Earnings of Level 8 UK and international graduates by subject, domicile and sex one, three, five and ten years after graduation

Underlying data

CSV format

Metadata

5. Glossary

Academic year: Runs from 1 August to 31 July. For example, the 2014/15 academic year ran from 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015.

Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH): A standardised way of classifying academic subjects and modules, maintained by HESA. In this publication, we group subjects using CAH Level 2 groupings.

CAH2 Code	Subject	CAH2 Code	Subject
CAH01-01	medicine and dentistry	CAH12-01	geographical and environmental studies
CAH02-01	nursing	CAH13-01	architecture, building and planning
CAH02-02	pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	CAH14-01	humanities and liberal arts (non-specific)
CAH02-03	subjects allied to medicine not otherwise specified	CAH15-01	sociology, social policy and anthropology
CAH03-01	biosciences	CAH15-02	economics
CAH03-02	sport and exercise sciences	CAH15-03	politics
CAH04-01	psychology	CAH15-04	health and social care
CAH05-01	veterinary sciences	CAH16-01	law
CAH06-01	agriculture, food and related studies	CAH17-01	business and management
CAH07-01	physics and astronomy	CAH18-01	communications and media
CAH07-02	chemistry	CAH19-01	English studies
CAH07-03	physical, material and forensic sciences	CAH19-02	Celtic studies
CAH08-01	general and others in sciences	CAH19-03	languages, linguistics and classics
CAH09-01	mathematical sciences	CAH20-01	history and archaeology

CAH10-01	engineering	CAH20-02	philosophy and religious studies
CAH10-02	technology	CAH21-01	creative arts and design
CAH11-01	computing	CAH22-01	education and teaching

Customer Information System (CIS): A computer system used by the Department for Work and Pensions that contains a record for all individuals that have been issued with a National Insurance (NINO) number. It contains basic identifying information such as name, address, date of birth and NINO.

Domicile: Indicates the domicile of a student from their **HESA** Student Record. Domicile records were taken from the year of graduation for each graduate. UK domicile indicates that the student was domiciled in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland prior to entry to the course. In line with HESA standard practice, students who were domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man were not considered to be UK domiciled or EU domiciled in this publication. As such, they have been included in the Non-EU category. EU domicile indicates that the student was domiciled in an EU country at the time of their graduation. This would include the latest wave of countries to join the EU such as Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia for 1, 3 and 5 years after graduation, but not for 10 years after graduation. Non-EU domicile includes any other country that is not classified as either UK or EU.

Degree level: Describes the level of study that a given graduate has completed. Data on the level of study completed for each academic year was taken from the **HESA** Student Record. These were broadly grouped into Level 7 (master's degrees) and Level 8 (doctoral degrees). In some cases, Level 7 was split into Level 7 (taught) for taught master's degrees and Level 7 (research) for research masters degrees. In addition, Postgraduate Certificate in Education and Masters in Business Administration were also split out from the Level 7 (taught) category where appropriate.

Enhanced or integrated undergraduate courses (e.g. MMath, MEng) that give you a postgraduate-level qualification are not included in our Level 7 population. In accordance with HESA Standard Practice, these degree courses are included in our first degree population. This is because you do not need to have completed a Level 6 qualification to apply for these courses.

Further study: The **HESA** Student Record is used to identify instances of further study in higher education. Students enrolled on further education courses, on some initial teacher training enhancement, booster and extension courses, whose study status is dormant, who were on sabbatical or who spent no more than 14 days on the course are excluded from this indicator. Each tax year spans two academic years; therefore, graduates will be flagged as being in further study if they have a HESA record in one of these two academic years.

HEI: Higher Education Institution.

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA): collects data from universities, higher education colleges and other specialist providers of higher education. In this publication, we have used the HESA Student Record to identify graduates from Higher Education Institutions within our base population as well as higher education further study instances.

Individualised Learner Record (ILR): used by the further education (FE) and skills sector in England to collect data about learners in the system and the learning undertaken by each of them. In this publication, we have used the ILR to identify graduates from Further Education Colleges within our base population.

National Pupil database (NPD): contains information about pupils in schools and colleges in England. It includes information on test and exam results, prior attainment and pupil progress, as well as pupil characteristics such as sex, ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals.

Nominal earnings: Nominal earnings represent the cash amount an individual was paid. They are not adjusted for inflation (the general increase in the price of goods and services).

PAYE: HMRC's system to collect Income Tax and National Insurance from employment. The LEO project uses information from the **P45** to ascertain employment spell length and from the **P14 (P60)** to determine annual earnings. See the [accompanying methodology note from our previous publication](#) for a discussion of how PAYE data has been used in LEO.

Self-assessment: Self-assessment data captures the activity of individuals with income that is not taxed through PAYE, such as income from self-employment, savings and investments, property rental, and shares.

Sustained employment: A learner is counted in sustained employment if they were recorded as being employed in 5 out of the 6 months between October and March in the tax year, for example, 5 out of 6 months between October 2010 and March 2011 for the 2010/11 tax year. Additionally, graduates are counted in sustained employment if they have returned a Self Assessment tax return stating that they have received income from self-employment and their earnings from a Partnership or Sole-Trader enterprise are more than £0 (profit from self-employment).

Sustained annualised earnings: The calculated average daily wage across the tax year grossed up to the equivalent annual figure. This is only calculated where the learner was in sustained employment. Self-assessed earnings have not been annualised. Earnings figures in this publication are **nominal**.

Tax year: Runs from 6 April to 5 April the following year. For example, the reference period covered by the 2015/16 tax year runs from 6 April 2015 to 5 April 2016.

6. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The Code of Practice for Statistics requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality. Where appropriate we apply disclosure control to protect confidentiality.

7. Get in touch

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Department for Education

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Reference: Graduate Outcomes (LEO): Postgraduate Outcomes in 2016 to 2017



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