

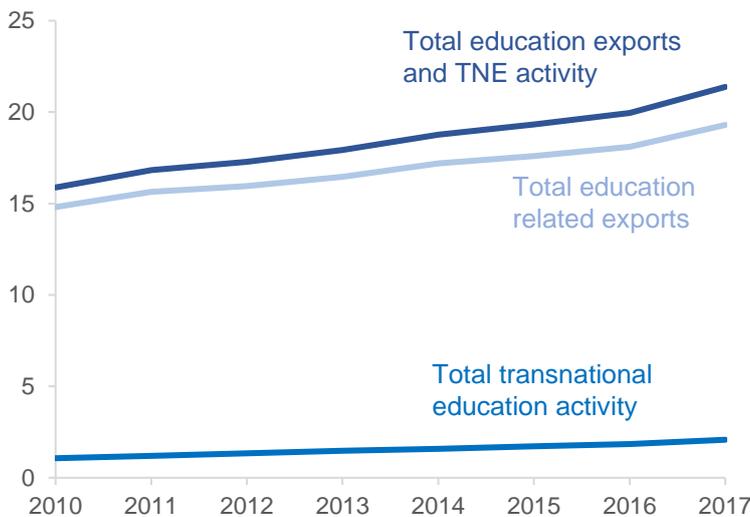


# UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity in 2017

5 December 2019

**UK revenue from education related exports and TNE activity increased to £21.4 billion in 2017, an increase of 7.2% since 2016 and 34.7% since 2010.**

**UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education (TNE) activities (£billions and current prices)**

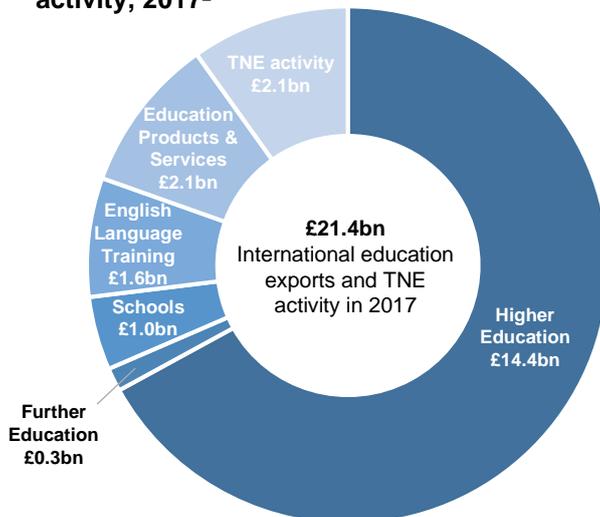


Total education exports and transnational education (TNE<sup>1</sup>) activity was estimated to be £21.4 billion in 2017, an increase of 7.2% since 2016 in current prices. Since 2010, the estimated value of education related exports and TNE activity has risen by 34.7% in current prices.

Total education related exports were estimated to be £19.3 billion in 2017, and have increased by 30.4% since 2010. TNE activity was estimated to be £2.1 billion in 2017 and has grown by 94.0% since 2010, albeit from a lower base.

**Higher Education accounts for 67% of the total revenue of education related exports and TNE activity.**

**UK revenue from education exports and TNE activity, 2017<sup>2</sup>**



Higher Education accounts for the largest share of revenue from education related exports and TNE activity. Higher Education Institutions contributed £14.4 billion (67%) of the total value. The revenue from other stages of education such as Further Education and Schools is comparably smaller at £0.3 billion and £1.0 billion, respectively.

<sup>1</sup> TNE – education programmes delivered ‘offshore’ either through partner institutions or directly through distance learning or international branch campuses

<sup>2</sup> Totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the parts due to rounding

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## About this release

This statistical first release contains the latest estimates of education related exports and transnational education activity, for the calendar year 2017. The publication draws on previous years data, which has been published [here](#), to provide a picture of the trends over time. These estimates attach a monetary value to education related exports and TNE activity to understand the contribution made to the UK economy.

This SFR presents information on:

- The total contribution from education related exports and transnational education activity (TNE) to the UK economy from 2010 through to 2017
- The proportionate change in education related exports and TNE activity in 2017 compared to 2016
- The revenue streams comprising education related exports and TNE activity
- The proportionate share of revenue streams comprising education related exports and TNE activity
- The income from EU and non-EU students in terms of tuition fees and living expenditure

## Technical document

Further detail on the methodology used to calculate education related exports and TNE activity can be found [here](#).

## Office of National Statistics (ONS), Pink Book

Readers should note that the export estimates in this publication are based on an experimental methodology designed to accurately estimate, using the latest available evidence and data, the different aspects of the UK's trade in education related goods and services. This includes capturing both direct expenditure and the associated expenditure that occurs where an international student visits the UK to consume those goods and services. As the methodology has been developed specifically for this purpose, the estimates are not necessarily directly comparable with goods and services breakdowns contained in ONS' Pink Book ([here](#)) estimates, which measure the balance of payments for the UK.

## In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

- UK revenue from education related exports and repatriated income from transnational education activities
- Breakdown by source of revenue

The accompanying technical document provides information on the methodology used in producing this data and the quality and coverage of data sources. Data tables can be found in the accompanying Excel document.

These measures are intended to quantify the value of education related exports and transnational education activity to the UK economy.

### **Experimental statistics**

These estimates are experimental statistics since they are still to be fully developed and rigorously tested to ensure they meet the required standard for national statistics. This is because the data used to compile these estimates come from multiple sources, some with varying quality or limited coverage.

As improvements are best made by publishing the data and opening up the discussion with data users, we would welcome feedback on the usefulness of the statistics and on the methodology we have used to produce them. We would also welcome ideas for appropriate data sources which could be used to assess the value of exports in these areas and suggestions on additional areas, outside of those already identified, which might contribute to the overall value of education-related exports.

### **Feedback**

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at [caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk](mailto:caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk)

# 1. UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education (TNE) activity (Table 1 & 2)

Figure 1 shows the increase in education related exports and TNE activity to £21.4 billion (current prices) in 2017. The value of education related exports and TNE activity has grown steadily since 2010. The overall value has increased by 34.7% or £5.5 billion in current prices since 2010. Education related exports account for £4.5 billion of the £5.5 billion increase and TNE accounts for £1.0 billion of the increase.

Since 2010, total education related exports have grown by 30.4% in current prices. TNE activity has grown at a significantly faster rate of 94.0% over the same period. However, this growth has occurred from a lower base.

**Figure 1: UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education (TNE) activities (£billions and current prices)**

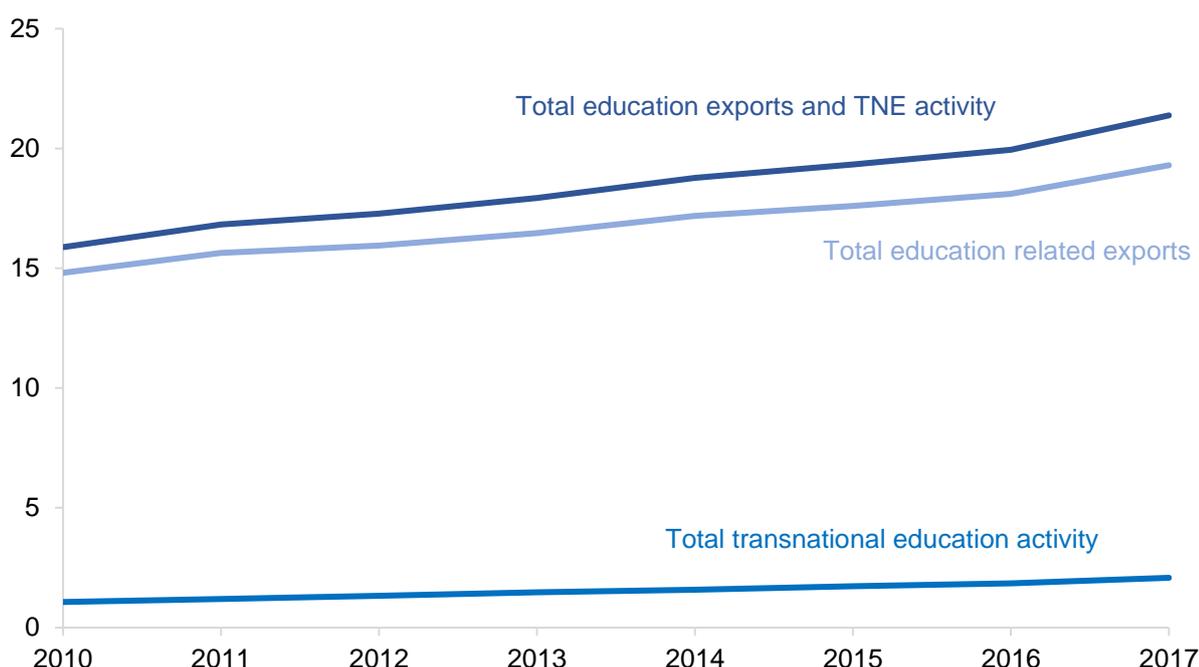


Table 1 shows the annual rate of change in estimates of education related exports since 2010. Between 2016 and 2017 total education exports and TNE activity grew by 7.2%, 4.1 percentage points higher than the rate of growth seen between 2015 and 2016. This reflects the higher growth rate in total education related exports which grew at 6.7% between 2016 and 2017, compared to 2.8% in the previous year.

**Table 1: Annual percentage change in education related exports and TNE activity**

	% change 2010 to 2011	% change 2011 to 2012	% change 2012 to 2013	% change 2013 to 2014	% change 2014 to 2015	% change 2015 to 2016	% change 2016 to 2017
Total education related exports	5.6	2.0	3.2	4.4	2.4	2.8	6.7
Total transnational education activity	10.9	11.8	10.7	7.5	9.6	6.9	12.3
Total education exports and TNE activity	6.0	2.7	3.8	4.7	3.0	3.1	7.2

**Table 2. Percentage change between 2010 and 2017 in revenue streams of education related exports and transnational education activity**

£million current prices to nearest £10 million,  
calendar years

	2010	2017	Change 2010-2017	% Change 2010-2017
<b>Higher Education - HEIs</b>				
Non-EU students				
Fee income	2,700	4,840	+2,135	79%
Living expenditure	3,860	4,910	+1,042	27%
(Scholarships awarded)	(40)	(60)	+20	48%
EU students				
Fee income	350	1,050	+702	201%
Living expenditure	1,580	1,980	+405	26%
Incoming Erasmus students (living expenditure)	260	420	+158	61%
(Cost to Govt of tuition fee loans)	(50)	(330)	+283	584%
Other				
Research and other contracts	760	1,390	+626	82%
Other (e.g. IP income)	100	230	+124	122%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>14,420</b>	<b>+4,890</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Further Education (Non-EU only)</b>				
Fee Income	230	90	-142	-61%
Living costs	650	170	-474	-73%
Other income	40	40	+5	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-611</b>	<b>-67%</b>
<b>Independent schools</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>+341</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>English Language Training</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>-662</b>	<b>-30%</b>
<b>Education Products and Services</b>				
Qualification awarding bodies	140	290	+143	101%
Education-related publishing	870	1,020	+148	17%
Education-related equipment	480	740	+254	52%
Education-related broadcasting	10	10	-8	-59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>+537</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION RELATED EXPORTS</b>	<b>14,810</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>+4,496</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Transnational Education</b>				
Higher Education	350	640	+284	80%
Further Education	30	30	+4	13%
Schools	610	1,290	+680	112%
English Language Training	80	120	+39	48%
<b>TOTAL TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>+1006</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION EXPORTS AND TNE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>15,880</b>	<b>21,380</b>	<b>+5,502</b>	<b>35%</b>

Totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the parts due to rounding  
Figures in brackets are subtracted

## 2. Share of education related exports and TNE by value of revenue stream (Tables 3 & 4)

**Figure 2: Share by revenue stream of education related exports and repatriated income from transnational education activities, 2017 (£billions in current prices)**

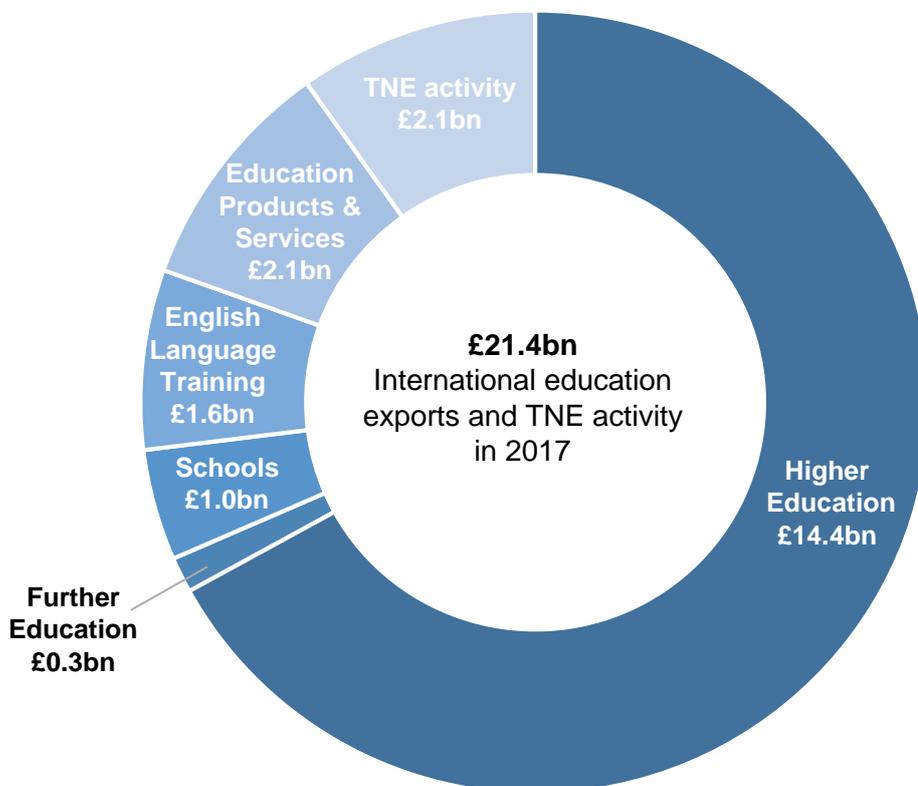


Figure 2 shows the composition of revenue streams in total education related exports and TNE activity in 2017. Higher education was the main contributor with £14.4 billion of export revenue. In comparison, Further Education, which consists of non-EU students only, accounted for £0.3 billion (see methodology for further information on how this is calculated). The income generated from Education Products and Services and TNE activity is broadly similar. English Language Training and Independent Schools generated £1.6 billion and £1.0 billion, respectively.

Table 3 sets out the components of each revenue stream between 2010 and 2017. It shows that, in 2017, EU and non-EU Higher Education students at UK universities generated an estimated £12.8 billion<sup>2</sup> in exports through living expenditure and tuition fees, which accounts for around 60% of the total value of education exports and TNE activity.

<sup>2</sup> EU and non-EU students generated £3.1 billion and £9.7 billion respectively, minus the cost of scholarships awarded and cost to Government of tuition fee loans.

**Table 3. UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity**

	£million current prices to nearest £10 million, calendar years							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Higher Education - HEIs</b>								
Non-EU students								
Fee income	2,700	3,040	3,340	3,650	4,000	4,300	4,530	4,840
Living expenditure	3,860	4,140	4,270	4,380	4,550	4,600	4,670	4,910
(Scholarships awarded)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(40)	(50)	(60)	(60)
EU students								
Fee income	350	380	430	530	630	700	840	1,050
Living expenditure	1,580	1,680	1,710	1,680	1,700	1,730	1,820	1,980
Incoming Erasmus students (living expenditure)	260	280	310	330	340	380	390	420
(Cost to Govt of tuition fee loans)	(50)	(50)	(60)	(80)	(100)	(150)	(260)	(330)
Other								
Research and other contracts	760	840	970	1,100	1,190	1,250	1,310	1,390
Other (e.g. IP income)	100	110	120	140	170	190	210	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>10,390</b>	<b>11,040</b>	<b>11,690</b>	<b>12,440</b>	<b>12,940</b>	<b>13,440</b>	<b>14,420</b>
<b>Further Education (Non-EU only)</b>								
Fee Income	230	260	160	130	110	90	90	90
Living costs	650	720	450	260	210	190	170	170
Other income	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>Independent schools</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>970</b>
<b>English Language Training</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,570</b>
<b>Education Products and Services</b>								
Qualification awarding bodies	140	160	180	210	230	250	270	290
Education-related publishing	870	860	860	940	940	920	950	1,020
Education-related equipment	480	510	560	560	580	610	660	740
Education-related broadcasting	10	10	20	20	20	10	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>2,050</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION RELATED EXPORTS</b>	<b>14,810</b>	<b>15,640</b>	<b>15,950</b>	<b>16,460</b>	<b>17,190</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>18,090</b>	<b>19,300</b>
<b>Transnational Education</b>								
Higher Education	350	400	470	510	550	580	610	640
Further Education	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Schools	610	670	730	830	900	1,010	1,100	1,290
English Language Training	80	90	90	100	100	100	110	120
<b>TOTAL TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>2,080</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION EXPORTS AND TNE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>15,880</b>	<b>16,830</b>	<b>17,280</b>	<b>17,930</b>	<b>18,770</b>	<b>19,330</b>	<b>19,940</b>	<b>21,380</b>

Totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the parts due to rounding

Figures in brackets are subtracted

Over the period 2010 to 2017 the share of Higher Education to the total value of education related exports and TNE activity has increased by 7 percentage points from 60% to 67%. TNE activity has increased by 3 percentage points over the same period from 7% to 10% (Table 4).

The share of English Language Training and Further Education (non-EU students) have both fallen by 7 and 5 percentage points respectively; the ELT share dropping from 14% to 7% and the Further Education share dropping from 6% to 1%.

**Table 4. Share by revenue stream of total education related exports and transnational education activity from 2010 to 2017**

	% share of total education exports and TNE activity							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Higher Education - HEIs	60%	62%	64%	65%	66%	67%	67%	67%
Further Education (Non-EU only)	6%	6%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Independent schools	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
English Language Training	14%	12%	11%	10%	10%	9%	8%	7%
Education Products and Services	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	10%
Transnational Education	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	10%
<b>Total value education exports and transnational education activity</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	£15.88 bn	£16.83 bn	£17.28 bn	£17.93 bn	£18.77 bn	£19.33 bn	£19.94 bn	£21.38 bn

Totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the parts due to rounding

We have revised 2016 estimates for EU tuition fee income and the associated cost to the government of tuition fee loans due to improved availability of data. This has resulted in our estimate for EU tuition fee income to be revised upwards, however, the increase is relatively small. For more information please refer to the technical document. Table 5 shows the original and revised estimates for 2016.

**Table 5. Revised 2016 estimates**

£million current prices to nearest £10 million,  
calendar years

	<b>2016 Original</b>	<b>2016 Revised</b>
<b>Higher Education - HEIs</b>		
Non-EU students		
Fee income	4,530	4,530
Living expenditure	4,670	4,670
(Scholarships awarded)	(60)	(60)
EU students		
Fee income	810	840
Living expenditure	1,820	1,820
Incoming Erasmus students (living expenditure)	390	390
(Cost to Govt of tuition fee loans)	(250)	(260)
Other		
Research and other contracts	1,310	1,310
Other (e.g. IP income)	210	210
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,420</b>	<b>13,440</b>
<b>Further Education (Non-EU only)</b>		
Fee Income	90	90
Living costs	170	170
Other income	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Independent schools</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>930</b>
<b>English Language Training</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,550</b>
<b>Education Products and Services</b>		
Qualification awarding bodies	270	270
Education-related publishing	950	950
Education-related equipment	660	660
Education-related broadcasting	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>1,880</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION RELATED EXPORTS</b>	<b>18,080</b>	<b>18,090</b>
<b>Transnational Education</b>		
Higher Education	610	610
Further Education	30	30
Schools	1,100	1,100
English Language Training	110	110
<b>TOTAL TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,850</b>
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION EXPORTS AND TNE ACTIVITY</b>	<b>19,930</b>	<b>19,940</b>

Totals will not necessarily equal the sum of the parts due to rounding

Figures in brackets are subtracted

### 3. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website [here](#):

#### National tables

##### Table 1

Annual percentage change in education related exports and TNE activity

##### Table 2

Percentage change between 2010 and 2017 in revenue streams of education related exports and transnational education activity

##### Table 3

UK revenue from education related exports and transnational education activity, 2010 – 2017

##### Table 4

Share of total education related exports and transnational education activity by revenue stream from 2010 to 2017

##### Table 5

Revised 2016 estimates

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

- The percentage change in table 4 shows the market share of each component of education related exports and transnational education activity, the percentages for each year sum to 100%. In contrast table 2 shows the percentage change in 2017 compared to 2010, showing how the different components have grown or declined in this period.

## 4. Further information

- A detailed technical note is published alongside this publication
- Previously published figures for 2010 to 2014 are available [here](#)
- Figures for 2015 were first published [here](#).
- Figure for 2016 were first published [here](#).

## 5. Technical information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

## 6. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

### Other enquiries/feedback

Caitlin Brown Higher Education Analysis, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 07392863785 Email: [caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk](mailto:caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk)



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email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

Enquiries Caitlin Brown, Higher Education Analysis, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

Tel: Email: [caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk](mailto:caitlin.brown@education.gov.uk)

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