

West Midlands

Introduction

The West Midlands region has an area of just under 13,000 km². Around 5.3 million people live in the region, giving a population density of 410 people per km², just over half of them live in large conurbations. The main population centre is based around Birmingham which, with a population of just less than 1 million people, lies at the heart of a conurbation covering the Black Country, Solihull and Coventry. This places Birmingham as the second largest city in the UK. Other significant urban areas are Coventry, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Worcester.

The economy

The government office for the West Midlands describes the region as follows:

'Despite a recent decline, manufacturing remains an important element in the economy, accounting for 20.4 per cent of all regional employment. The service sector has expanded; increasing to over 250,000 jobs and now represents 70 per cent of the region's employment. The West Midlands is a major exporting region, accounting for approximately 8 per cent of the national total by value. It has also proved successful in attracting foreign direct investment – attracting nearly 2,000 overseas companies to set up facilities here, with the main centres being Birmingham, Coventry and Telford.'

Further information is available at: www.gos.gov.uk/gowm/OurReg/.

In 2004 the economic output of the West Midlands region was £81.7 billion, 8.1 per cent of the total UK gross value added (GVA). In spring 2005 the unemployment rate was 4.4 per cent compared with England's 4.6 per cent, however the rate in 2002-03 varied from 2.1 per cent in Worcestershire and 7.7 per cent in the West Midlands Metropolitan County.

The total income of higher education institutions in the region is £1,386 million per year.

Qualification levels

In spring 2005, 14.8 per cent of the West Midlands working age population's highest qualification was degree level or above, this compares with 17.9 per cent for England. The school leavers' qualifications table shows the range within the region: in Walsall 5.1 per cent leave school with no graded results, while in Hereford the figure is 1.6 per cent.

Higher education provision

There are 12 higher education institutions in the West Midlands: nine universities and three higher education colleges. There are an additional 37 further education colleges (FECs) with students taking higher education courses. Nine of these FECs in Staffordshire and Shropshire have joined Staffordshire University to form a consortium – Staffordshire University Regional Federation.

The higher education student population is 190,700; this equates to 131,450 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, and includes 7,580 students registered with FECs in the region. The higher education institutions range in size from the University of Birmingham with 30,725 students, to Newman College of Higher Education with 2,600 students.

Most of the higher education provision is in the east of the region. The largest concentration is in the Birmingham and Solihull area, with three universities, two higher education colleges and seven FECs providing higher education (HE) courses.

Student profile

A high proportion of students in the West Midlands study part-time. In 2005-06 the inflow of young full-time first degree students was less than the flow out of the region. The percentage of young full-time first degree entrants from low participation neighbourhoods is relatively high in this region.

HEFCE developments

The West Midlands has a number of HEFCE-funded developments. These include nine Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in various areas such as transport and product design, health and social care, and professionals in the rural economy.

The region has four Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs) and has achieved full coverage of the region. The four LLNs cover the sub regions and are as follows: Birmingham, Black Country and Solihull; Coventry and Warwickshire; Hereford and Worcestershire; Staffordshire, Shropshire, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Wrekin.

Each LLN covers a range of subject areas and aims to target specific learners. These are as follows:

Birmingham, the Black Country and Solihull LLN focuses on health, social care, early years and education; construction; high technology engineering; health sciences and medical technology. Its target groups are:

- young people on vocational courses such as NVQ or the new specialised diplomas in schools, colleges, colleges or who are in apprenticeships/work-based learning
- people already in employment who need to upskill into new areas of knowledge across role boundaries and in newly developed areas in their specialism
- people already in employment who are involved in Continuing Professional Development and want to use it to progress in higher education
- people working in voluntary and community settings seeking new or continuing qualifications.

Coventry and Warwickshire Lifelong Learning Network (CWLLN) will initially focus on the skill needs of the construction, cultural and creative, engineering and health, care and early years sectors, with cross cutting themes of leadership, management and enterprise skills. The focus of the project is on all vocational learners from 16 years upward but will primarily target those undertaking apprenticeship programmes and adults in employment. At the same time, CWLLN has a particular interest in tracking the major reforms planned for vocational learning for 14-19 year olds and developing appropriate progression routes for these learners so that progression from specialised diplomas into higher education is seamless.

'Moving on Up', the Hereford and Worcestershire LLN, focuses on health, care, management and leadership. It will help all vocational learners including older learners and those in employment to realise the potential of their study and plan their future development. There will be particular focus on rural learners.

Staffordshire, Shropshire, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Wrekin LLN's focus is on public sector/public services, health & care, creative and media, technology. In addition to this there are cross-cutting themes of IT, enterprise, leadership and management. The LLN will focus its recruitment on young people at 18/19+, and adults, both individuals and employees supported by their employers.

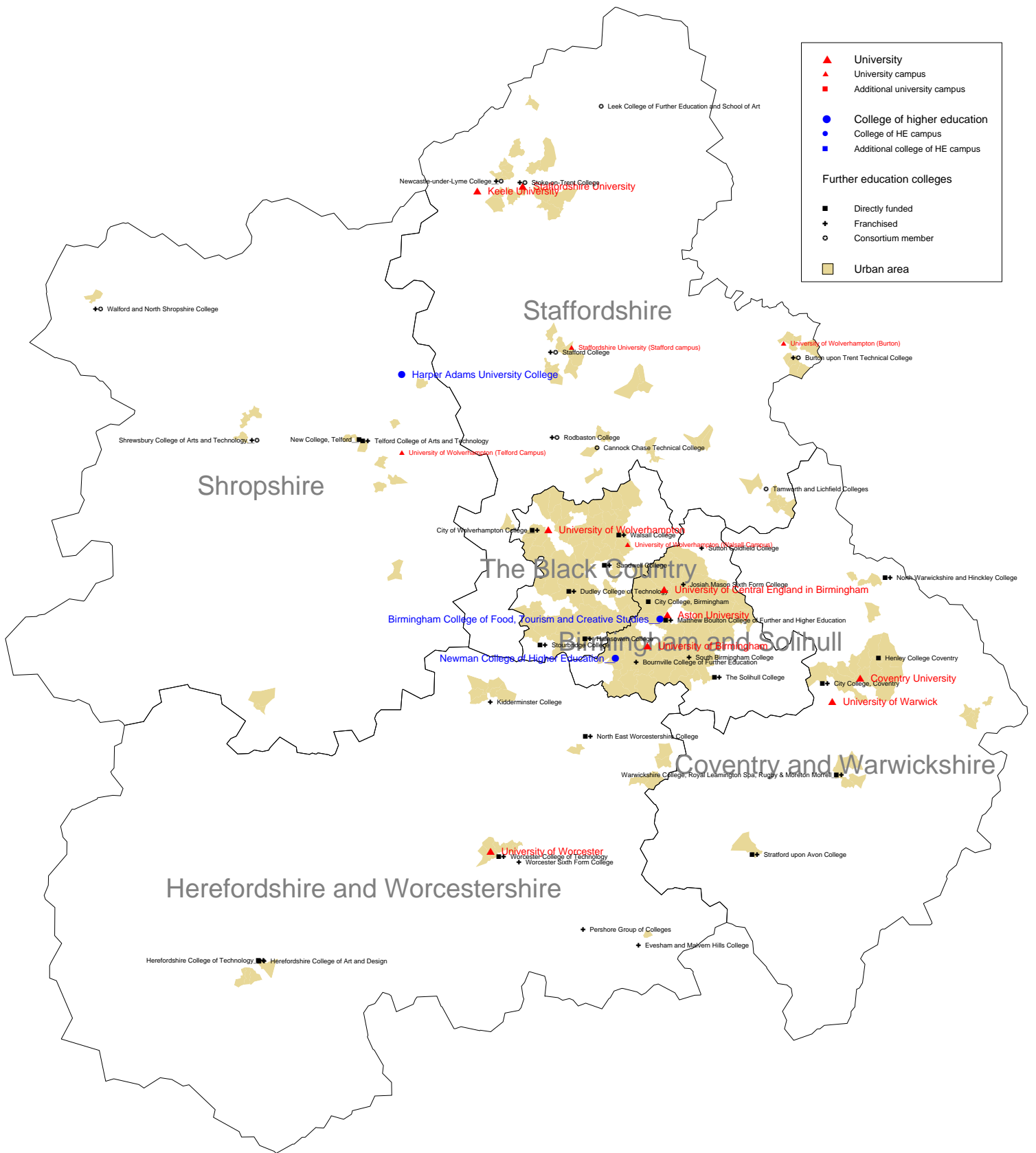
An award from our Strategic Development Fund (SDF) is supporting an innovative library development on the new Castle Street campus of the University of Worcester. This joint project will see the main county, university, Worcester College of Technology and Chamber of Commerce libraries combined to provide an 'integrated library and information hub'. The building itself will face both the new campus and the city centre, providing a physical and social link between the two that will help to raise aspirations and attainment, and widen participation.

One of the strengths of the region is the excellent link between HE and business. Recently this area has seen some new developments with higher education institutions (HEIs) engaging with employers and improving business interaction. Coventry University is piloting an employer engagement project which aims to create sustainable partnerships in which learners, employers and higher education interact effectively to design and deliver innovative, tailored learning solutions that develop higher value-added capabilities in the workplace. Harper Adams University College has a project delivering blended learning which will incorporate the production of on-line accessible and CD-based support materials, quality enhancement support for trainers, and an on-line registration and assessment system.

Coventry University has also been awarded SDF funding to establish a Health Design and Technology Institute which will support small and medium-sized enterprises in the healthcare sector, develop research facilities and projects, and deliver courses in design and healthcare.

Finally the Universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Warwick have jointly been awarded £3.9 million to combine their expertise and create a partnership of excellence in physics research and education; the project is entitled the Midlands Physics Alliance.

The Alliance will bring together leading academics from all three institutions, to undertake large scale research. The Alliance is also forming a graduate school, which will attract the best students from across the world. It is hoped that this centre will help inspire the next generation of leading scientists.



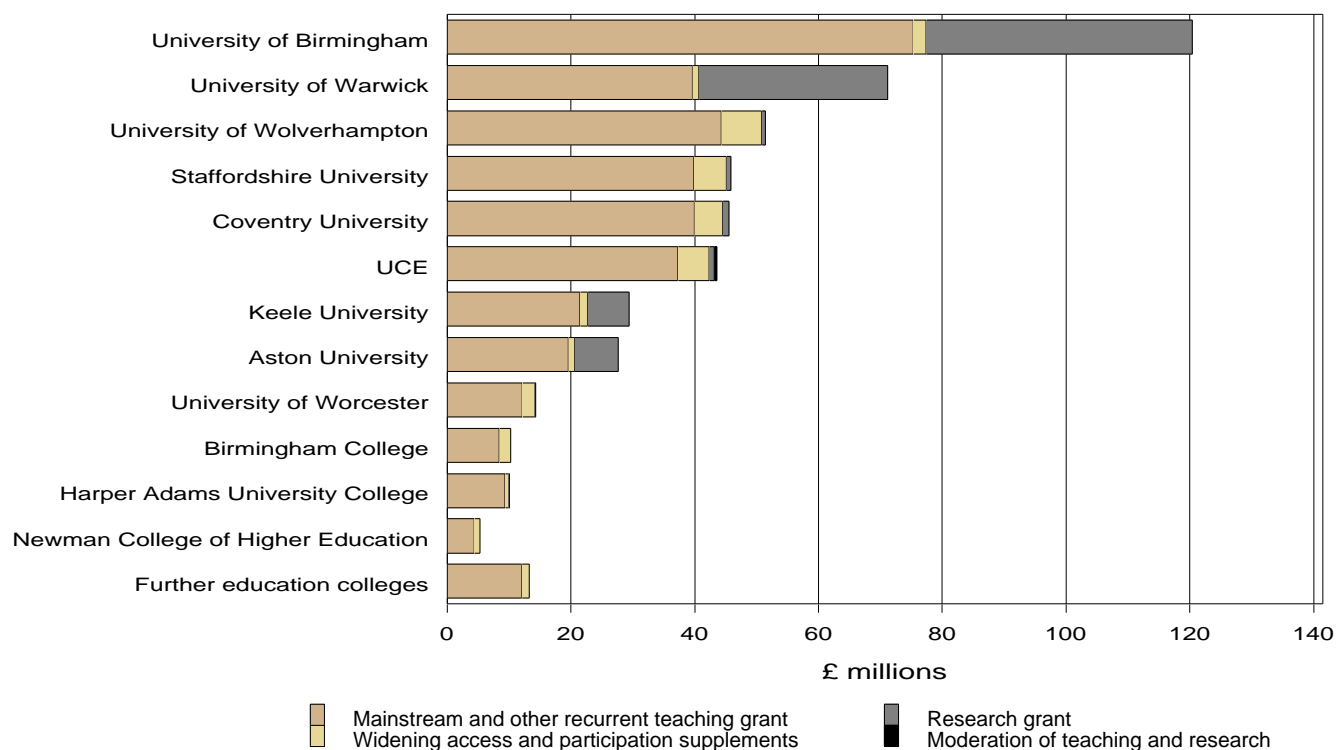
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HEFCE funding and related student numbers at West Midlands institutions

Number of students completing the year	2005-06		2006-07	
	All students	All students	Home and EC fundable	Other funding status
Universities	150,031	147,974	110,317	37,657
Other HE institutions	7,283	8,229	5,651	2,578
Further education colleges	4,242	4,003	3,791	212
Total	161,556	160,206	119,759	40,447

FTEs of students completing the year	2005-06		2006-07	
	All students	All students	Home and EC fundable	Other funding status
Universities	116,477	116,501	83,838	32,663
Other HE institutions	6,142	6,536	4,761	1,776
Further education colleges	3,299	3,186	2,977	209
Total	125,917	126,223	91,576	34,647

HEFCE recurrent grants for 2007-08



HEFCE-recognised funding consortia 2006-07.

Lead institution	Consortia member	Student numbers	Estimated FTEs
Staffordshire University	Burton upon Trent Technical College	487	387
	Cannock Chase Technical College	66	52
	Leek College of Further Education and School of Art	105	83
	Newcastle-under-Lyme College	328	261
	Rodbaston College	6	5
	Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology	200	159
	Stafford College	359	285
	Stoke-on-Trent College	399	317
	Tamworth and Lichfield Colleges	303	241
	Walford and North Shropshire College	86	68

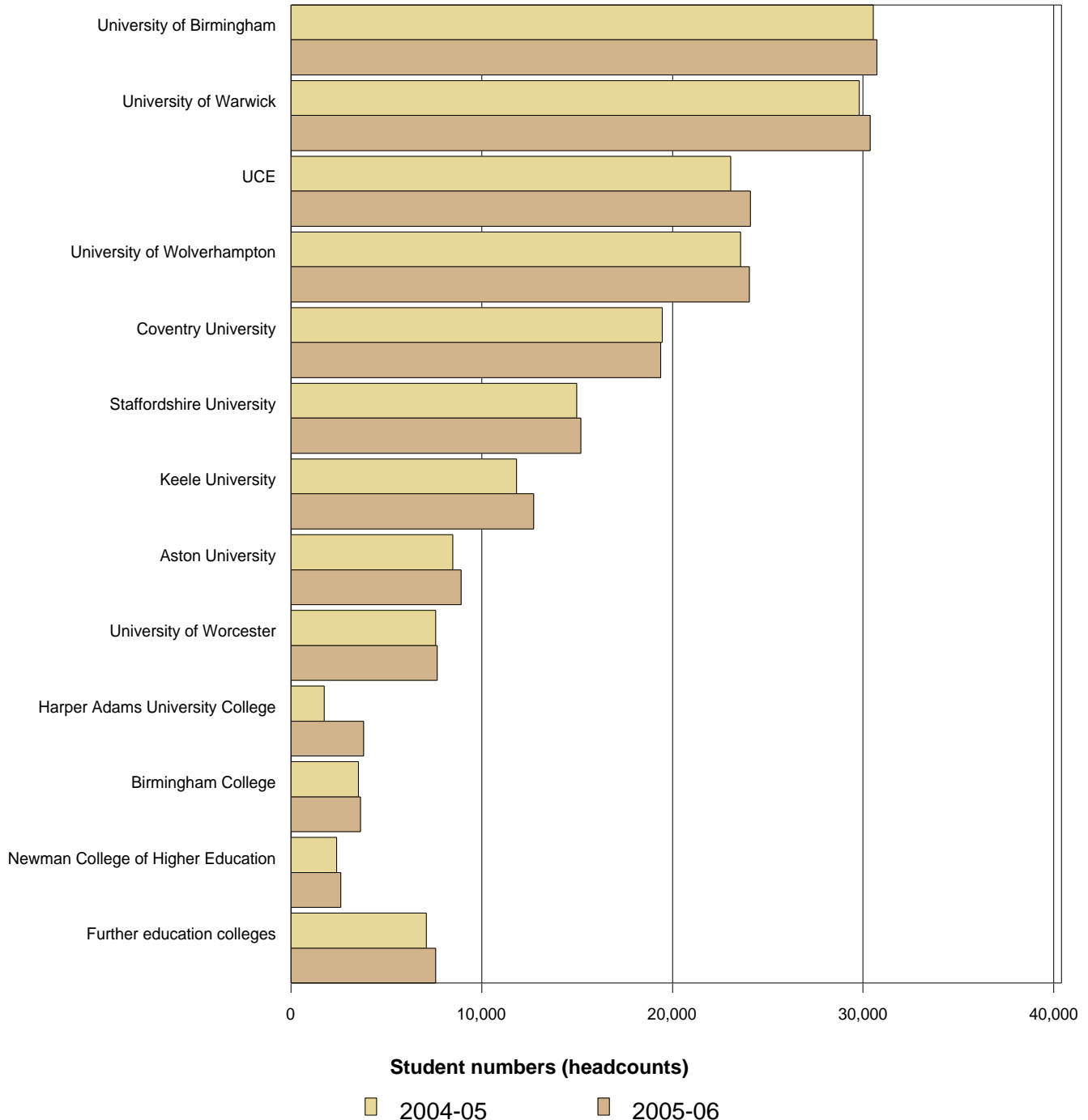
HE students registered at West Midlands institutions

2004-05 and 2005-06

Student numbers are based on HESA and ILR data

Headcounts: 2004-05		2005-06	FTEs: 2004-05		2005-06
In HE institutions:	176,963	183,124	In HE institutions:	124,081	125,791
In FE colleges:	7,091	7,578	In FE colleges:	5,074	5,660
Total:	184,054	190,702	Total:	129,155	131,450

Higher education student numbers by institution 2004-05 and 2005-06



Learning in the West Midlands

2005-06

HE students registered and taught in the West Midlands

Type	Headcounts	FTEs
HEI	173,231	121,024
Franchised	3,689	2,370
FEC	8,095	6,084

Open University students domiciled in the West Midlands

Headcounts	FTEs
11,276	4,250

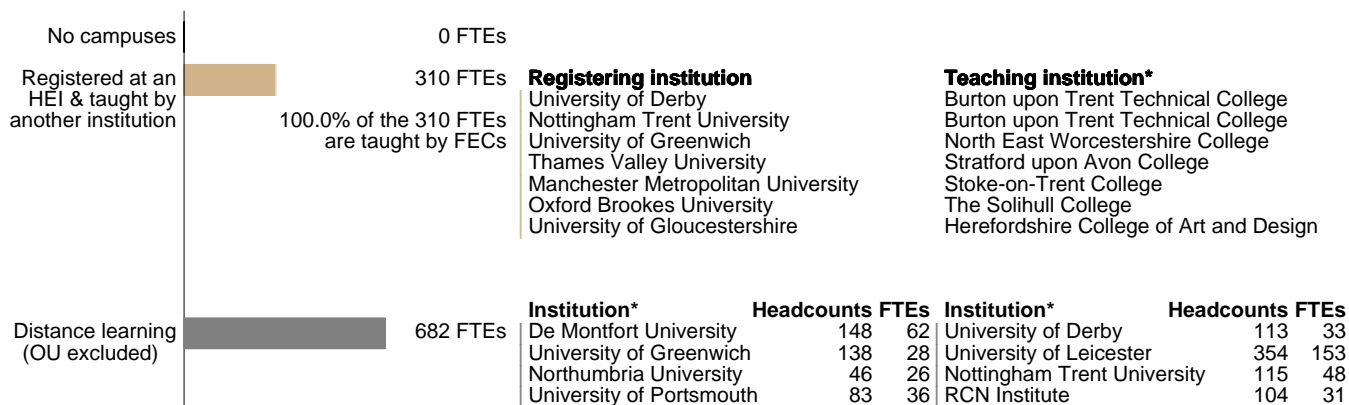
Registered in the West Midlands but learning outside the West Midlands

Method of learning (FTEs)



Registered outside the West Midlands but learning in the West Midlands

Method of learning (FTEs)

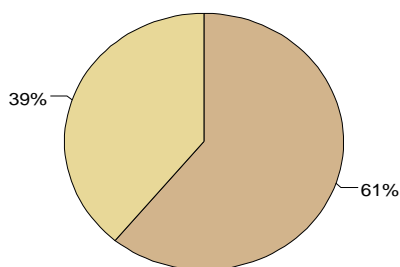


* Institutions with fewer than 20 FTEs have been excluded.

HE students registered at HEIs 2005-06: characteristics

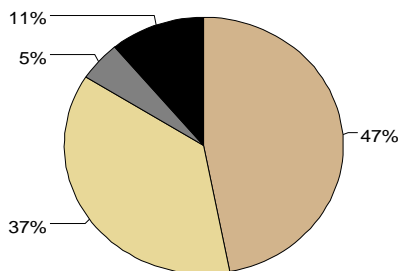
Headcounts

Students by mode



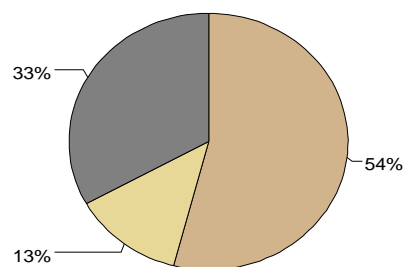
■ Full-time & sandwich
■ Part-time

Students by domicile



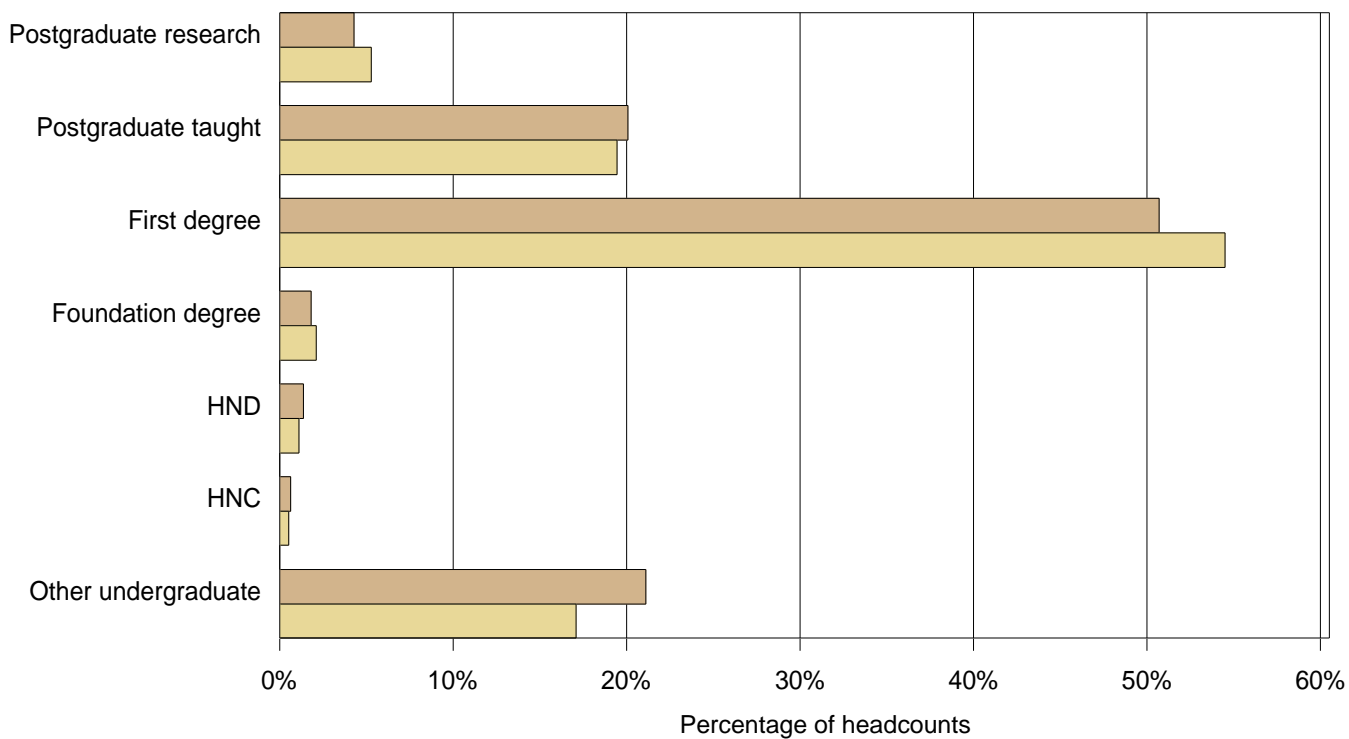
■ From the region
■ Other UK
■ Other EU
■ Rest of the world

Undergraduates by age on entry



■ Young
■ 21-24 years old
■ Mature

Students by level



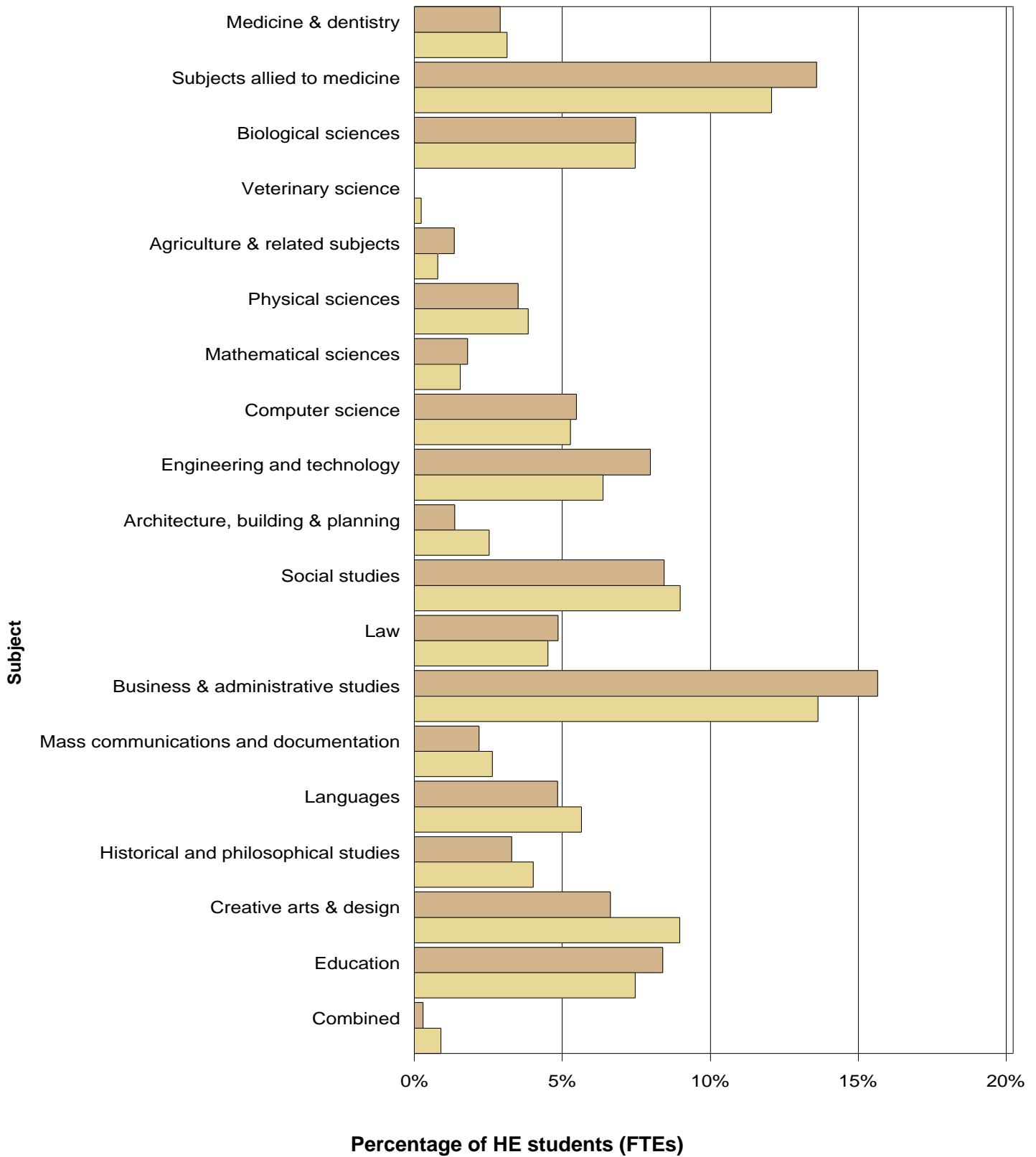
■ West Midlands ■ England

FTEs

Rest of the world (% of FTEs):	10.9	Part-time (% of FTEs):	16.7
Young (% of UG FTEs):	67.7	PG (% of FTEs):	17.3
Mature (% of UG FTEs):	19.8	Male (% of FTEs):	44.4
Franchised (% of FTEs):	2.3		

HE students registered at HEIs: subject

2005-06 (Open University excluded)

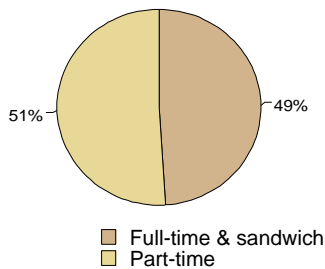


West Midlands England

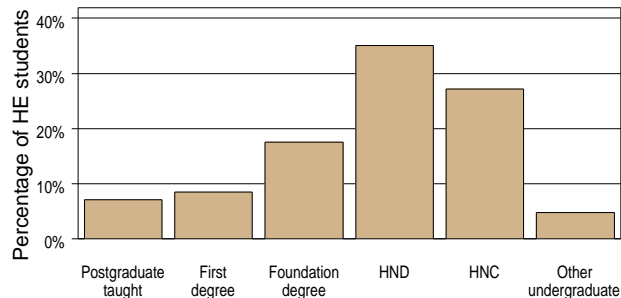
HE students at FE colleges

Characteristics of students registered at FECs 2005-06

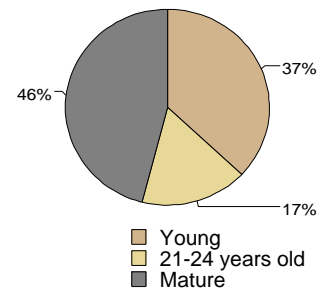
Headcounts by mode



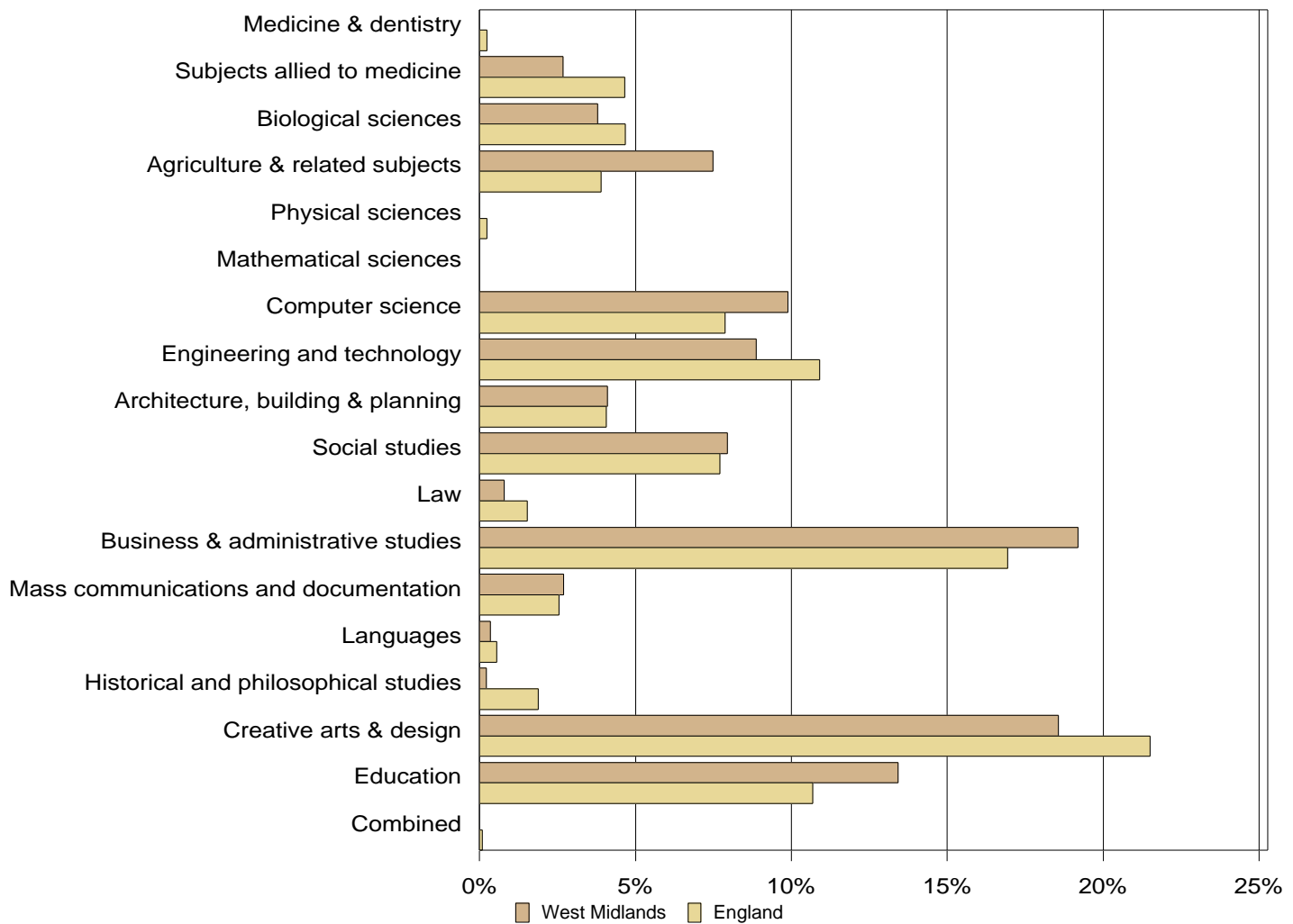
Headcounts by qualification aim



Headcounts by age on entry



Subject breakdown



Percentage of total FTE student population 2005-06

Major FEC providers of HE 2005-06

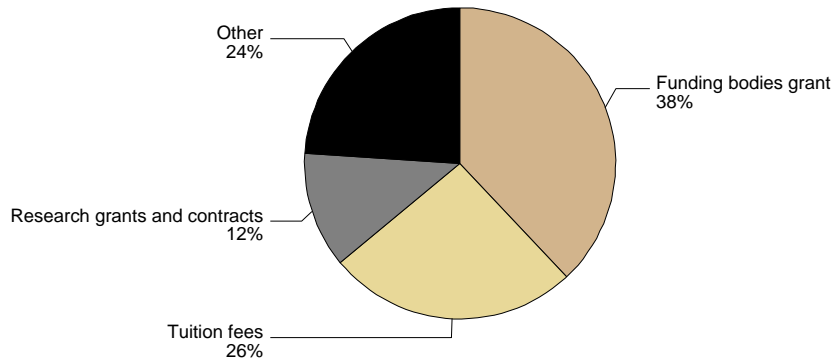
College name	FEC registered FTEs	HEI registered FTEs	Total FTEs
Warwickshire College, Royal Leamington	769	22	791
South Birmingham College	345	352	696
Worcester College of Technology	415	223	638
Josiah Mason Sixth Form College	285	159	444
Burton upon Trent Technical College	346	85	430
Stafford College	389	35	424
North East Worcestershire College	336	57	393
The Solihull College	341	43	383
Stoke-on-Trent College	290	41	331
Sutton Coldfield College	0	310	310

Students registered at an HEI, and taught by an FEC in the region (2005-06): Headcounts: 4,107 FTEs: 2,634

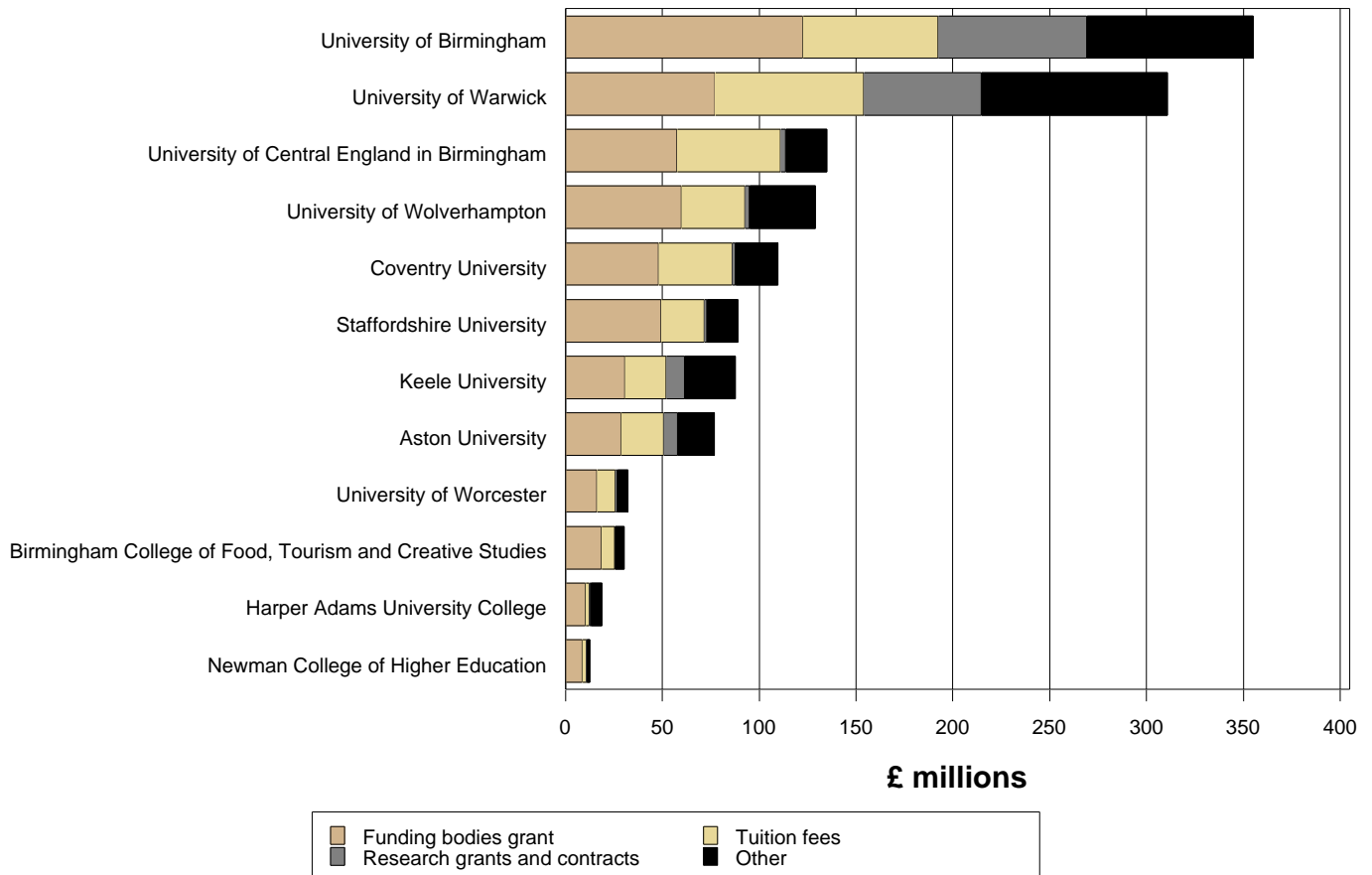
Income to HE institutions 2005-06

Total income to all HEIs: £1,386 million

Income to all HEIs by source



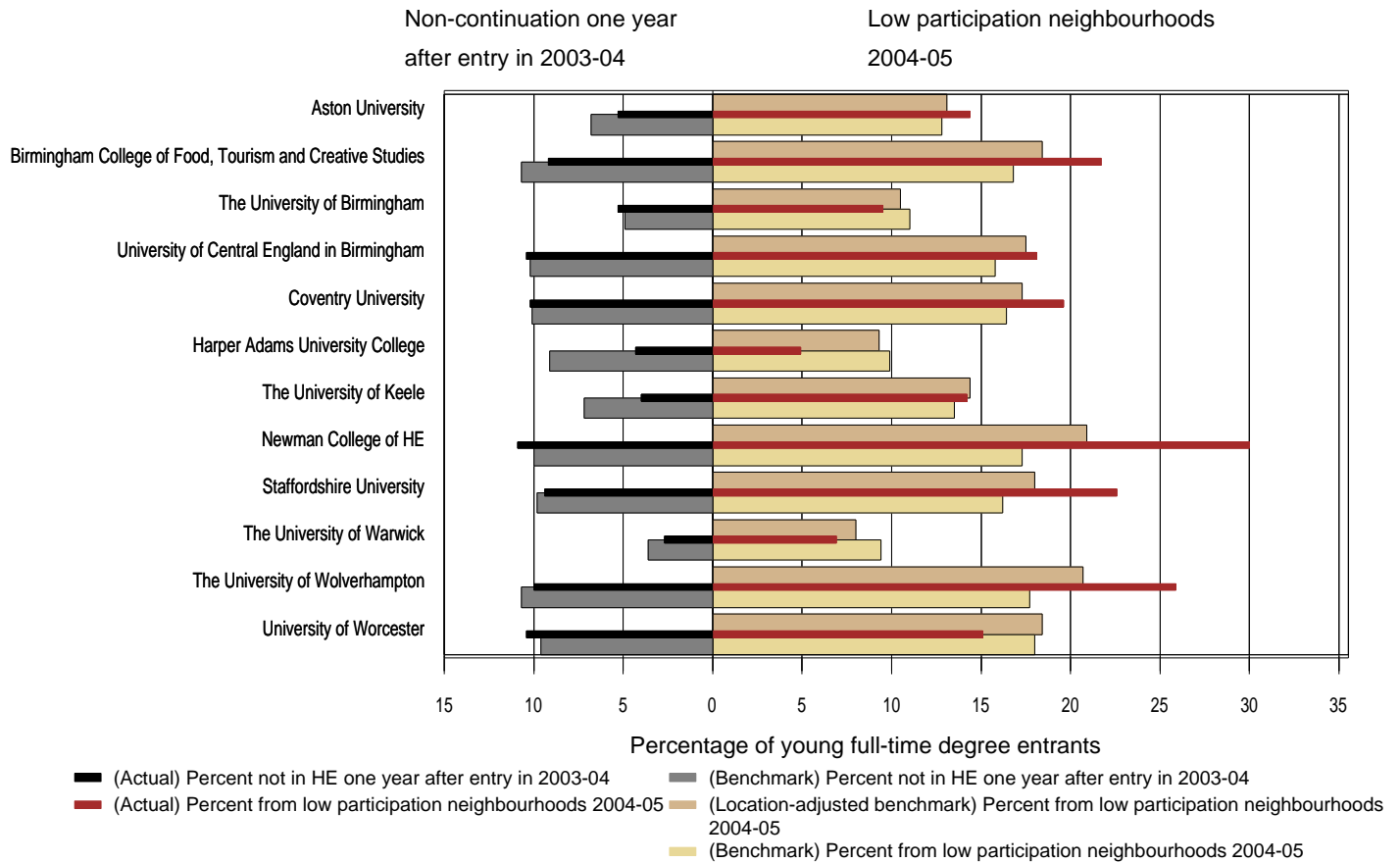
Income to individual HEIs by source



Performance of HEIs in the West Midlands

Performance indicators for participation and non-continuation

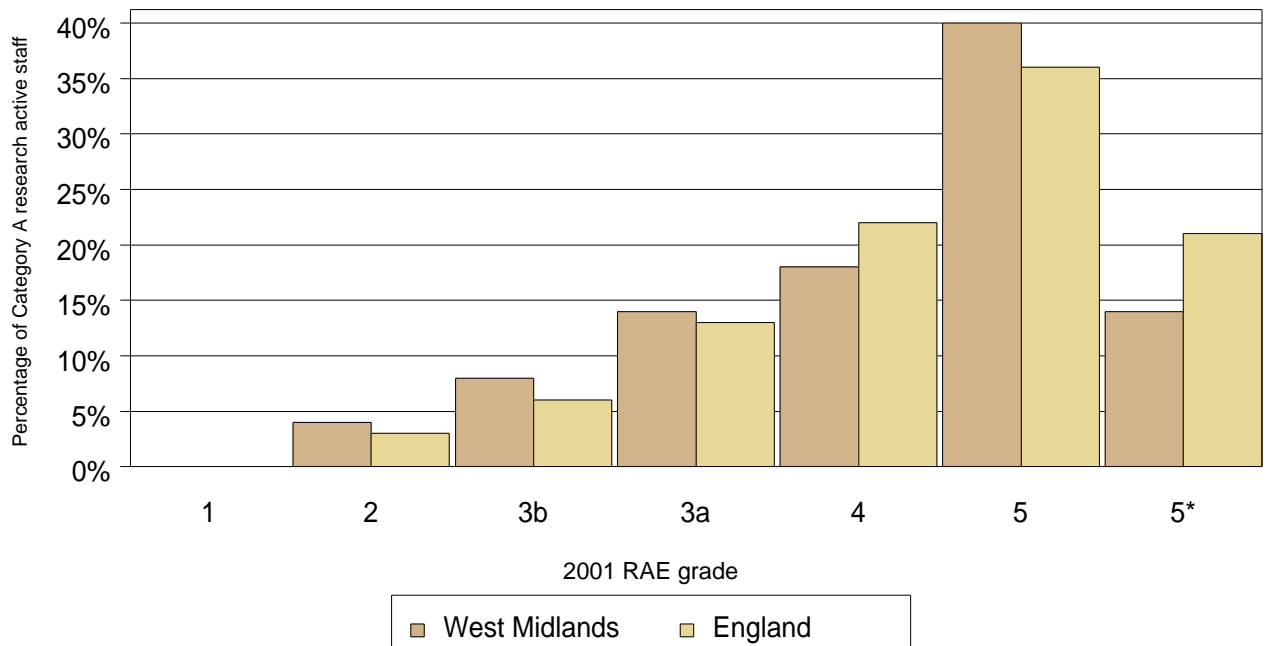
Young full-time degree entrants to HEIs in the West Midlands



These data are taken from 'Performance indicators in higher education in the UK' (HESA). Institution names used in that publication have been kept.

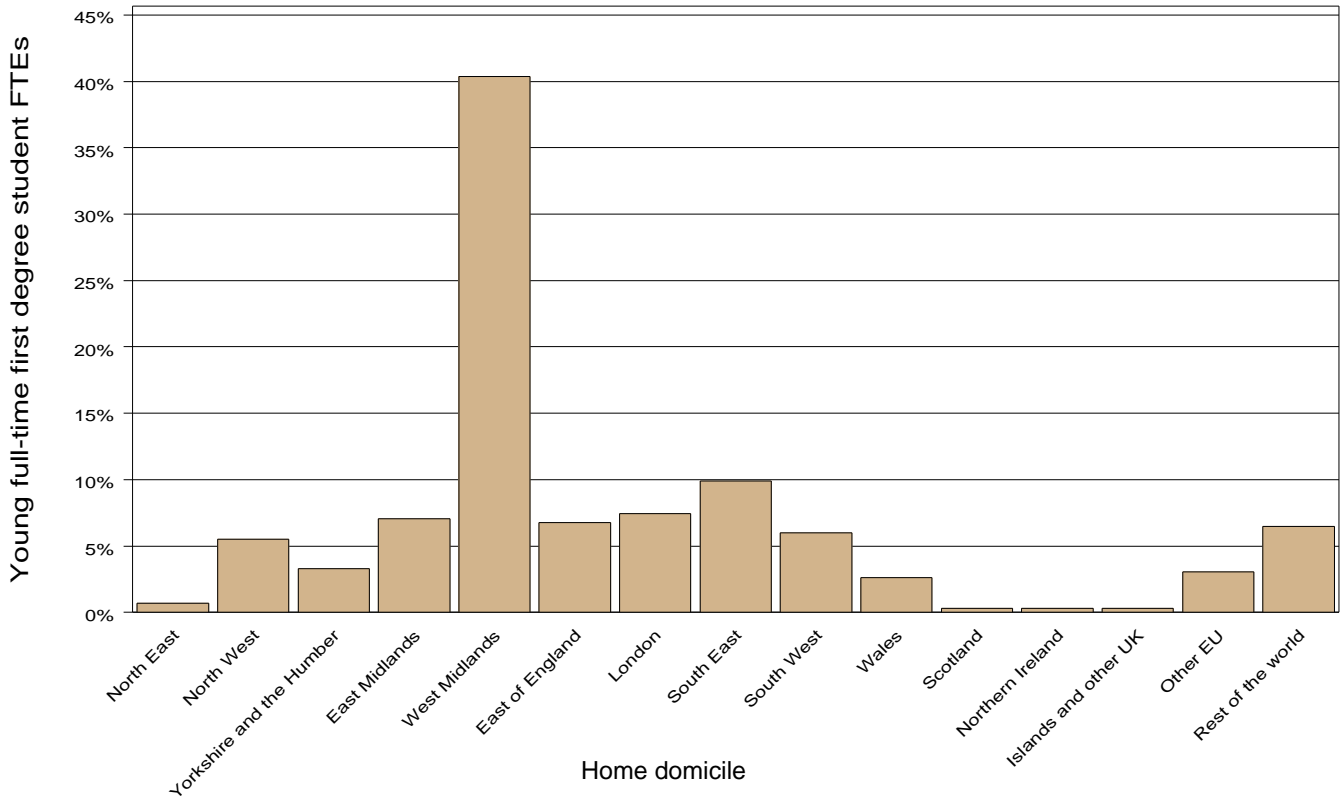
Research Assessment Exercise performance

Research active academic staff by RAE grade

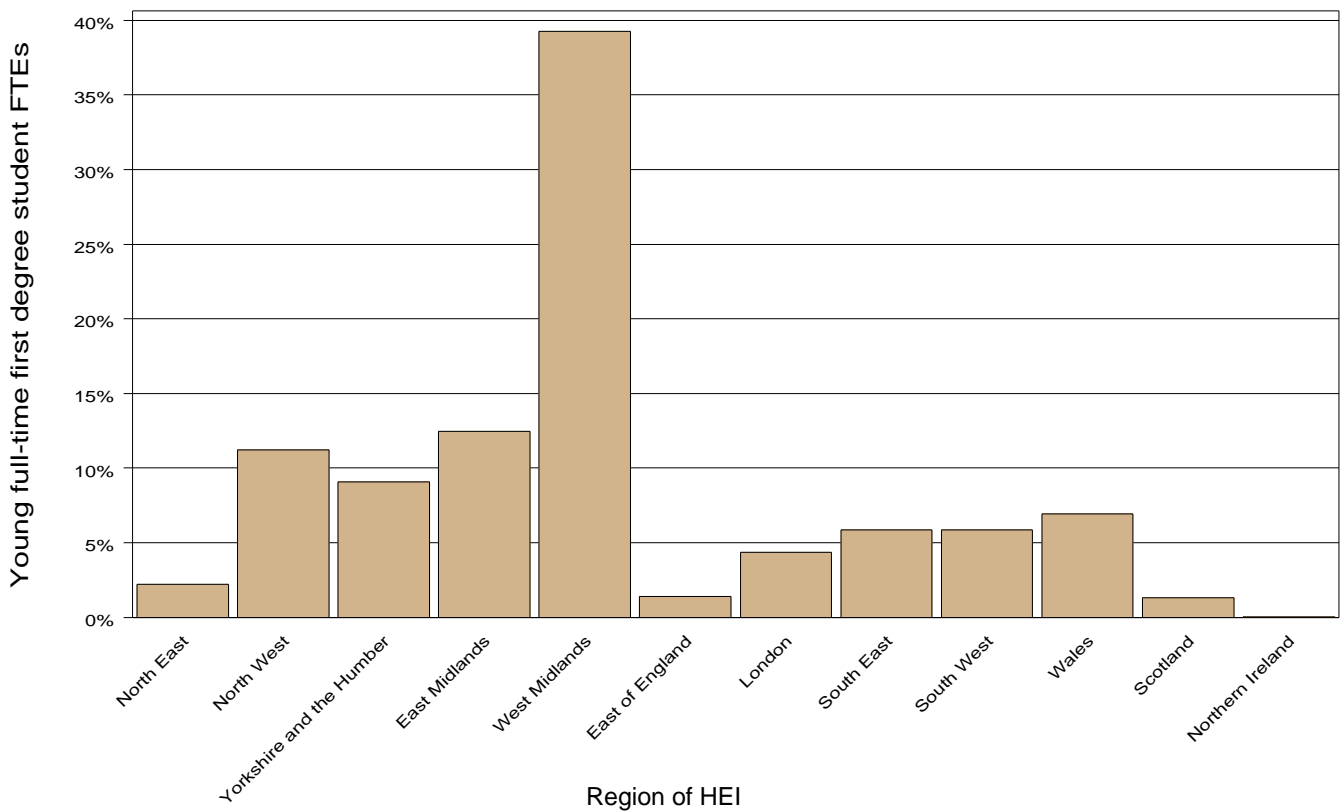


Flows of young full-time first degree students between regions

Where do young students at West Midlands HEIs in 2005-06 come from?



Where do young students from the West Midlands study, 2005-06?

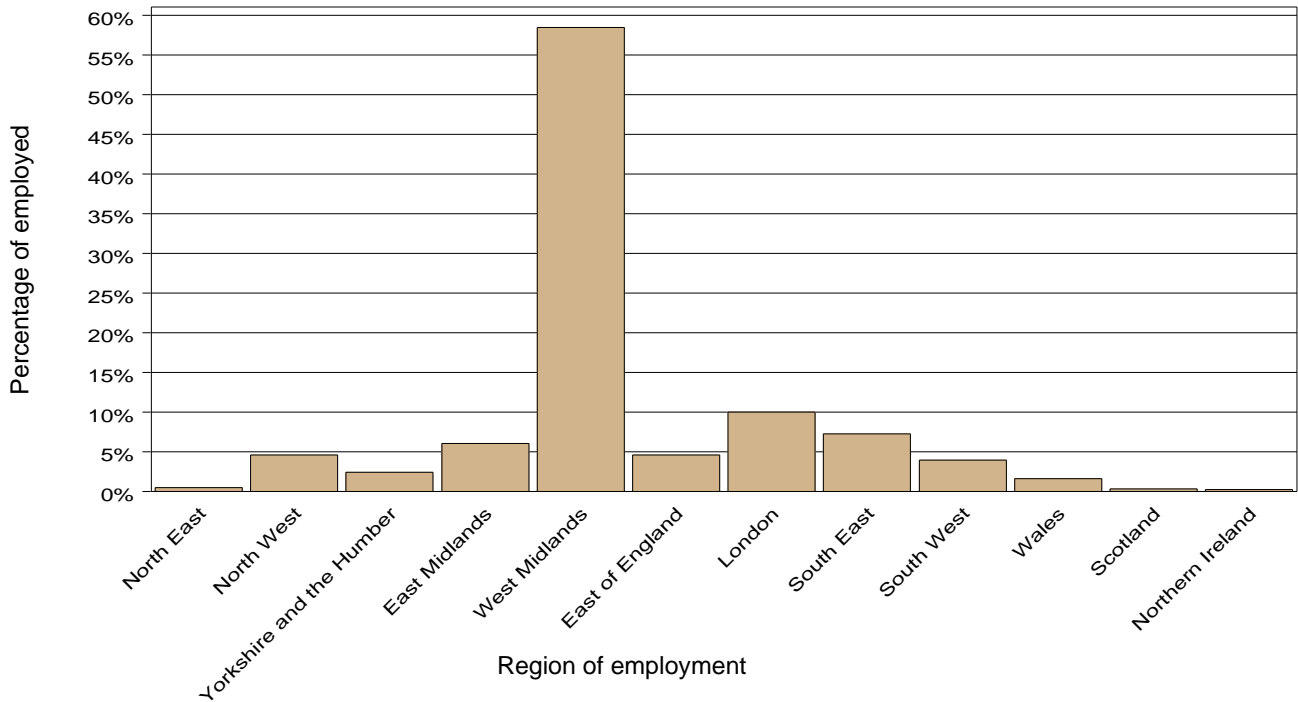


Employment destinations of first degree graduates

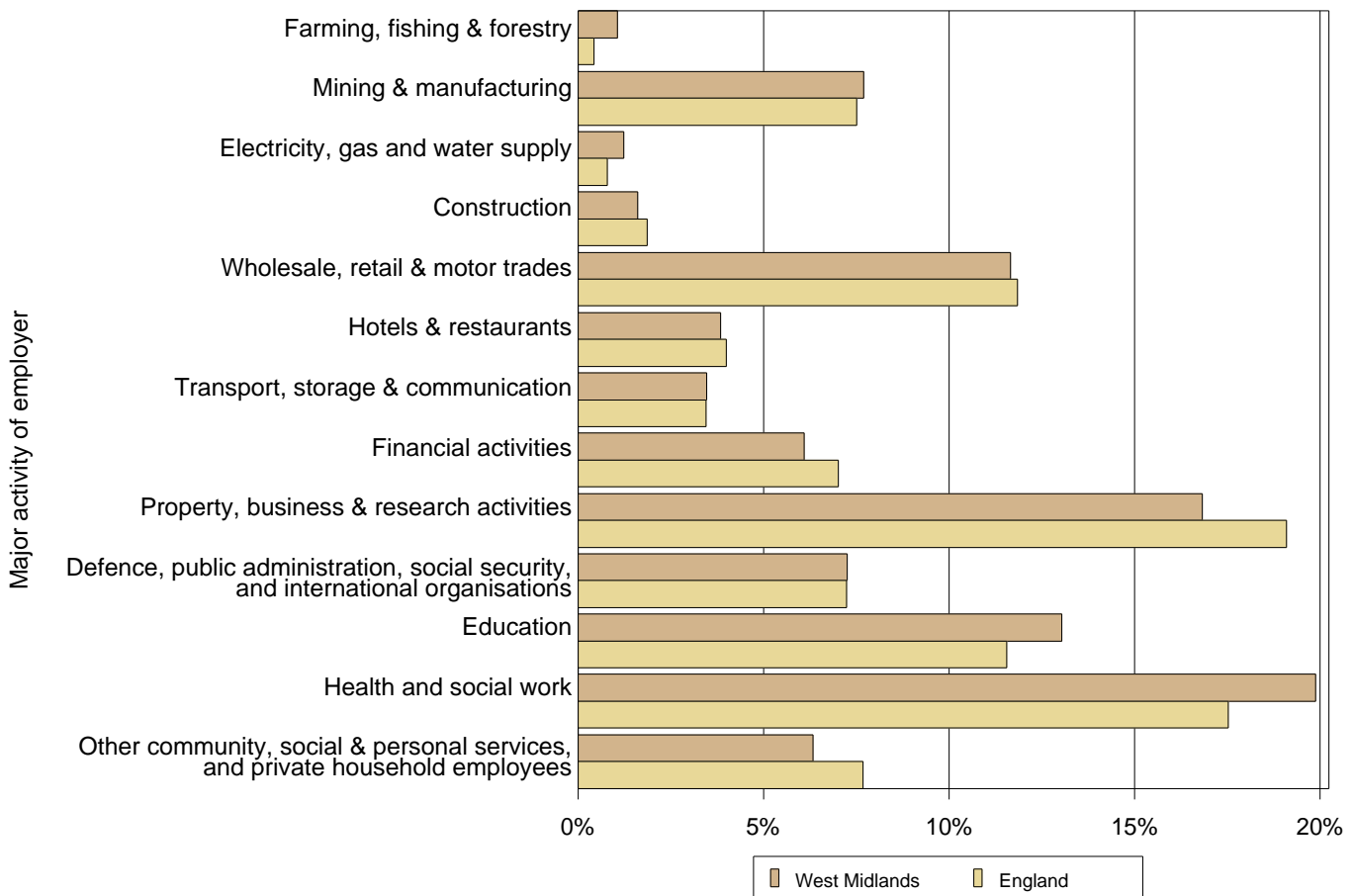
First degree students graduating from HEIs in 2005:

Work: 63% Further study: 14% Work and study: 11% Unemployed: 7% Other: 6%

Where do graduates from West Midlands HEIs find employment?



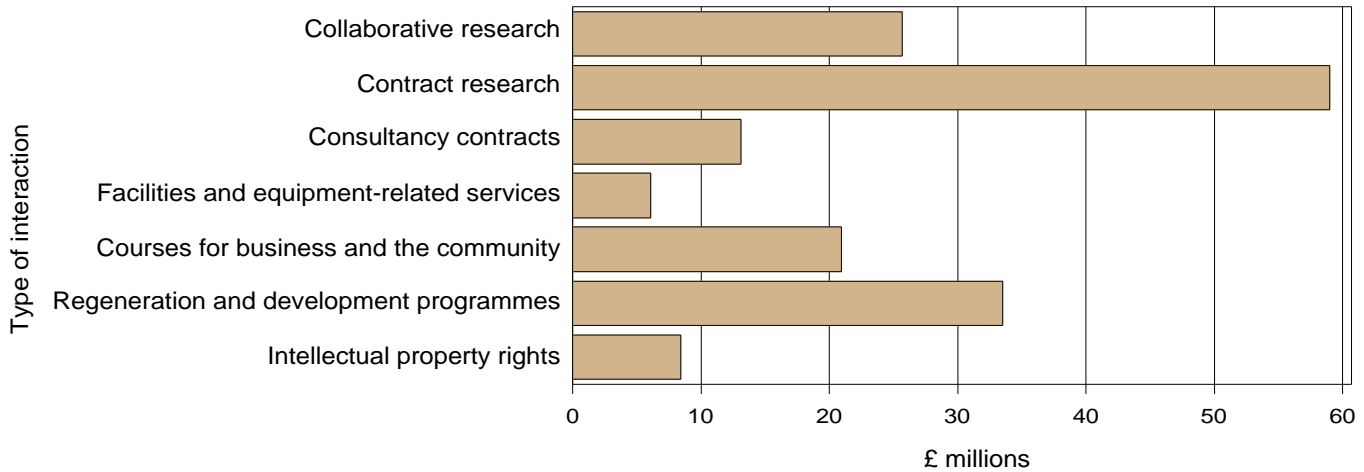
Employed graduates of West Midlands HEIs: destination by type of industry



Percentage of employed first degree graduates returned in the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey

Higher education-business and community interaction survey 2005-06

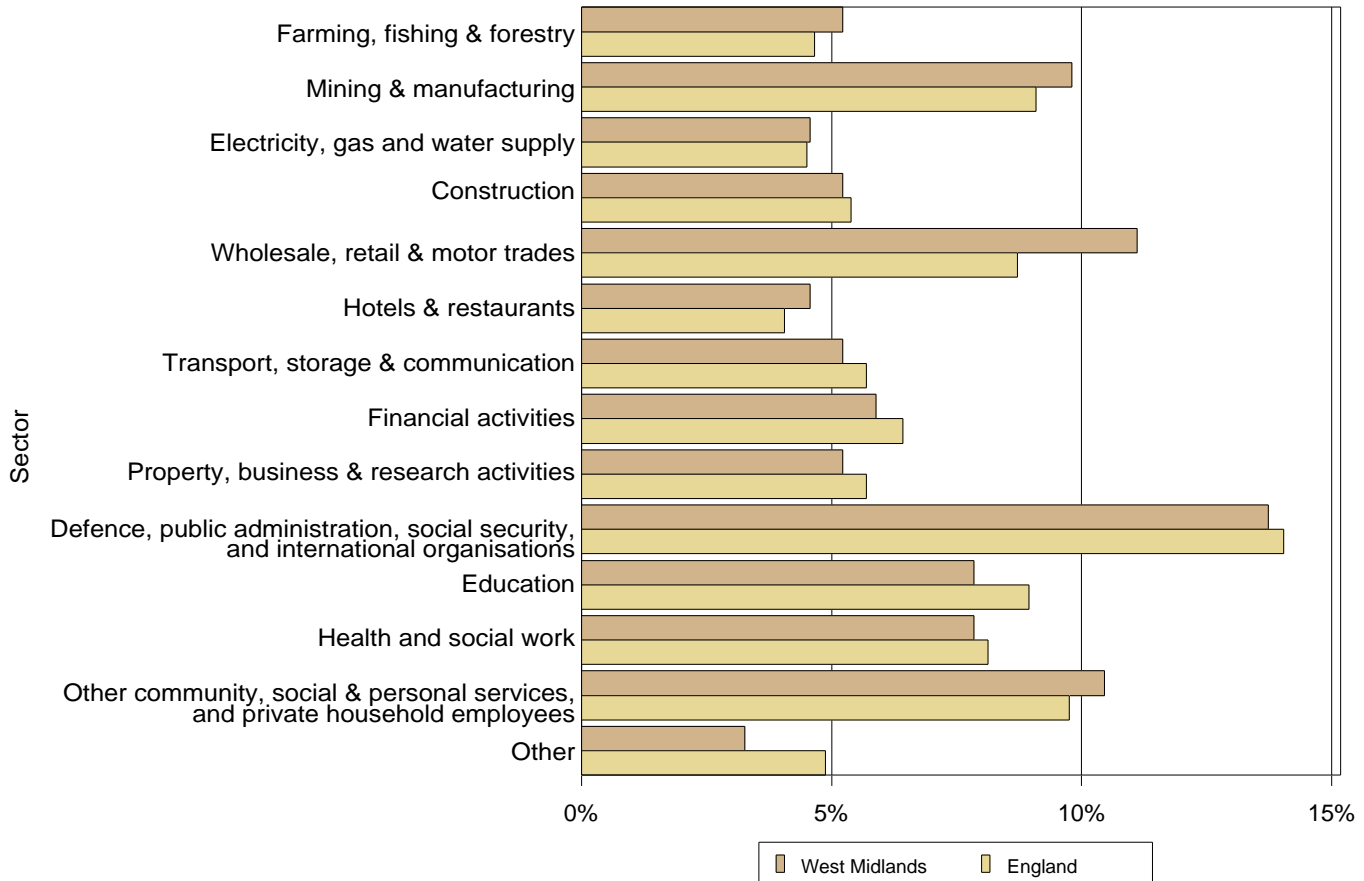
Income from HE-business interactions



Type and number of interactions

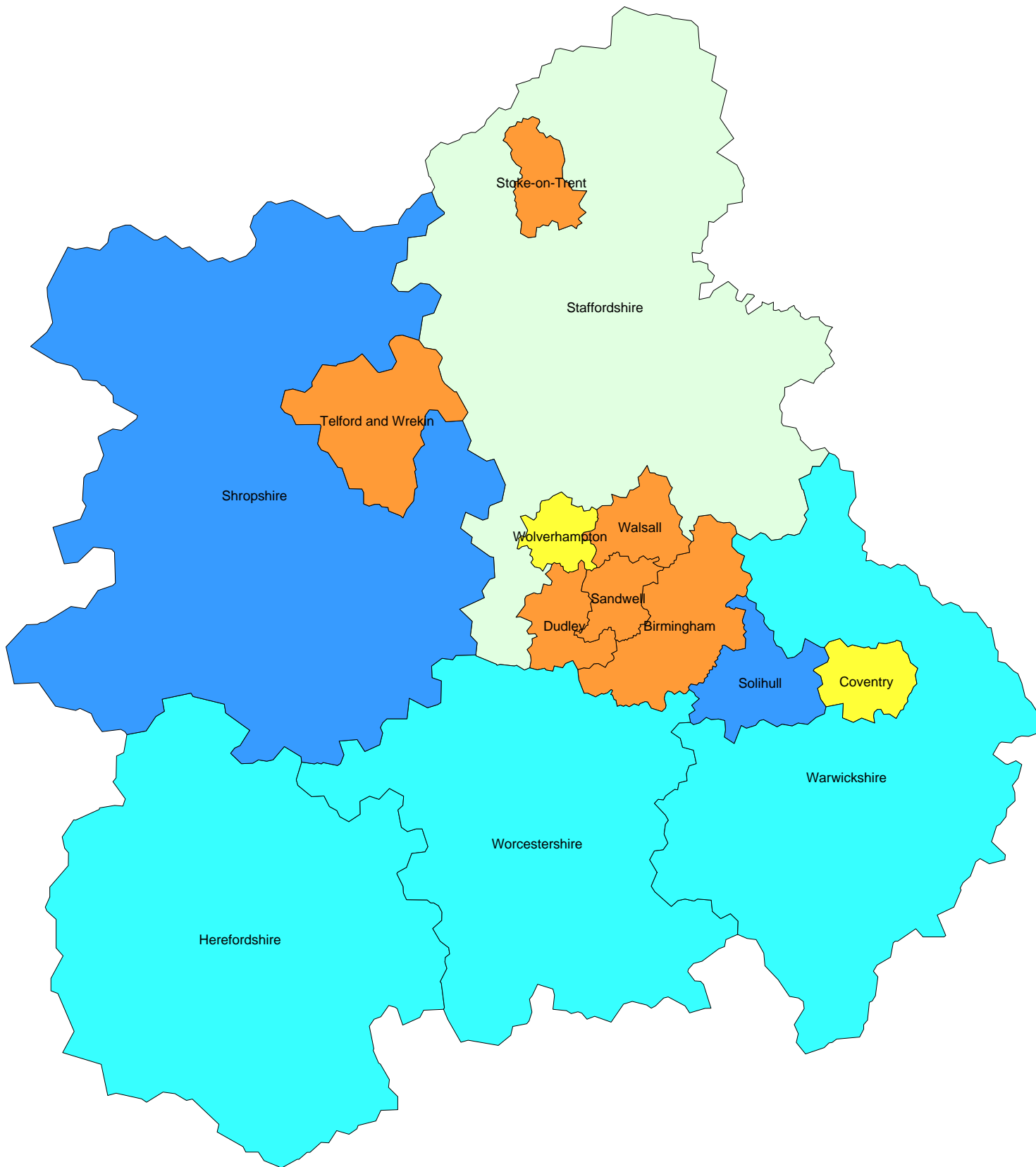
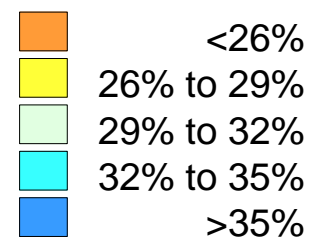
Contract research	2,495	Non-software licences granted	67
Consultancy contracts	7,841	Software licences granted	17
Facilities and equipment-related services	2,250	Spin-offs still active and survived 3 years	47
New patents granted in year	20	Estimated turnover from active spin-offs	£33 million

Sectors West Midlands HEIs set out to work with



Percentage of selections

Young participation



Qualification levels

Population of working age¹ : by highest qualification² , percentages spring 2005

	United Kingdom	West Midlands
At least degree or equivalent	17.6	14.8
Other HE qualifications ³	8.4	8.2
GCE A level or equivalent ⁴	23.6	22.9
GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	22.9	24.5
Other qualifications	12.5	11.9
No qualifications	14.1	16.6

Percentage of economically active adults qualified to at least NVQ4¹ autumn 2005

Geographical name	Percentage
United Kingdom	31.4
England	31.2
West Midlands	28.4

Source: DTI regional competitiveness indices, Table 9bi.
1 Degree or higher level vocational qualification.

Source: Department for Education and Skills; from the Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

1 Males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

2 For information on equivalent level qualifications, see Notes and Definitions in Regional Trends 39 table 4.10.

3 Higher education qualification below degree level.

4 Includes recognised trade apprenticeship.

School leavers' qualifications

On 15 March 2007 data were not available for all local educational authorities

Geographical name Region and local education authority ¹	16 year olds in full-time post-compulsory education ² percentages 2001-02	Percentage of 15 year old pupils in 2004-05 with: ^{3,4}		Average GCE/VCE A/AS level points score 2004-05 ^{4,5}
		No passes at GCSE or equivalent	5 or more GCSEs A*-C or equivalent	
West Midlands	69	3.3	54.3	259
Birmingham	69	3.5	55.1	250
Coventry	69	4.1	46.2	233
Dudley	61	2.6	53.8	275
Herefordshire	70	1.6	56.8	321
Sandwell	60	4.2	46.5	221
Shropshire	69	..	..	..
Solihull	71	2.8	64.7	271
Staffordshire	70	..	..	..
Stoke-on-Trent	60	3.5	47.4	227
Telford and Wrekin	64	3.7	52.0	254
Walsall	68	5.1	45.9	235
Warwickshire	72	..	..	..
Wolverhampton	68	4.1	53.5	208
Worcestershire	77	..	..	..

1 2003 education hierarchy.

2 Pupils and students aged 16 in education as a percentage of the estimated 16 year old population.

3 Referenced by pupil residence.

4 Figures relate to maintained schools only.

5 The points scores reflect the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) tariff.

Population and the economy

Area and population by local authority 2004

Geographical name Region, local authority (1)	Area km ²	People per km ²	Total population (000s)	Population change (%) 1981-2004	% of population aged:		
					0 to 15	16 to pensionable age (2)	over pensionable age (2)
England	130,281	385	50,094	7.0	19.5	62.0	18.5
West Midlands	12,998	410	5,334	2.8	20.1	61.0	18.9
Herefordshire, County of UA	2,180	82	178	19.0	18.6	58.3	23.1
West idla	93	2,547	238	-5.7	19.3	61.9	18.8
Telford and Wrekin UA	290	555	161	28.3	21.6	62.8	15.6
Shropshire County	3,197	90	288	12.8	18.6	59.4	22.0
Staffordshire County	2,620	310	813	6.1	19.0	61.5	19.5
Warwickshire	1,975	266	526	10.1	18.8	62.0	19.2
West Midlands (Met County)	902	2,861	2,579	-3.9	21.2	60.8	18.0
Worcestershire County	1,741	317	552	15.4	19.0	61.1	19.9

(1) Local government structure as at 1 April 1998.
(2) Pension age is 65 for men and 60 for women.

Gross Value Added¹ 2002 at current base prices^{2,3,4}

Geographical name NUTS levels 1 and 3	GVA per head (£)
West Midlands	13,803
Herefordshire, County of	11,875
Worcestershire	12,424
Warwickshire	15,886
Telford and Wrekin	14,340
Shropshire CC	11,343
West idla	12,180
Staffordshire CC	11,513
Birmingham	16,466
Solihull	17,291
Coventry	15,606
Dudley and Sandwell	12,754
Walsall and Wolverhampton	13,025

(1) Consistent with the National Accounts (Blue Book) 2004.
(2) Excluding GVA for Extra-Region, which comprises compensation of employees and gross operating surplus which cannot be assigned to regions.
(3) Estimates of workplace based GVA allocate income to the region in which commuters work.
(4) Includes taxes less subsidies on production.

Labour force¹ and employment rates 2002-03²

Geographical name Region, local authority	Total labour force (3) (000s)	Employment rate (4) (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
West Midlands	2,495	73.8	5.7
Herefordshire, County of UA	84	78.4	4.3
West idla	106	67.4	7.2
Telford and Wrekin UA	79	74.2	5.2
Shropshire	135	77.2	4.5
Staffordshire	411	80.1	3.5
Warwickshire	261	79.1	4.4
West Midlands (Met. County)	1,148	69.1	7.7
Worcestershire	271	80.1	2.1

(1) Based on the population of working age in private households, student halls of residence and NHS accommodation.
(2) Annual average of March 2002 to February 2003. These data are weighted to population estimates which were released in February 2003.
(3) Includes those on government-supported employment and training programmes, and unpaid family workers.
(4) Total labour force as a percentage of all people of working age.

Classification of business sites¹: by sub-region, March 2003

Geographical name Region, local authority	%Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	%Mining & quarrying, energy, water supply, manufacturing	%Construction	%Distribution, hotels & catering, repairs	%Transport & communication	%Financial, intermediation, real estate renting & business activities	%Education & health	%Public administration & other services	Total business sites (=100%) (000s)
United Kingdom	6.5	7.6	8.8	28.0	4.3	27.5	7.3	10.1	2,545.9
West Midlands	6.3	10.3	9.0	29.2	4.6	24.4	7.2	9.0	210.8
Herefordshire, County of UA	23.9	7.3	9.4	24.3	3.6	18.2	6.0	7.3	10.5
West idla	0.5	12.8	9.2	35.8	4.8	16.3	7.9	12.7	7.8
Telford and Wrekin UA	4.0	10.7	7.8	31.7	5.1	25.0	7.0	8.7	5.3
Shropshire County	21.7	6.6	9.0	25.9	4.3	18.7	6.3	7.6	16.2
Staffordshire County	8.6	9.2	10.8	28.2	5.3	21.8	6.6	9.5	33.3
Warwickshire	6.4	8.4	8.6	26.8	4.6	28.9	7.1	9.4	25.5
West Midlands (Met County)	0.5	12.4	8.3	31.4	4.6	25.8	8.0	8.9	86.7
Worcestershire County	7.8	9.5	9.3	26.7	4.1	27.1	6.4	9.2	25.5
Herefordshire and Worcestershire (2)	12.5	8.9	9.3	26.0	3.9	24.5	6.3	8.6	36.0
Former county of Shropshire (3)	17.3	7.6	8.7	27.3	4.5	20.2	6.5	7.8	21.4
Former county of Staffordshire (4)	7.1	9.9	10.5	29.7	5.2	20.8	6.8	10.1	41.2

Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, Office for National Statistics.

(1) Based on Standard Industrial Classification 2003. Registered for VAT and/or PAYE, local unit basis, eg an individual factory or shop.
(2) Herefordshire and Worcestershire refer to the area previously covered by Hereford and Worcester which was replaced by Worcestershire C and Herefordshire UA on 1 April 1998.
(3) The former county of Shropshire is the area covered by the current Shropshire County and Telford and Wrekin UA created on 1 April 1998.
(4) The former county of Staffordshire is the area covered by the current Staffordshire county and Stoke-on-Trent UA created on 1 April 1997.