



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Postgraduate Admissions Statistics

Applications for admission in the 2023/24 academic year

Introduction

This report provides data for all applications made to commence a matriculated¹ postgraduate programme at the University of Cambridge in the 2023/24 academic year (that is admission in Michaelmas Term 2023, Lent Term 2024 or Easter Term 2024). This cycle closed on 21 May 2024.

Application figures show the number of applications for admission to a postgraduate programme in the 2023/24 academic year, excluding applications to programmes that were withdrawn within the terms of the 14 day cancellation policy.² Offer figures show the number of offers of admission made following a recommendation from the Department (postgraduate admissions decisions are made by the Departments). Admission figures show the number of offer holders whose admission was confirmed because they satisfied all the conditions of their offer, and who subsequently registered and took up their places on the course (those who did not take up their place have been excluded).³ Visiting students are not included. The data is correct as of 1 June 2024.

The report combines data from the four admitting authorities for postgraduate admissions at the University of Cambridge:

- Faculty of Education (Fac. Ed)
<https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/>
- Institute of Continuing Education (ICE)
<https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/>
- Judge Business School (JBS)
<https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/>
- Postgraduate Admissions Office (PAO)
<https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/>

¹ Students on matriculated programmes become members of the University. This encompasses the vast majority of postgraduate programmes offered by the University, but not the Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas offered by the Institute of Continuing Education.

² This applies for courses admitted by the Postgraduate Admissions Office. 51 applications for the 2023/24 academic year were withdrawn within the policy terms.

The University of Cambridge offers more than 300 postgraduate courses, run by Faculties and Departments. The majority of these courses sit within one of six Schools (these are an administrative grouping of Faculties and other institutions): Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Technology. However there are also a number of external University Partner Institutions (UPIs) where postgraduate students registered at the University can undertake specialist research.⁴

Postgraduate courses at the University of Cambridge are typically characterised as doctoral or non-doctoral. The doctoral category also includes courses with a '1+3' structure, where the participant completes a master's year and then commences a doctorate. The Higher Education sector also frequently categorises postgraduate courses as research (PGR) or taught (PGT) – which is similar to, but not a direct match with, the doctoral and non-doctoral categories.⁵ The degree type section provides a breakdown by both groupings.

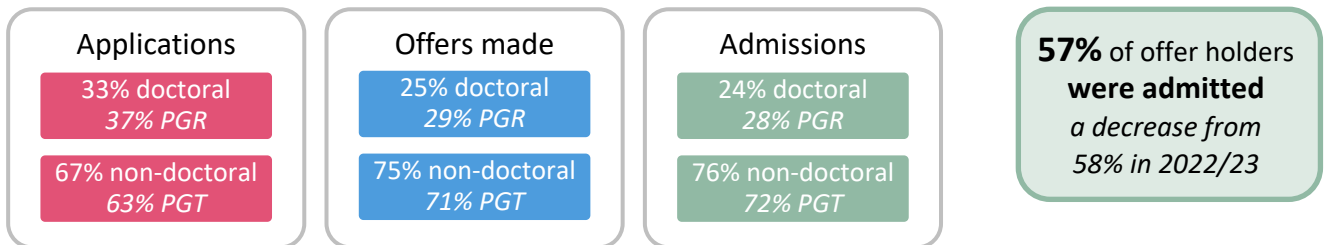
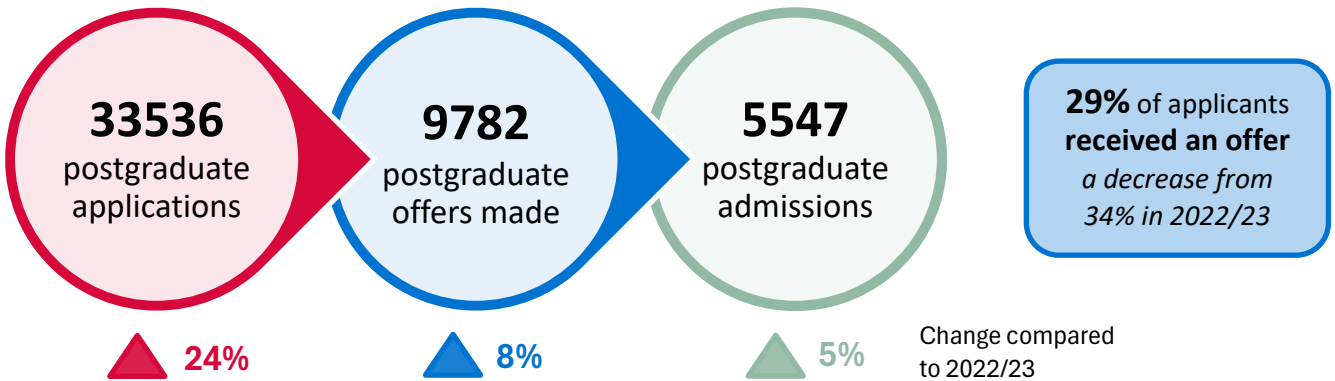
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³ 193 offer holders for courses admitted by the Postgraduate Admissions Office satisfied the conditions of their offer for the 2023/24 academic year but did not take up their place.

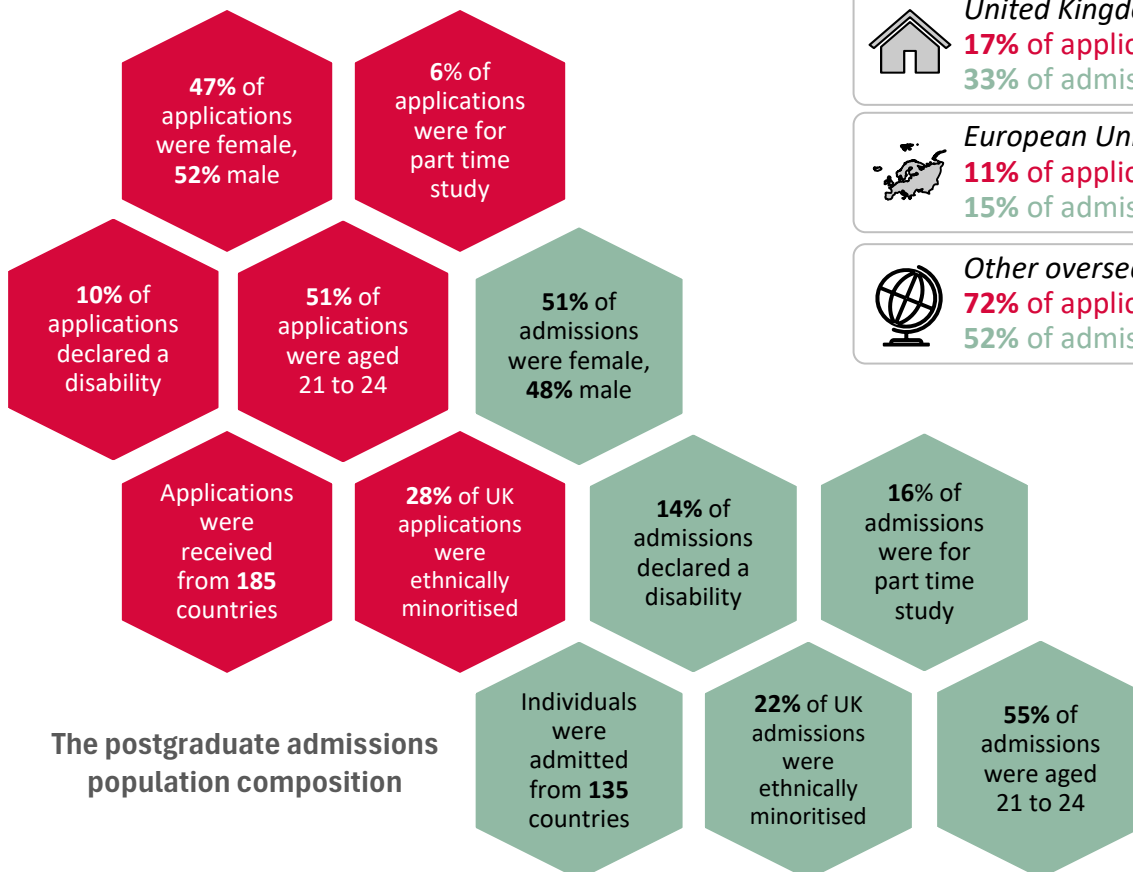
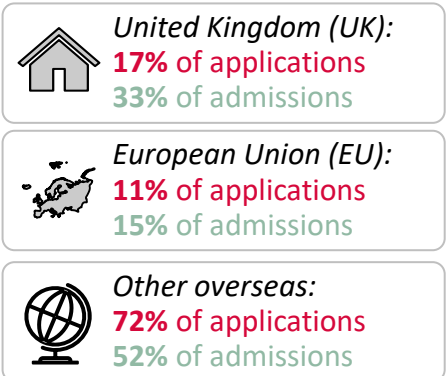
⁴ A list of University Partner Institutions is available at: <https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/why-cambridge/cambridge-explained>

⁵ This is because some research courses are non-doctoral.

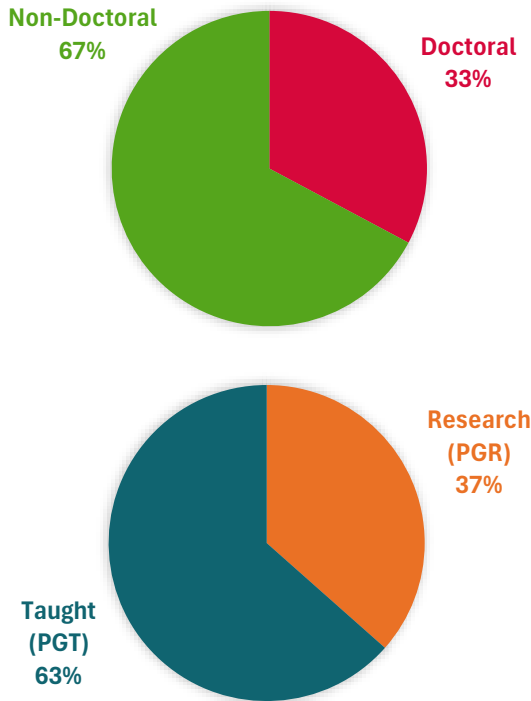
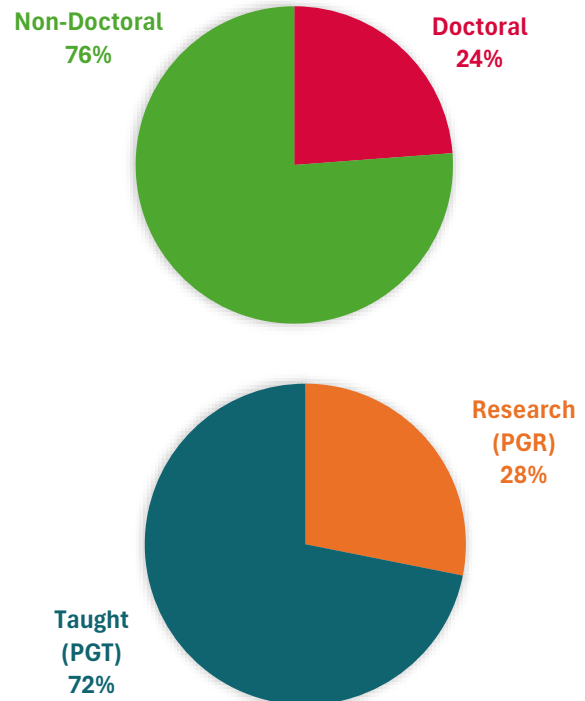
Postgraduate admissions for 2023/24



Primary citizenship of the postgraduate admissions population



Degree type

Applications, by degree type

Admissions, by degree type

Application, offers and admissions for all postgraduate admitting authorities, by degree type

This data is for all four admitting authorities, although only the Postgraduate Admissions Office admits to doctoral courses. Some individuals had a change in their degree type during the admissions cycle as the result of a course change.⁶ The data reported here records the degree type at the stage listed (i.e. the application degree type, the offer degree type etc.)

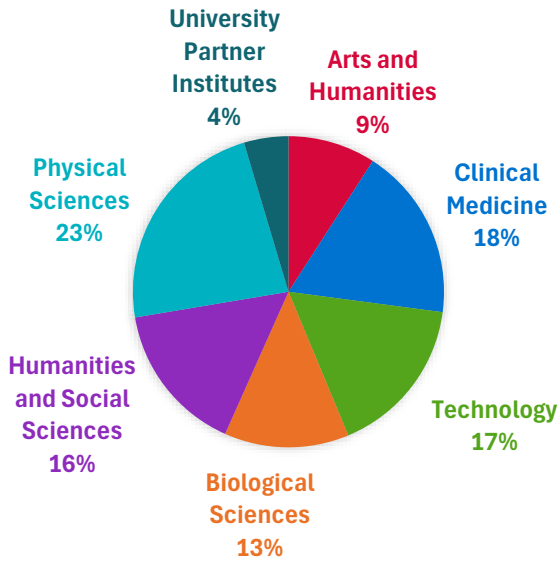
Degree type	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Doctoral	10997	2489	1321	22.6%	12.0%	53.1%
Non-Doctoral	22539	7293	4226	32.4%	18.7%	57.9%
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%

Degree type	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Postgraduate Research (PGR)	12254	2859	1560	23.3%	12.7%	54.6%
Postgraduate Taught (PGT)	21282	6923	3987	32.5%	18.7%	57.6%
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%

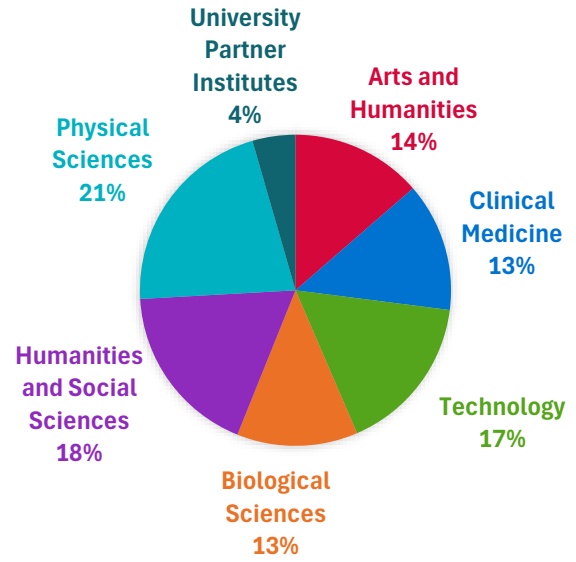
⁶ 34 individuals had one or more change in their doctoral/non-doctoral degree type classification during the admissions cycle: 29 changes were made at the offer-making stage, 6 changes were made at the point admissions was confirmed. 42 individuals had a change in their PGR/PGT degree type classification during the admissions cycle: 36 changes were made at the offer-making stage, 6 changes were made at the point admissions was confirmed.

School

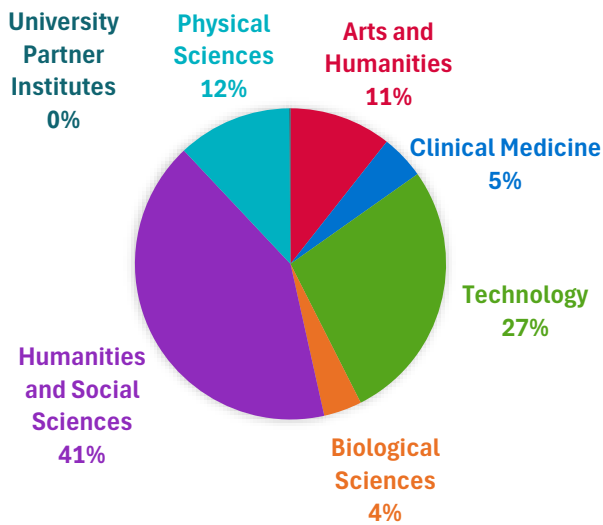
Doctoral applications, by School



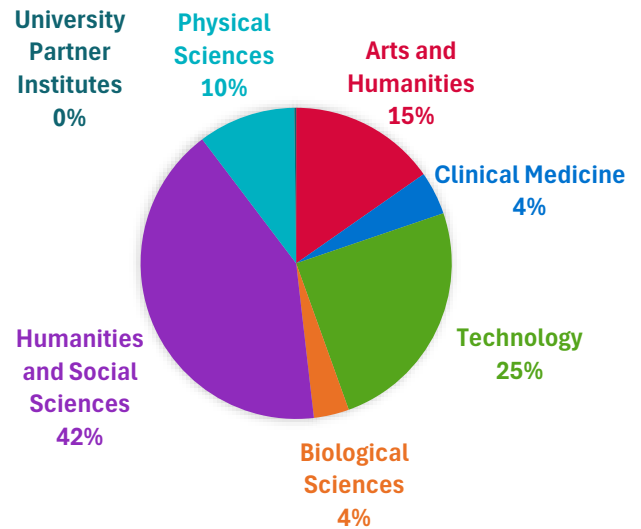
Doctoral admissions, by School



Non-doctoral applications, by School



Non-doctoral admissions, by School



School

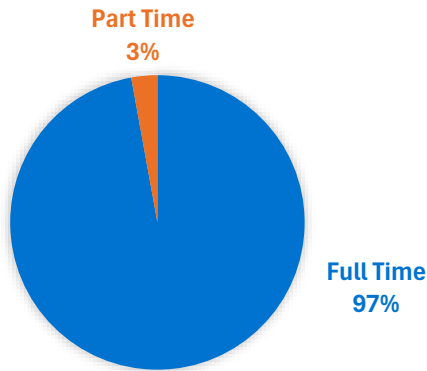
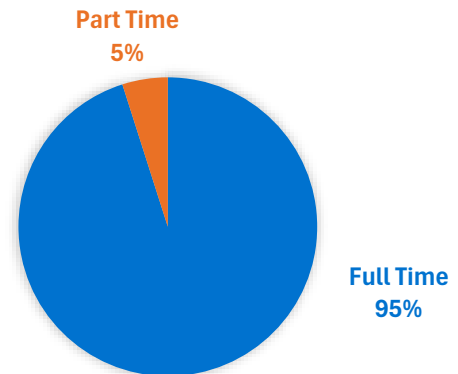
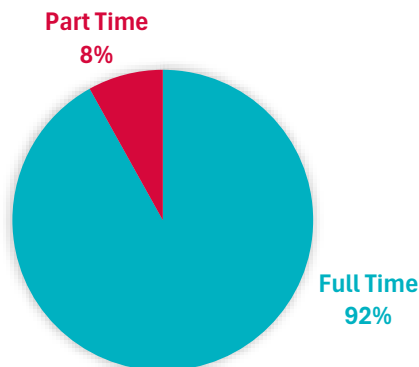
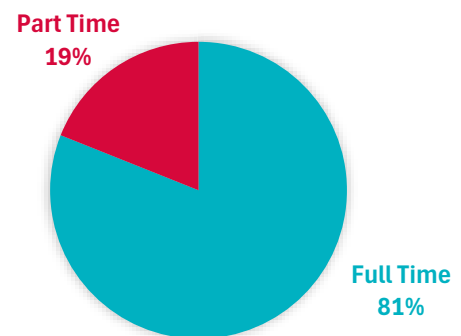
Application, offers and admissions for all postgraduate admitting authorities, by School..

Some individuals had a change in School during the admissions cycle as the result of a course change.⁷ The data reported here records the School at the stage listed (i.e. the application course's School, the offer course's School etc.)

School	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
<i>School of Arts and Humanities</i>	3396	1374	826	40.5%	24.3%	60.1%
Doctoral	1003	357	180	35.6%	17.9%	50.4%
Non-Doctoral	2393	1017	646	42.5%	27.0%	63.5%
<i>School of Clinical Medicine</i>	3012	570	367	18.9%	12.2%	64.4%
Doctoral	1977	291	177	14.7%	9.0%	60.8%
Non-Doctoral	1035	279	190	27.0%	18.4%	68.1%
<i>School of Technology</i>	7989	2263	1263	28.3%	15.8%	55.8%
Doctoral	1828	423	218	23.1%	11.9%	51.5%
Non-Doctoral	6161	1840	1045	29.9%	17.0%	56.8%
<i>School of the Biological Sciences</i>	2320	535	321	23.1%	13.8%	60.0%
Doctoral	1425	300	166	21.1%	11.6%	55.3%
Non-Doctoral	895	235	155	26.3%	17.3%	66.0%
<i>School of the Humanities & Social Sciences</i>	11072	3647	1992	32.9%	18.0%	54.6%
Doctoral	1724	510	238	29.6%	13.8%	46.7%
Non-Doctoral	9348	3137	1754	33.6%	18.8%	55.9%
<i>School of the Physical Sciences</i>	5209	1317	711	25.3%	13.6%	54.0%
Doctoral	2532	543	283	21.4%	11.2%	52.1%
Non-Doctoral	2677	774	428	28.9%	16.0%	55.3%
<i>University Partner Institutes (UPIs)</i>	538	76	67	14.1%	12.5%	88.2%
Doctoral	508	65	59	12.8%	11.6%	90.8%
Non-Doctoral	30	11	8	36.7%	26.7%	72.7%
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%

⁷ 38 individuals had a change in the School they are associated with during the admissions cycle: 31 changes were made at the offer-making stage, 7 changes were made at the point admissions was confirmed.

Full or part time study

Doctoral applications, by full/part time status

Doctoral admissions, by full/part time status

Non-Doctoral applications, by full/part time status

Non-Doctoral admissions, by full/part time status

Application, offers and admissions for all postgraduate admitting authorities, by full/part time status

This data is for all four admitting authorities, although the Faculty of Education only admits to full time courses and the Institute of Continuing Education only admits to part time courses.

Some individuals changed the full/part time status of their course during the admissions cycle.⁸ The data reported here records the full/part time status at the stage listed (i.e. at the point of application, for the offer made etc.)

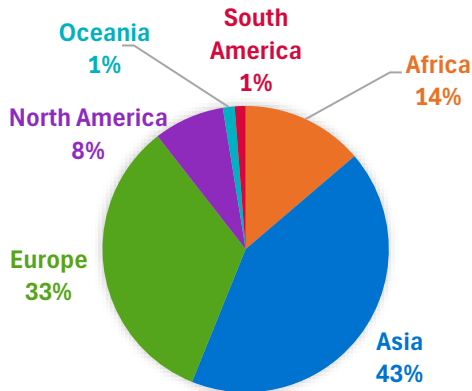
Full/part time Degree type	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Full time	31400	8697	4681	27.7%	14.9%	53.8%
Doctoral	10683	2423	1256	22.7%	11.8%	51.8%
Non-Doctoral	20717	6274	3425	30.3%	16.5%	54.6%
Part time	2136	1085	866	50.8%	40.5%	79.8%
Doctoral	314	66	65	21.0%	20.7%	98.5%
Non-Doctoral	1822	1019	801	55.9%	44.0%	78.6%
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%

⁸ 20 individuals changed the full/part time status of their course during the admissions cycle: 5 changes were made at the point an offer was made, 15 changes were made at the point admissions was confirmed.

Citizenship

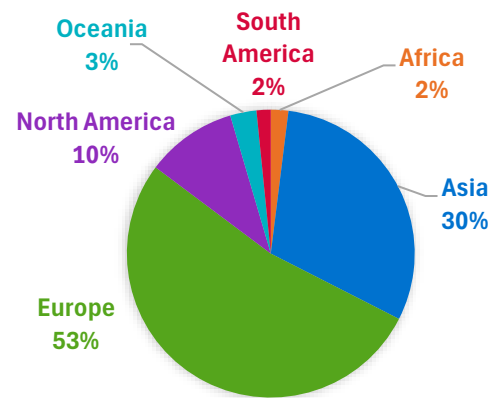
Doctoral applications, by primary citizenship

Excludes 0.1% (9) with no citizenship data or whose citizenship country is not in a continent (e.g. Stateless).



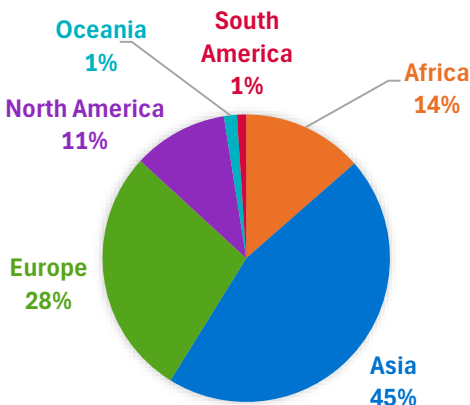
Doctoral admissions, by primary citizenship

Excludes 0.1% (<3) with no citizenship data or whose citizenship country is not in a continent (e.g. Stateless).



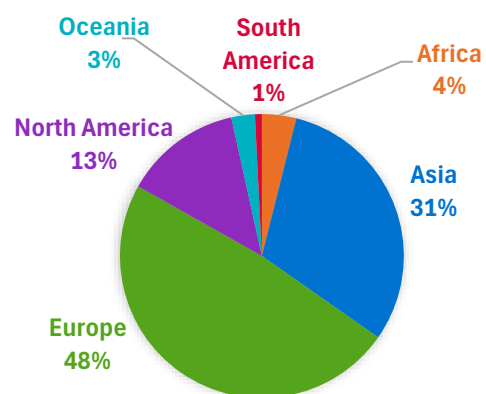
Non-doctoral applications, by primary citizenship

Excludes 0.1% (22) with no citizenship data or whose citizenship country is not in a continent (e.g. Stateless).



Non-doctoral admissions, by primary citizenship

Excludes 0.2% (<10) with no citizenship data or whose citizenship country is not in a continent (e.g. Stateless).



The top 10 most common primary citizenships for doctoral applications, offers and admissions

Top 10 for Doctoral Applications			Top 10 for Doctoral Offers Made			Top 10 for Doctoral Admissions		
United Kingdom	1982	18.0%	United Kingdom	679	29.2%	United Kingdom	402	30.4%
China	1687	15.3%	China	417	14.0%	China	227	17.2%
India	1104	10.0%	United States	214	9.2%	United States	90	6.8%
United States	626	5.7%	India	139	5.2%	Germany	47	3.6%
Nigeria	578	5.3%	Germany	89	3.7%	India	46	3.5%
Pakistan	458	4.2%	Canada	68	2.9%	Canada	33	2.5%
Germany	270	2.5%	Italy	57	2.5%	Italy	30	2.3%
Iran (Islamic Republic Of)	219	2.0%	Spain	48	2.2%	Australia	28	2.1%
Italy	191	1.7%	Australia	47	1.6%	France	28	2.1%
Canada	181	1.6%	France	45	1.6%	Spain	28	2.1%
<i>All others (154)</i>	3701	33.7%	<i>All others (91)</i>	686	27.6%	<i>All others (80)</i>	362	27.4%

Citizenship

The top 10 most common primary citizenships for non-doctoral applications, offers and admissions

Top 10 for Non-Doctoral Applications			Top 10 for Non-Doctoral Offers Made			Top 10 for Non-Doctoral Admissions		
China	6057	26.9%	United Kingdom	1925	26.4%	United Kingdom	1408	33.3%
United Kingdom	3855	17.1%	China	1228	16.8%	China	652	15.4%
United States	1814	8.0%	United States	876	12.0%	United States	442	10.5%
India	1615	7.2%	India	359	4.9%	India	198	4.7%
Nigeria	870	3.9%	Germany	220	3.0%	Germany	127	3.0%
Canada	444	2.0%	Canada	201	2.8%	Canada	95	2.2%
Ghana	406	1.8%	Australia	163	2.2%	Australia	87	2.1%
Germany	401	1.8%	France	139	1.9%	France	67	1.6%
France	332	1.5%	Nigeria	119	1.6%	Hong Kong	59	1.4%
Hong Kong	295	1.3%	Hong Kong	107	1.5%	Singapore	57	1.3%
<i>All others (169)</i>	6450	28.6%	<i>All others (135)</i>	1956	26.8%	<i>All others (116)</i>	1034	24.5%

Application, offers and admissions for all postgraduate admitting authorities, by primary citizenship continent

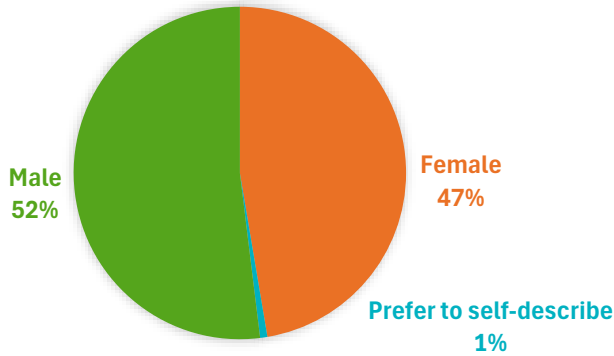
Subgroup data is suppressed where group size is fewer than 3. Where necessary to prevent calculation the unit of second smallest application group in the category has also been suppressed - only the last digit has been suppressed, with an 'X' to keep understanding of the scale of the data (e.g. 1X is a number between 10 and 19).

Continent	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Africa	4563	441	191	9.7%	4.2%	43.3%
Doctoral	1511	55	26	3.6%	1.7%	47.3%
Non-Doctoral	3052	386	165	12.6%	5.4%	42.7%
Asia	14851	3248	1702	21.9%	11.5%	52.4%
Doctoral	4655	818	403	17.6%	8.7%	49.3%
Non-Doctoral	10196	2430	1299	23.8%	12.7%	53.5%
Europe	9967	4241	2739	42.6%	27.5%	64.6%
Doctoral	3663	1213	696	33.1%	19.0%	57.4%
Non-Doctoral	6304	3028	2043	48.0%	32.4%	67.5%
North America	3281	1433	699	43.7%	21.3%	48.8%
Doctoral	878	301	135	34.3%	15.4%	44.9%
Non-Doctoral	2403	1132	564	47.1%	23.5%	49.8%
Oceania	476	261	152	54.8%	31.9%	58.2%
Doctoral	146	62	39	42.5%	26.7%	62.9%
Non-Doctoral	330	199	113	60.3%	34.2%	56.8%
South America	367	146	54	39.8%	14.7%	37.0%
Doctoral	135	38	21	28.1%	15.6%	55.3%
Non-Doctoral	232	108	33	46.6%	14.2%	30.6%
Unknown	31	12	10	-	-	-
Doctoral	9	<3	<3	-	-	-
Non-Doctoral	22	1X	X	-	-	-
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%
Total with data	33505	9770	5537	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%

Gender

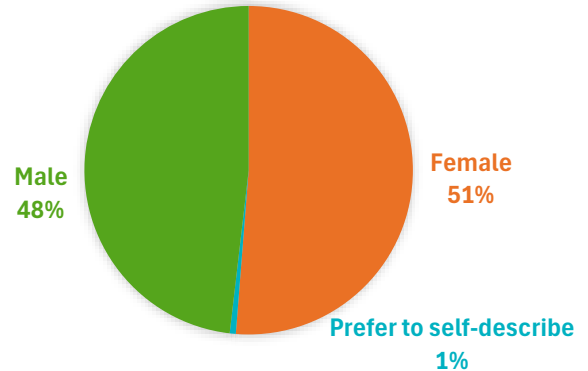
Applications, by gender reported

Excludes 2.9% (987) with no gender group reported.



Admissions, by gender reported

Excludes 0.8% (44) with no gender group reported.



Application, offers and admissions for all four postgraduate admitting authorities, by gender

Note that the Faculty of Education does not hold gender data for all applicants or offer holders as this field is not mandatory on the Department for Education PGCE application (and is collected by the University at the point of admission).⁹

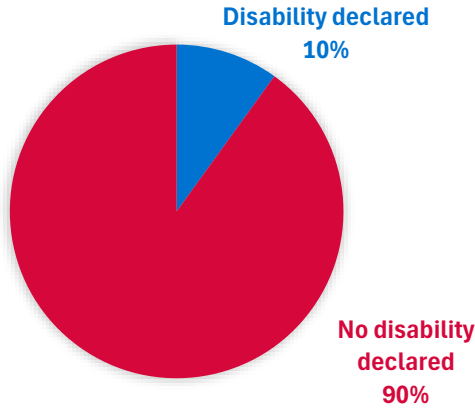
Gender	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Female	15,411	4,808	2,821	31.2%	18.3%	58.7%
Male	16,909	4,729	2,651	28.0%	15.7%	56.1%
Other (prefer to self-describe)	229	75	31	32.8%	13.5%	41.3%
Unknown / prefer not to specify	987	170	44	-	-	-
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%
Total with data	32549	9612	5503	29.5%	16.9%	57.3%

⁹ 73.4% of Faculty of Education applicants have no gender data (compared to 0.7% of all other applicants), and 28.3% of Faculty of Education offer holders (compared to 0.8% of all other offer holders). Only 1.3% of Faculty of Education admissions have no gender data (compared to 0.7% of all other admissions).

Disability

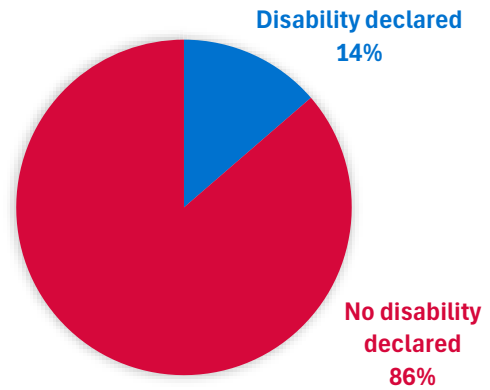
Applications, by disability declared

Excludes 4.3% (1445) with no disability declaration.



Admissions, by disability declared

Excludes 3.7% (204) with no disability declaration.



Application, offers and admissions for all four postgraduate admitting authorities, by disability

Note that the Faculty of Education does not hold disability data for all applicants or offer holders as this field is not mandatory on the Department for Education PGCE application (and is collected by the University at the point of admission).¹⁰

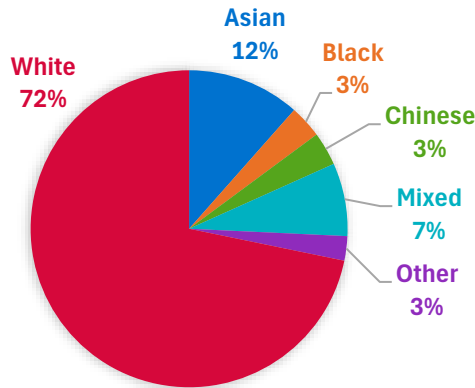
Disability	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
<i>Disability declared</i>	3,198	1,169	730	36.6%	22.8%	62.4%
Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses	51	14	8	27.5%	15.7%	57.1%
Deaf or have a hearing impairment	51	18	12	35.3%	23.5%	66.7%
Learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D	881	339	221	38.5%	25.1%	65.2%
Long-term illness or health condition	319	114	69	35.7%	21.6%	60.5%
Mental health condition, challenge or disorder	942	358	217	38.0%	23.0%	60.6%
Physical impairment	95	24	13	25.3%	13.7%	54.2%
Social/communication conditions	181	61	42	33.7%	23.2%	68.9%
An impairment, health condition or learning difference that is not listed	323	99	53	30.7%	16.4%	53.5%
Two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions	355	142	95	40.0%	26.8%	66.9%
<i>No disability declared</i>	28,893	8,185	4,613	28.3%	16.0%	56.4%
<i>Unknown / prefer not to say</i>	1,445	428	204	-	-	-
Total	33,536	9,782	5,547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%
Total with data	32,091	9,354	5,343	29.1%	16.6%	57.1%

¹⁰ 67.0% of Faculty of Education applicants have no disability data (compared to 2.4% of all other applicants), and 24.8% of Faculty of Education offer holders (compared to 3.6% of all other offer holders). Only 3.4% of Faculty of Education admissions have no disability data (compared to 3.7% of all other admissions).

Ethnicity (UK applicants only)

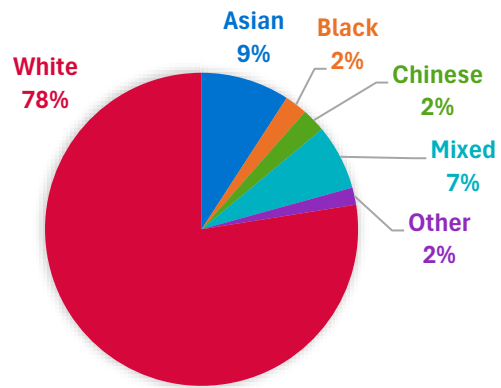
Applications from those with United Kingdom (UK) citizenship, by ethnic group reported

Excludes 11.3% (659) with no ethnicity data reported.



Admissions for those with United Kingdom (UK) citizenship, by ethnic group reported

Excludes 3.4% (62) with no ethnicity data reported.



Application, offers and admissions from individuals with United Kingdom (UK) citizenship for all four postgraduate admitting authorities, by ethnicity group

Note that the Faculty of Education does not hold ethnicity data for all applicants or offer holders as this field is not mandatory on the Department for Education PGCE application (and is collected by the University at the point of admission).¹¹

Subgroup data is suppressed where group size is fewer than 3. Where necessary to prevent calculation the unit of second smallest application group in the category has also been suppressed with an X (e.g. 1X is a number between 10 and 19).

Conversion rates are not calculated where the baseline group is less than 10 or where data has been suppressed.

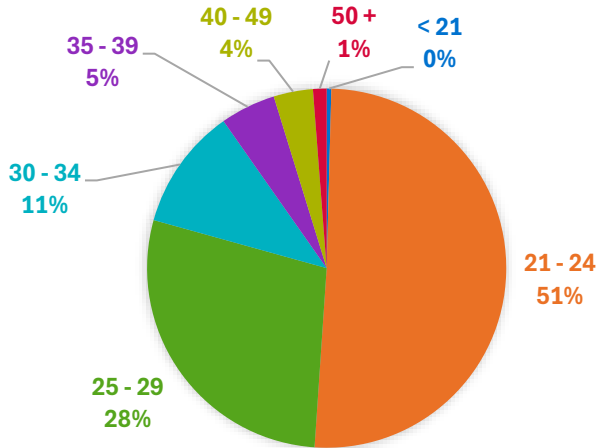
Ethnicity group	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
Asian	597	214	160	35.8%	26.8%	74.8%
Bangladeshi or Bangladeshi British	47	18	17	38.3%	36.2%	94.4%
Indian or Indian British	281	108	76	38.4%	27.0%	70.4%
Pakistani or Pakistani British	125	42	32	33.6%	25.6%	76.2%
Any other Asian background	144	46	35	31.9%	24.3%	76.1%
Black	173	62	41	35.8%	23.7%	66.1%
African or African British	135	46	28	34.1%	20.7%	60.9%
Caribbean or Caribbean British	29	1X	1X	-	-	-
Any other Black background	9	<3	<3	-	-	-
Chinese	177	63	43	35.6%	24.3%	68.3%
Mixed	386	176	118	45.6%	30.6%	67.0%
White and Asian	174	87	52	50.0%	29.9%	59.8%
White and Black African	22	6	3	27.3%	13.6%	-
White and Black Caribbean	35	16	15	45.7%	42.9%	93.8%
Any other Mixed or Multiple background	155	67	48	43.2%	31.0%	71.6%
Other	129	47	31	36.4%	24.0%	66.0%
Arab	58	17	9	29.3%	15.5%	52.9%
Any other ethnic background	71	30	22	42.3%	31.0%	73.3%
White	3716	1903	1355	51.2%	36.5%	71.2%
Unknown / prefer not to say	659	139	62	-	-	-
Non-UK citizenship	27699	7178	3737	-	-	-
Total (UK citizenship only)	5837	2604	1810	44.6%	31.0%	69.5%
Total with data (UK citizenship only)	5178	2465	1748	47.6%	33.8%	70.9%

¹¹ 63.0% of Faculty of Education applicants with UK citizenship have no ethnicity data (compared to 3.4% of all other applicants with UK citizenship), and 21.6% of Faculty of Education offer holders (compared to 3.0% of all other offer holders). Only 1.9% of Faculty of Education admissions with UK citizenship have no ethnicity data (compared to 3.2% of all other admissions with UK citizenship).

Age

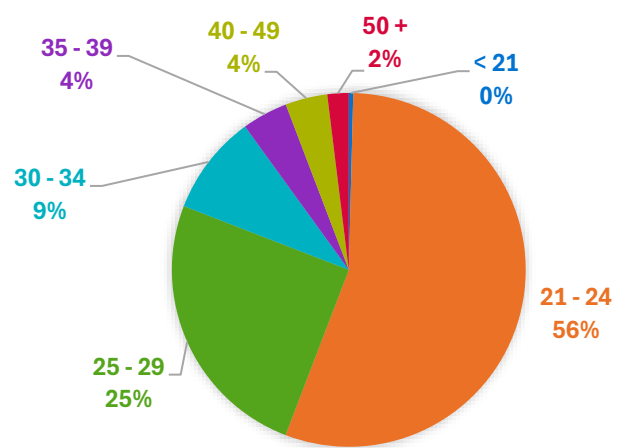
Applications, by age group

Age is calculated as age at the start of the academic year (1 October 2023). Excludes 0.1% (44) whose age is unknown.



Admissions, by age group

Age is calculated as age at the start of the academic year (1 October 2023). Excludes 0.2% (12) whose age is unknown.



Application, offers and admissions for all four postgraduate admitting authorities, by age group

Age (at start of academic year)	Numbers			Conversion rates		
	Applications	Offers Made	Admissions	Application to Offer	Application to Admission	Offer to Admission
<21	140	40	22	28.6%	15.7%	55.0%
21 - 24	16,967	5,492	3,068	32.4%	18.1%	55.9%
25 - 29	9,457	2,566	1,386	27.1%	14.7%	54.0%
30 - 34	3,666	897	507	24.5%	13.8%	56.5%
35 - 39	1,667	356	231	21.4%	13.9%	64.9%
40 - 49	1,186	285	213	24.0%	18.0%	74.7%
50 - 59	323	103	91	31.9%	28.2%	88.3%
60 +	86	21	17	24.4%	19.8%	81.0%
Unknown	44	22	12	-	-	-
Total	33536	9782	5547	29.2%	16.5%	56.7%
Total with data	33492	9760	5535	29.1%	16.5%	56.7%