An aerial photograph of London at sunset. The Shard is the central focus on the left, its glass facade reflecting the orange and yellow light of the setting sun. The city skyline is visible in the background, with other buildings and the River Thames. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and yellow.

# **THE HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNEY OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS**

**DECEMBER 2018**

**LONDON  
COUNCILS**

The logo for London Councils, featuring the text "LONDON COUNCILS" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a white curved line swooshing under the word "COUNCILS".

This report has been developed in partnership with London Councils, Young People's Education and Skills

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the sixth annual report in a series of reports providing analysis of the higher education (HE) journey of young London residents as they progress from 16-18 institutions into HE studies. As with previous editions, this report also considers aspects of achievement at university as well as graduate employment.

Drawing on key information sources, the report provides a data informed commentary on the journey of young London residents to higher education. Although the report is concerned with examining the different aspects of this journey, it is not confined only to progression to HE. The report also comments on achievement in HE as well as the employment and education destination of our young HE learners.

We have tried as far as possible to retain a similar structure in this year's report as previous reports, this enables an ongoing commentary to begin to emerge and comparisons to be made over time across the growing body of data from successive reports.

In this year's report for example, we now have ten years of data to draw upon, so the report provides us with not only rich, longitudinal data, but an opportunity to reflect on a decade of policy reform in education and higher education, which has had a profound impact on the higher education sector, and a significant impact on the numbers of young people progressing to higher education.

One aim in producing these reports is to support London local authorities and other stakeholders to map the whole of the higher education journey of their young people, and the research aims to not only provide an illustration of that journey, but to also evidence the value of higher education to young people in London in terms of their early graduate employment six months after completing their higher education studies.

The numbers of young people progressing to higher education in London has always been of interest to London local authorities, but it has taken on added importance as



more and more jobs in London now and in the future will be at Levels 4-6, which broadly equate to undergraduate level.

In addition HE itself is also changing and responding to the new conditions, with more colleges of further education (FE) and F&HE directly funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver higher education as well as an increasing number of new providers; the removal of limits on the number of undergraduates universities can recruit; a decrease in the number of international students choosing to study in the UK, including EU students; the re-launch of apprenticeships and the growing development of Level 4 higher and degree apprenticeships.

In many ways these changes in the provision of higher education represent a reordering of HE opportunities and indicate the different pathways for young people in London who want to progress to Level 4 qualifications and above.

In each of our reports, we have included a different focus each year, and this year we have focused on the retention of students – students who remain on their courses after one year of registration. Continuation is an important indicator of the likelihood of students completing their studies.

This year, we have also reflected on aspects of the impact of government policy on participation over the last ten years. Government policy has focused on increasing the percentage of people entering higher education and achieving degrees since the 1990s. This has been primarily a policy drive to provide the higher skilled workforce that the economy needs, but at the same time widening participation initiatives have also focused on the social mobility that higher education can offer to young people who are able to enter graduate professions.

As we have noted previously, government funding bodies<sup>1</sup> have provided financial incentives to universities that recruit students from low income postcodes, and who are the first in their families to enter higher education. There is still a clear policy drive to increase HE participation and success from under-represented groups under the auspices of the Office for Students.

The current National Collaborative Outreach Programme, funded via the Office for Students, has three key objectives: double the proportion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education by 2020; increase by 20 per cent the number of students in higher education from ethnic minority groups; address the under-representation of young men from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education.

We noted previously on the findings from the Social Mobility Advisory Group (SMAG) which reported that “socio-economic disadvantage continues to be the most significant driver of inequality in terms of access to and outcomes from higher education”.

This report further noted that eighteen year-olds from the most advantaged groups remain 2.4 times more likely to enter university than their disadvantaged peers, and 6.3 times more likely to attend one of the most selective institutions in the UK. Having graduated from university, students from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to go into professional jobs, and if they do they are likely to be paid less.

The findings from the Universities UK report further underlines the relevance of the analyses in our previous reports on the journey of young people from 16-19 education, through higher education and into employment at London regional and individual borough level.

The SMAG report cites and draws on our 2015 research in its evidence, and given this theme, our reports now include a section on social mobility, including time series data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) on progression to HE by IMD decile; the socio-economic status of young HE entrants, and previous parental participation in HE.

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*1 Higher Education Funding Council until 1st April 2018. The Office for Students from 1st April 2018*

In a similar way a recent report from the Greater London Authority (GLA) picks up on the findings from our 2017 report which indicated that the “number of London students going onto higher education whose parents had not been to higher education exceeded the number whose parents had”<sup>2</sup>.

This 2018 report provides a further contribution to developing our understanding of the Journey of young London residents as they progress into, through and beyond higher education. It also highlights the emergence of a new HE environment which will no doubt create new opportunities and challenges for young Londoners going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Storan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Professor John Storan

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<sup>2</sup> *Skills strategy for Londoners: Evidence base, GLA Economics, June 2018*

## SCOPE OF THE REPORT

Using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the report focuses on young people aged 18-24 whose home addresses are in London. The most recent data available is for the academic year 2016/17. Time series data back to 2007/08 is also used to illustrate trends over a ten year period.

The data provides information on the progression to higher education (HE) of young people in their first year of study at a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) on a full or part-time, first or undergraduate degree. These students are referred to as 'young London residents' throughout this paper.

The report analyses progression using time series data, and examines student characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity, mode of study, type of HEI attended (institutional group), HEI location, and most popular subjects studied as well additional data on student entry qualifications.

There is a section on social mobility, including time series data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) on the socio economic status of young Londoners in HE and parental experiences of higher education. The report also includes 2016/17 data on progression to HE by IMD Decile.

The report goes on to look at the retention and achievement of young London residents who completed higher education qualifications in 2016/17 in terms of continuation rates following entry, types of higher education qualification obtained, and the degree classification achieved.

The final section of the report examines the outcomes of higher education. This section utilises data from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, and the most recent detailed data available is for students who completed their higher education studies by the end of the academic year 2015/16. Students who completed in that year will still be aged 18-24, and the data again identifies students who have home postcodes in London. The initial phase of the DLHE survey is conducted six months after graduation, so it is an early snapshot, and many students will not have settled into employment six months after completing their studies. For those initial non-respondents, a follow-up survey is conducted after a further six months. As it is a survey, the validity of the results are dependent on responses. Nationally, the DLHE response rate is about 78%. One important point is that the DLHE sample is not the same cohort as the progression cohort. This is because the DLHE cohort contains all students who completed their course of study in 2015/16, and students would have had different starting points depending on the length of the qualification they studied.

Using DLHE data enables the report to provide information about student destinations post-completion (employment and/or further study). It further examines employment destinations using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), which classifies industries and sectors by type and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), which classifies job roles by industry. This enables the report to provide a picture of the employment of young graduates from London. The data does include some information on salaries, but only 68% of respondents return salary information in the DLHE, so the data only provides a partial picture. Finally, the report provides GIS heatmaps of employment locations by employer postcodes – providing a visual illustration of the early graduate employment destinations in London of the 2015/16 young London resident, UK higher education leavers.

Further information on the Methodology is presented in Appendix C.



# 2.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We continue to see a growing number of young London residents progressing to HE, with numbers exceeding the previous highest levels in 2009/10 prior to the introduction of student tuition fees.

However, we also note a slowing down in the growth rate in 2016/17 and greater fluctuation across London boroughs, with nineteen boroughs experiencing growth, and thirteen boroughs experiencing a reduction compared to the previous year in which only five boroughs registered a reduction.

The largest increases in participation have been in the 18 & 19 year old age group studying full-time programmes, which is a continuing trend. The number of students aged 20 and under has increased by 25% over the last ten years, but the number of 21-24 year olds has decreased by 25% over the same period.

It is important to recognise that the pattern of decline in the number of part-time students in London that we have noted in previous reports has continued in 2016/17. The numbers of 18-24 year old London residents studying part-time has decreased by over 60% in ten years, with serious consequences for the future provision of part-time HE opportunities in London and elsewhere.

The gender gap identified in last year's report has narrowed slightly, but there are still 16% more females progressing to HE than males. Interestingly, over the ten year period from 2007/08, there has been a greater increase in the number and percentage of males progressing to HE than females.

Ethnicity data shows that participation has increased across most ethnic groups, but the largest group – White students – has not actually increased over the ten year period. The largest increases since 2007/08 have been in students from Black British – African and Mixed ethnic backgrounds.

Analysis of socio-economic data indicates that young HE entrants in London are from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, with just under a quarter of young London-domiciled students from the 20% most deprived postcodes in England, and over 40% from postcodes within the 30% most deprived wards in England.

Over the ten years from 2007/08, there has been a 91% increase in the number of young HE entrants from London whose parents did not go to university, compared to a 51% increase in entrants whose parents did go to university.

The report examines the progression of students from 16-19 institutions in London, and in 2016/17 the greatest increase has been for students progressing to HE from school sixth forms, which continues the pattern seen over the last few years.

Increases in HE progression continue to be primarily to Russell Group and pre-92 HE institutions, although the largest number of students in London still progress to post-1992 institutions. Although London HE institutions are still the most popular with London residents, there has been a gradual increase in the number of student studying at HE institutions outside London.

There has been little change in the degree subjects with the highest numbers of students with Business Studies, Psychology, and Computer Science the most popular subjects.

The trend of increases in the number of students progressing to university with non-A Level qualifications that we have noted in previous reports has continued in 2016/17, and the pattern of increases in the number of students progressing with higher tariff points has also continued, with the largest increase in the higher tariff bands.

Although it has not been possible to calculate the completion rates of students, we have included continuation rates – students who are still on their HE course one year after entry - which is regarded as a strong indicator in the likelihood of students completing their HE course.

The data showed that in 2016/17, 85% of young Londoners who started a course of HE study in 2015/16 were still on their courses one year later.

There has been an increase in the awarding of 2:1 degrees in 2016/17 compared to the previous year and the trends over a ten-year period indicate significant increases in students achieving first and upper second class degrees with a consequent decrease in lower second class honours and third class honours.

The HESA Destinations of Leavers (DLHE) survey data also shows an improving employment picture for young London resident students six months after they completed their studies in 2015/16. The data shows that over 68% were in employment or due to start work six months after completing their programmes, and just under 70% were employed in senior managerial and directors, professional, associate professional and managerial roles, which would be regarded as graduate jobs.

The largest number of young London graduates are employed in Business and Public Service Associate Professional occupations. There are also a large number of recent graduates employed as Health Professionals, Sales Occupations and in Professional and Associate Professional roles associated with Health and Social Welfare, Teaching, Research and Science & Technology. In addition, there are also significant numbers employed in Culture, Media and Sports Occupations, which is not entirely surprising as London is a major employment hub for the Cultural and Creative Industries.

# 3. PROGRESSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN LONDON

## 3.1 NUMBER OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS PROGRESSING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The numbers of young Londoners progressing to higher education<sup>3</sup> in 2016/17 are the highest since this research began. In 2016/17, 68,890 young people progressed to higher education, which is higher than the previous highest number recorded in 2015/16, which was 68,000.

Progression in London had been increasing year on year up to and including 2009/10. It dipped in 2010/11 due to the introduction of university tuition fees of £3,250. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE, 2013) noted that the increase in initial participation by 18 year olds in 2011/12 was primarily caused by a significant drop in students deferring their studies that year due to the introduction of higher tuition fees of £9,000 from 2012/13.

Numbers progressing to HE dropped significantly in 2012/13 with a reduction of 9,000 young Londoners progressing to HE in that year. This represented a 13% drop compared to the previous year. Numbers began to recover over the following four years, but the London average masked considerable variation in recovery at London borough level.

Progression to HE in London has recovered by almost 15% since 2012/13 with the largest increase in 2015/16 and a small increase in 2016/17. Even with a smaller increase in the numbers of young Londoners progressing to HE in 2016/17, overall student numbers

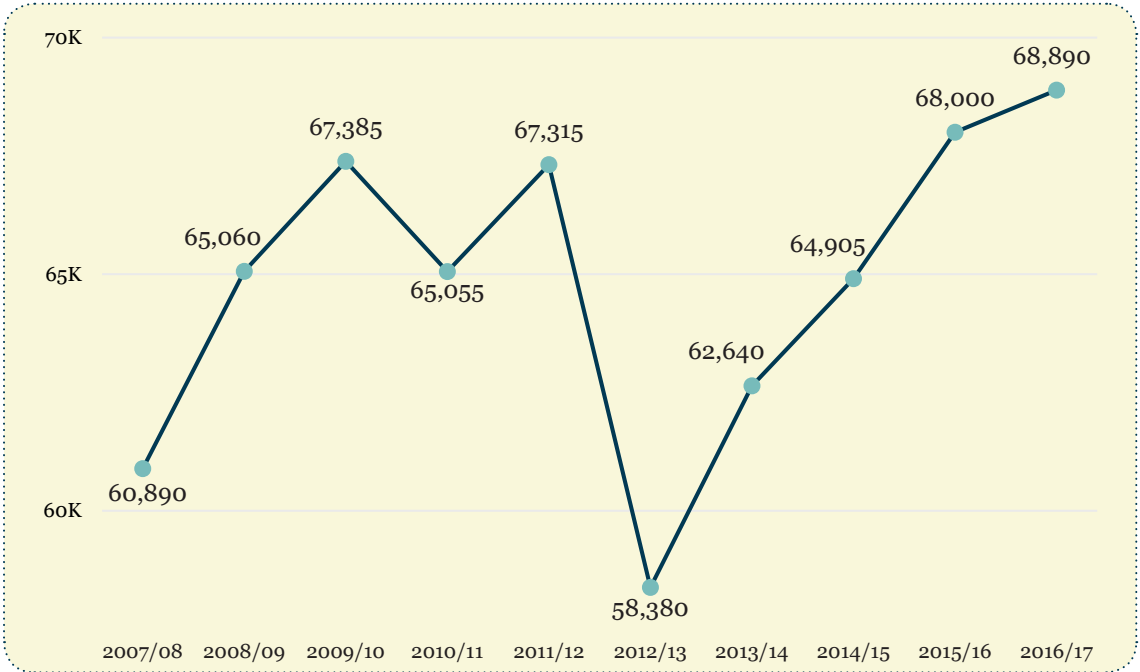
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<sup>3</sup> Young people aged 18-24 with home postcodes in London who progressed to their first year of higher education study on a full or part-time, first or undergraduate degree at a UK HEI



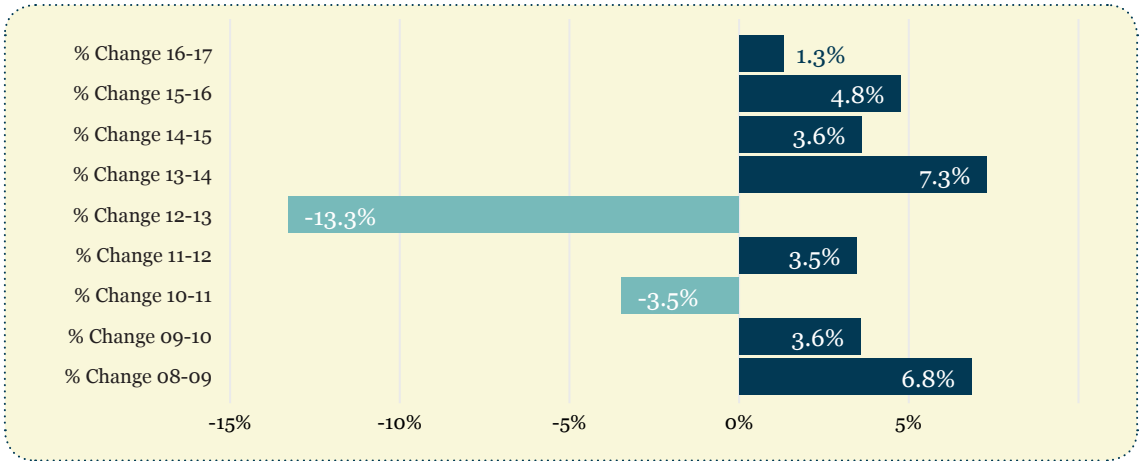
have still reached their highest level since 2007/08. Over the same period, the 18-24 year old population in London has increased, and this is a contributing factor to the increase in overall numbers progressing to HE.

**FIGURE 1: YOUNG PROGRESSION TO HE 2007/8 - 2016/17**



Although young participation numbers in London have increased to the highest level since 2007/08, the percentage increase in London for 2016/17 is only 1.3%, which is the lowest annual percentage increase in the last three years.

**FIGURE 2: ANNUAL % CHANGE IN PROGRESSION 2008/09-2016/17**

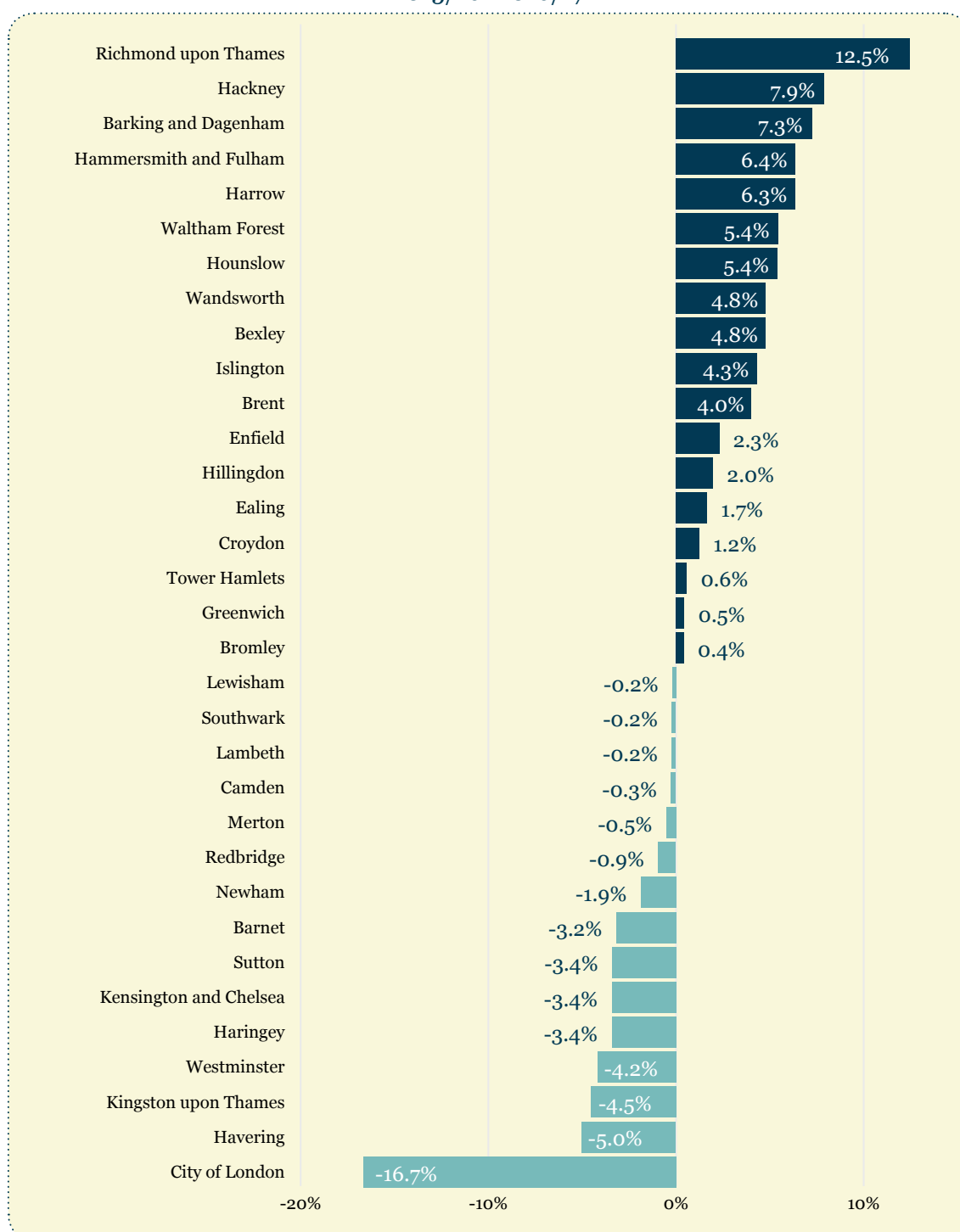


## 3.2 NUMBERS PROGRESSING TO HIGHER EDUCATION BY LONDON BOROUGH

Although the overall numbers of young London residents progressing to HE in 2016/17 increased, there is considerable variation at borough level. Small increases and decreases only represent small numbers of students per borough, which can sometimes be due to fluctuations in the cohort size.

Figure 3 shows the percentage change at borough level between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The reasons for small increases or small decreases in participation are difficult to disentangle

**FIGURE 3:** ANNUAL CHANGE: YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS' PROGRESSION TO HE BY BOROUGH 2015/16 -2016/17



at borough level because of the number of variables involved. One potential reason could be the changing young population numbers in individual boroughs – both increases and decreases which could influence the participation figures significantly, particularly in boroughs with small young populations.

The most significant difference in 2016/17 is the fluctuation at borough level, with thirteen boroughs showing decreases compared to the previous year, although only seven have decreases of 3% or more. Nineteen boroughs showed an increase in participation, with six boroughs showing increases of over 5%, and Richmond upon Thames showing the largest increase (12.5%).

**TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF NUMBERS PROGRESSING TO HE BETWEEN 2007/08 AND 2016/17 BY LOCAL AUTHORITY**

LOCAL AUTHORITY	2007/08	2016/17	%
London	60,890	68,890	13%
Barnet	3,340	3,400	0%
Croydon	2,855	3,260	12%
Ealing	2,890	3,250	12%
Enfield	2,500	3,240	29%
Brent	2,780	3,115	12%
Redbridge	2,615	3,045	16%
Newham	2,670	3,030	13%
Harrow	2,680	2,765	3%
Bromley	2,192	2,380	9%
Hillingdon	1,915	2,375	24%
Southwark	2,105	2,270	8%
Lambeth	2,010	2,230	11%
Haringey	2,070	2,200	6%
Waltham Forest	1,985	2,190	10%
Hounslow	1,850	2,180	18%
Lewisham	2,040	2,180	7%
Wandsworth	1,780	2,155	21%
Tower Hamlets	1,685	2,090	24%
Greenwich	1,655	2,000	21%
Hackney	1,645	1,860	13%
Merton	1,465	1,720	17%
Barking and Dagenham	1,030	1,700	65%
Bexley	1,455	1,700	17%
Richmond upon Thames	1,515	1,595	5%
Sutton	1,290	1,505	17%
Camden	1,410	1,505	7%
Havering	1,335	1,440	8%
Islington	1,340	1,425	6%
Westminster	1,320	1,415	7%
Kingston upon Thames	1,335	1,330	-0.70%
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,050	1,305	24%
Kensington and Chelsea	1,025	1,015	-0.70%
City of London	45	30	-32%

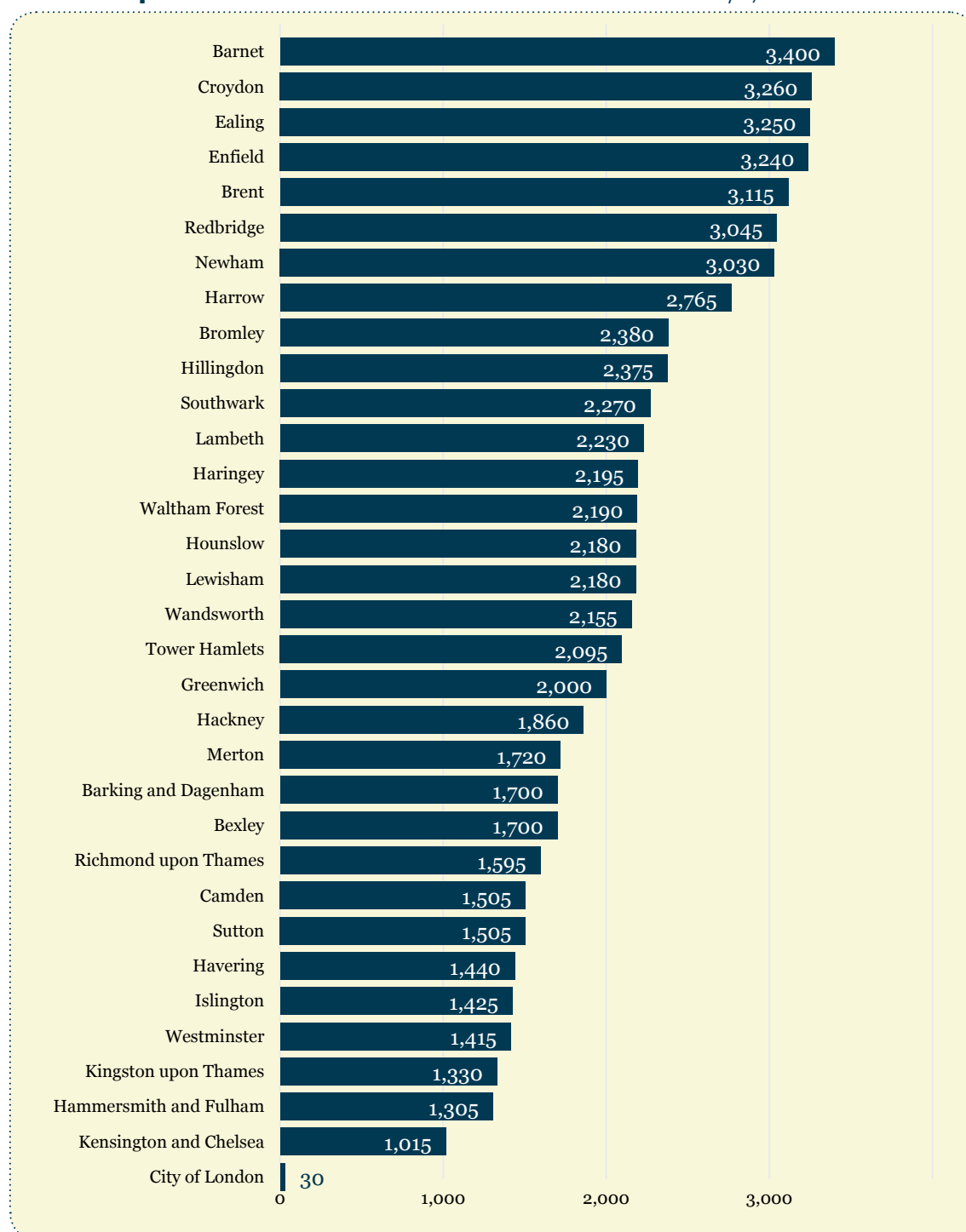


Over the ten year period from 2007/08, all but two London boroughs increased the number of young people progressing to study at a UK University or HE College. The largest increase in participation since 2007/08 by far is in Barking & Dagenham (+65%), followed by Enfield (+29%) and Tower Hamlets, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Hillingdon (+24%), and Greenwich (+21%).

The only boroughs with a small decrease since 2007/08 are Kingston upon Thames (-0.7%) and Kensington & Chelsea (-0.7%).

Nineteen boroughs showed an increase of over 10% in participation since 2007/08; thirteen boroughs showed an increase of over 15% and eight boroughs showed an increase of 5% or less.

**FIGURE 4: YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS' PROGRESSION TO HE IN 2016/17 BY HOME BOROUGH**

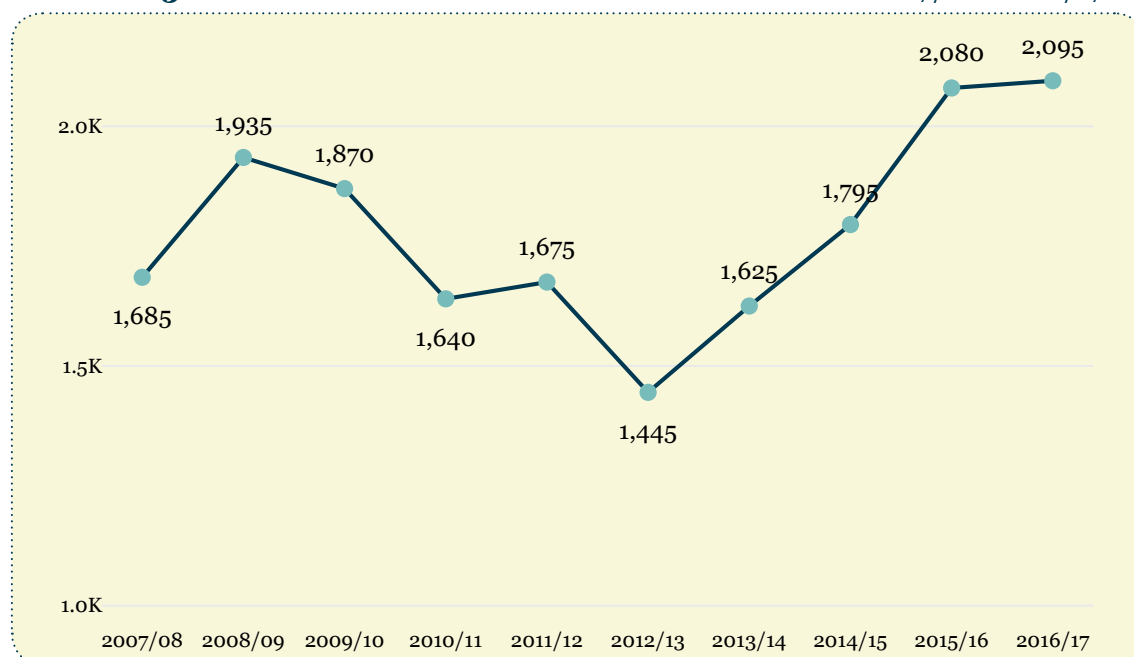


Fluctuations in the numbers in school and college year cohorts at borough level are likely to have had some impact on increases and decreases over the ten year period.

Barking & Dagenham and Tower Hamlets have rapidly increasing young populations, but actual numbers progressing to HE in Barking & Dagenham were 1,030 in 2007/08 and that number had risen to 1,700 by 2016/17 - an increase of just under two thirds. Similarly in Tower Hamlets, participation has increased by just under a quarter over the same period.

A further factor in the increase in HE participation at borough level is the increase in the number of new school sixth forms in London and increases in GCSE performance, which has enabled more young people to progress to Level 3 and A Level provision. Increases in A Level and Level 3 performance in London has also enabled more young people to have the option of progressing to higher education.

**FIGURE 5: YOUNG TOWER HAMLETS RESIDENTS' PROGRESSION TO HE 2007/08- 2016/17**



In Tower Hamlets, the number of students increased by 24% over the ten year period from 2007/08-2016/17. There was a very significant dip in 2012/13, when tuition fees of up to £9,000 per year were introduced, but strong recovery in the following three years, before a marginal increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

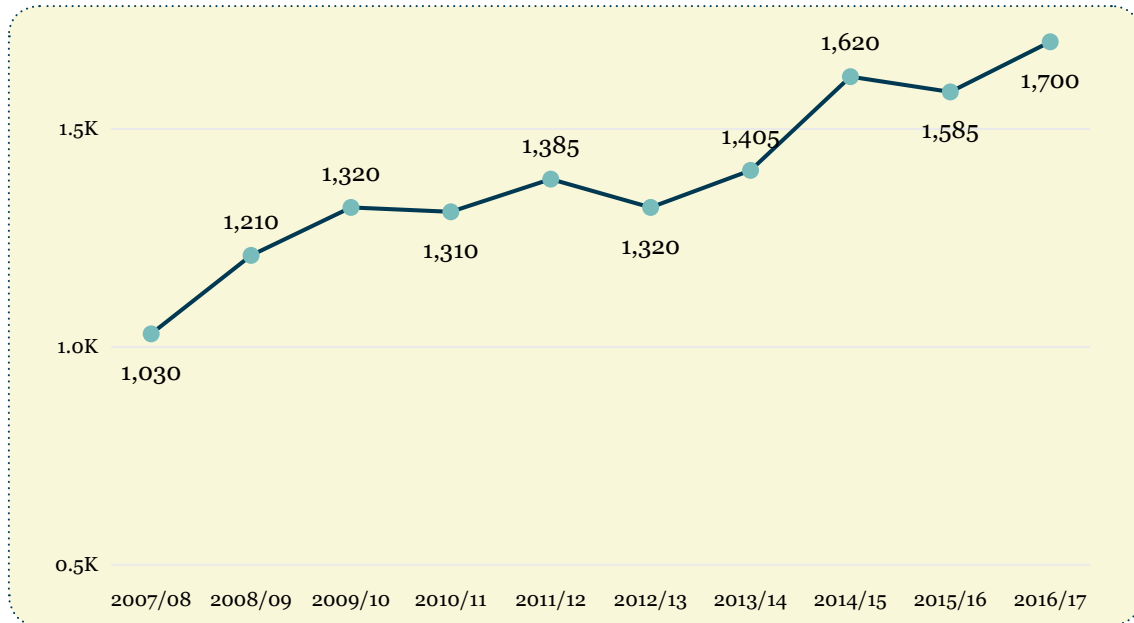
Numbers progressing from school sixth forms in the Tower Hamlets increased by 200% from 340 in 2007/08 to 1,020 in 2016/17. Numbers progressing from sixth form colleges and FE colleges have not changed significantly over the ten year period. Analysis of the data shows a significant increase in the numbers of students with A Levels and Level 3 Diplomas, and UCAS tariff points of entrants have also increased significantly.

These have clearly been factors in the increases in higher education participation in Tower Hamlets, as more young people met the entry criteria for university courses.

Barking & Dagenham has experienced the largest increase of any London local authority over the ten year period, with a 65% increase in young participation from 1,030 students in 2007/08 to 1,700 students in 2016/17. The dip in 2012/13 was less marked in Barking & Dagenham than in many other boroughs, and although there have been small fluctuations from year to year, the overall picture is one of significant progress in increasing participation.

Although some boroughs experienced a dip between 2015/15 and 2016/17, numbers in Barking & Dagenham increased by over 7% in 2016/17.

**FIGURE 6: YOUNG BARKING & DAGENHAM RESIDENTS' PROGRESSION TO HE**  
2007/08- 2016/17



The largest increases over the ten year period have been in school sixth forms: 370 to 850 – an increase of 130%, and in sixth form colleges: 70 to 240 – an increase of 135%.

GCSE and A Level performance in the borough has also improved over the ten year period, and an increase in higher UCAS tariff points on entry.

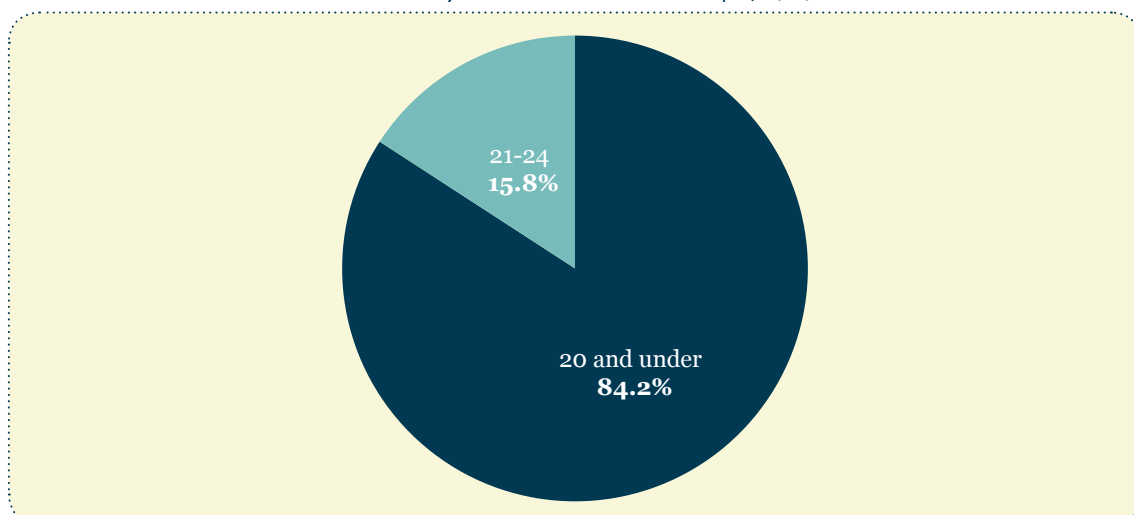
Although Barnet has not increased the overall numbers of young residents progressing to higher education between 2007/08 and 2016/17, Barnet still has the largest number of young people progressing to HE of all London boroughs.

### 3.3 STUDENT PROFILE

#### *Age on entry to higher education*

This report investigates young London residents in higher education aged 18-24 on entry. However, as Figure 7 indicates, the overwhelming majority of students will be aged 18-20 on entry (84%) as they will have followed a traditional route from Level 3

**FIGURE 7: AGE ON ENTRY 2016/17 (%)**





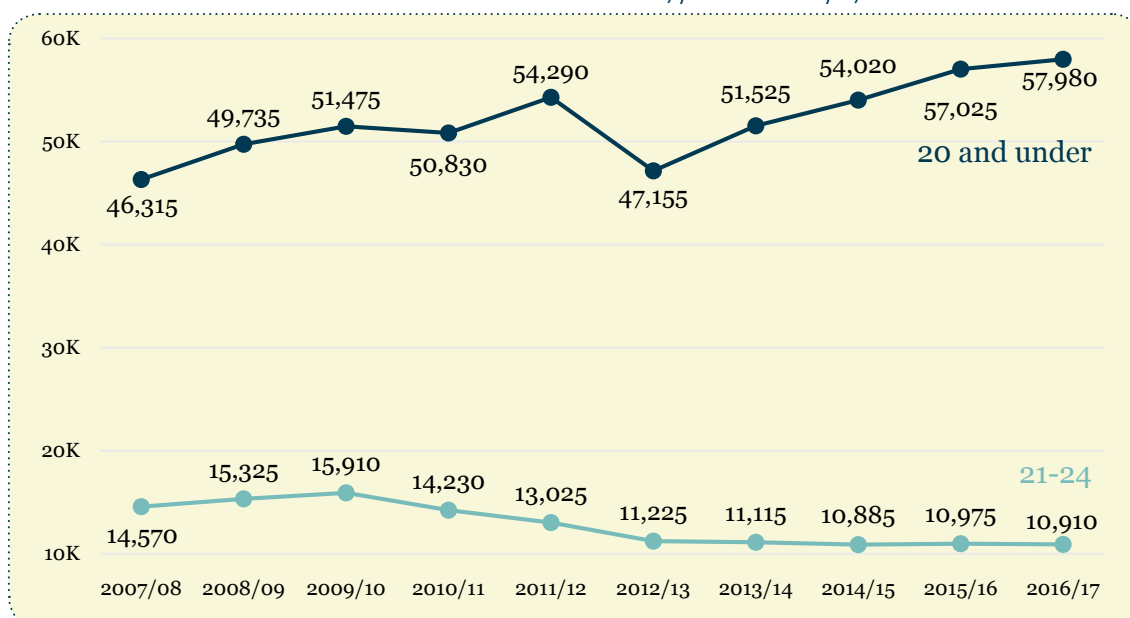
qualifications at age 18. This pattern has remained consistent throughout the ten-year period 2007/08-2016/17, with small percentage increases in participation year on year for the under 20 age group from 76% in 2007/08 to 84% in 2016/17.

The UCAS End of Cycle Report 2015 reported that the increase in entry to HE nationally for the 2015/16 academic year was the highest ever recorded. The UCAS End of Cycle Report 2016 , reports that applicant numbers were unchanged in 2016, but higher acceptance rates meant a record 535,200 students were placed in higher education through UCAS, up by half a per cent. There were 718,400 applicants in 2016, almost the same (100 fewer) than in 2015.

All the increase in UK acceptances came from increases in 18 and 19 year olds. The number of 18 year olds accepted in 2016 increased by 1.5% (3,600 acceptances) to 238,900, the highest number ever placed. The number of 19 year old acceptances increased by 0.5% (500 acceptances) to 92,200, also the highest number ever placed from this age group. Acceptances for older age groups decreased in 2016.

Nationally, the number of students placed aged between 21 and 25 in 2016 fell by 2.9%. In total, acceptances for those aged 20 and over fell by 1.7%.

**FIGURE 8: AGE ON ENTRY 2007/08 – 2016/17**



Time series data shows that the number of young Londoners aged 20 and under progressing to HE in 2016/17 is the highest in the ten years of reporting.

The UCAS end of cycle report 2016 reports that the highest entry rate out of all the regions nationally was for 18 year olds living in London, where 39.9% entered higher education in 2016. Young people in London were 38% more likely to enter higher education than those living in the South West and North East in 2016. The young population in London has also increased over the ten year period, but UCAS<sup>4</sup> estimate that the percentage increase in participation is only partly due to population increases.

Progression by the 21-24 London resident age group declined by 0.6% in 2016/17 compared to the previous year, but the actual number of students progressing to HE increased slightly after five years of decline.

The statistics in Figure 8 and Table 2 underline the importance of the decision that young people in London make about progression to higher education at age 18, as they are far less likely to go into higher education after the age of 19.

<sup>4</sup> UCAS End of Cycle Report 2016 (Dec 2016) <https://www.ucas.com/file/86541/download?token=PQnaAI5f>

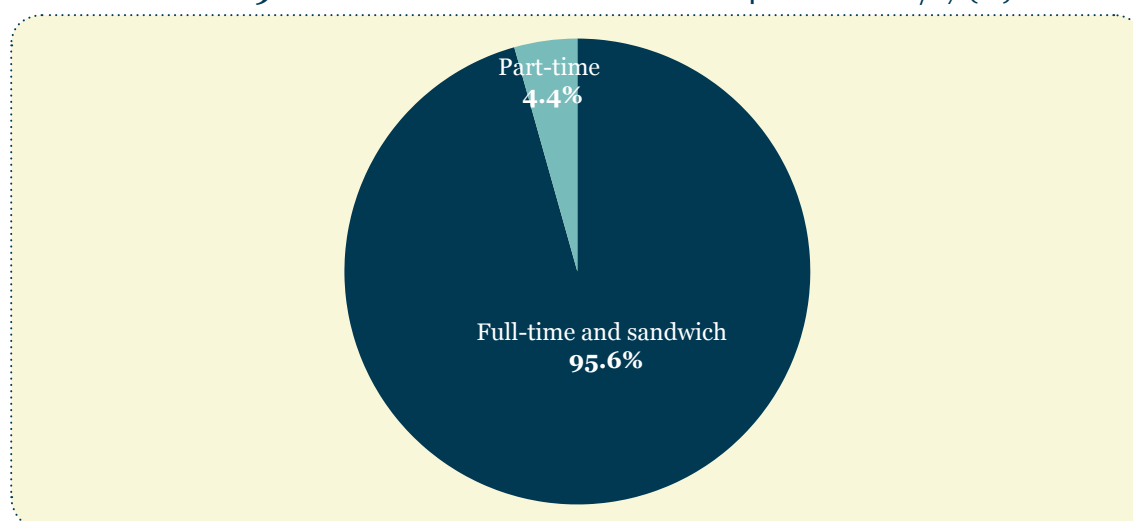
**TABLE 2: : AGE ON ENTRY - TIME SERIES 2007/08-2016/17**

DETAILED AGE ON ENTRY	2007/08 Nos	2016/17 Nos	+/-%
18	22,210	30,970	39%
19	16,340	19,585	20%
20	7,010	7,210	3%
21	4,720	3,985	-15%
22	3,810	2,825	-25%
23	3,135	2,185	-30%
24	2,910	1,915	-34%

The Education and Skills Funding Agency also introduced a reduction in funding to education providers of 17.5% for 18 year olds studying in full-time 16-19 education, which means that education providers are penalised financially for taking a 17 year old on to a two year Level 3 course that they will complete at age 19.

### ***Mode of Study***

As you would expect, the overwhelming majority of 18-24 year old students' progress onto full-time first or undergraduate degrees, with only a small percentage choosing part-time study (Figure 9). The proportion of young people aged 20 and under choosing full-time study is even higher.

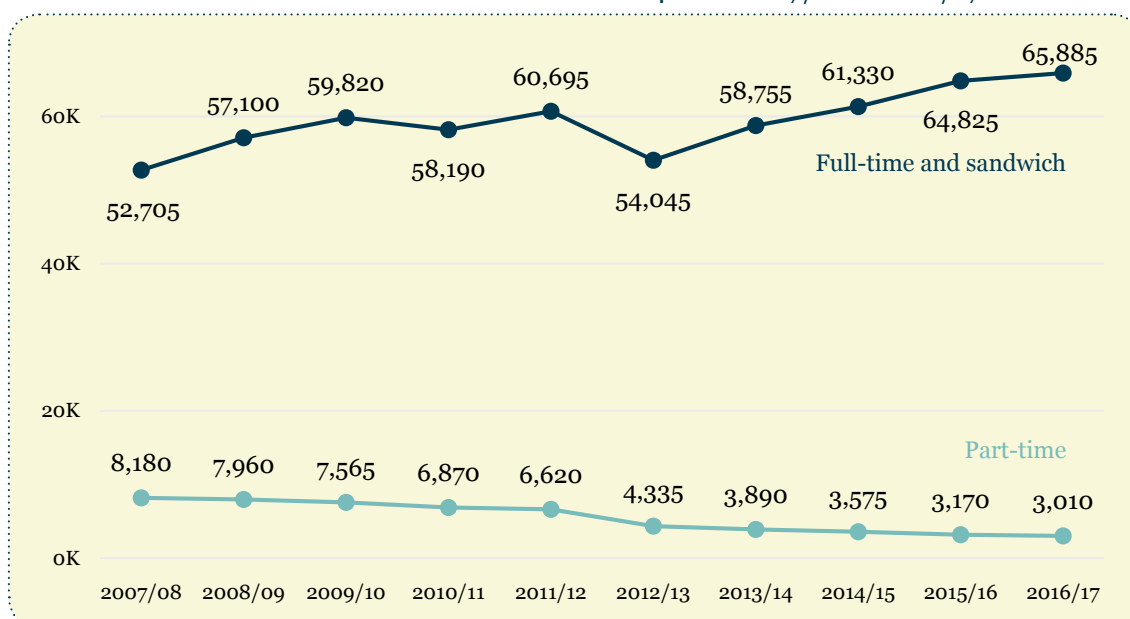
**FIGURE 9: MODE OF STUDY FOR THOSE AGED 18-24 YEARS - 2016/17 (%)**

In previous years, we have reported a significant decline in the percentage of young Londoners choosing part-time first-degree study, and the decline continued in 2016/17. Part-time numbers for 18-24 year olds in 2016/17 are now over 63% lower than they were in 2007/08.

Although part-time student numbers have been continually decreasing, the numbers of students studying at part-time and distance learning specialist institutions such as Birkbeck (University of London) and the Open University had been increasing up to 2010/11 and 2011/12.

The number of young people studying on part-time courses at the Open University decreased by 54% between 2007/08 and 2016/17 from 2003 in 2007/08. Student numbers at Birkbeck also decreased from 1,495 in 2011/12 to 895 in 2016/17.

**FIGURE 10: MODE OF STUDY FOR 18-24 OLDS 2007/08 - 2016/17**



Birkbeck College, part of the University of London, previously offered primarily part-time degrees, but they have seen a substantial increase in full-time young participation, which has offset the decrease in part-time numbers.

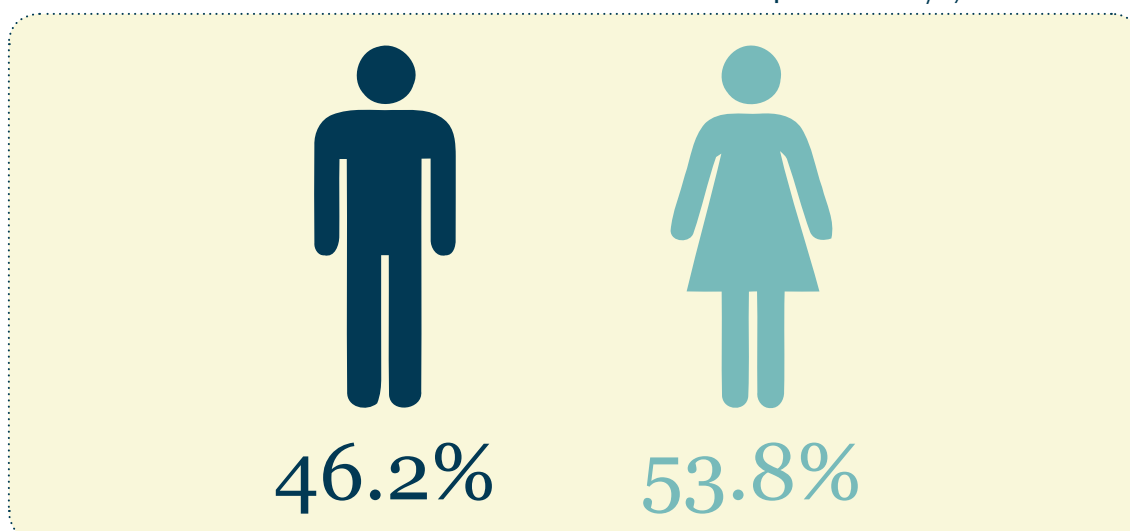
Overall, the number of young London residents progressing to part-time HE has decreased by 63% between 2007/08 and 2016/17.

The decline in part-time study, and young part-time study has been mirrored nationally. The decline in the number of young part-time students has particular implications for widening participation, as research indicates that young part-time students tend to be from less well-off backgrounds than those studying full-time<sup>5</sup>. This represents a major policy challenge, and one that we have highlighted in this report previously.

## Gender

In previous reports, we noted that after several years of the gender split narrowing, it had started to widen in London in 2014/15, which was in line with national trends.

**FIGURE 11: GENDER SPLIT FOR THOSE AGED 18-24 YEARS 2016/17**



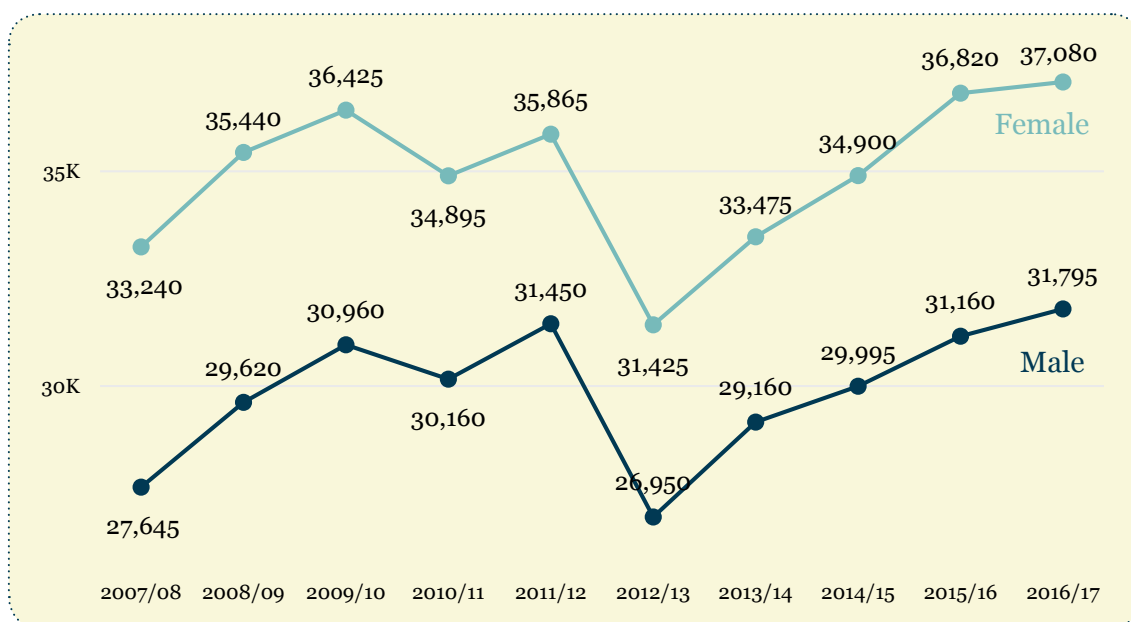
<sup>5</sup> *The Lost Part-Timers*, Claire Callender & John Thompson (2018) The Sutton Trust

The gender gap continued to widen in 2015/16 nationally and in London. The gap has narrowed slightly in 2016/17 in London to 46.2% male and 53.8% female participation, but is still wider than the narrowest gap achieved in 2013/14 of 46.6% male and 53.4% female participation.

In London in 2016/17, the entry rate for females aged 18-24 is 7.6 percentage points higher compared to males, which is lower than nationally, a decrease from 8.3 percentage points last year. The increase in participation in 16/17 compared to 2015/16 was 3.8% for males and 5.4% for females.

UCAS reported that nationally, the HE entry rate in 2016 for 18-year-old women was 9.6 percentage points higher than for men, making them 35 % (proportionally) more likely to enter than men. These differences, both proportional and in percentage points, are the highest recorded.

**FIGURE 12: GENDER BREAKDOWN OF YOUNG LONDONERS - TIME-SERIES**



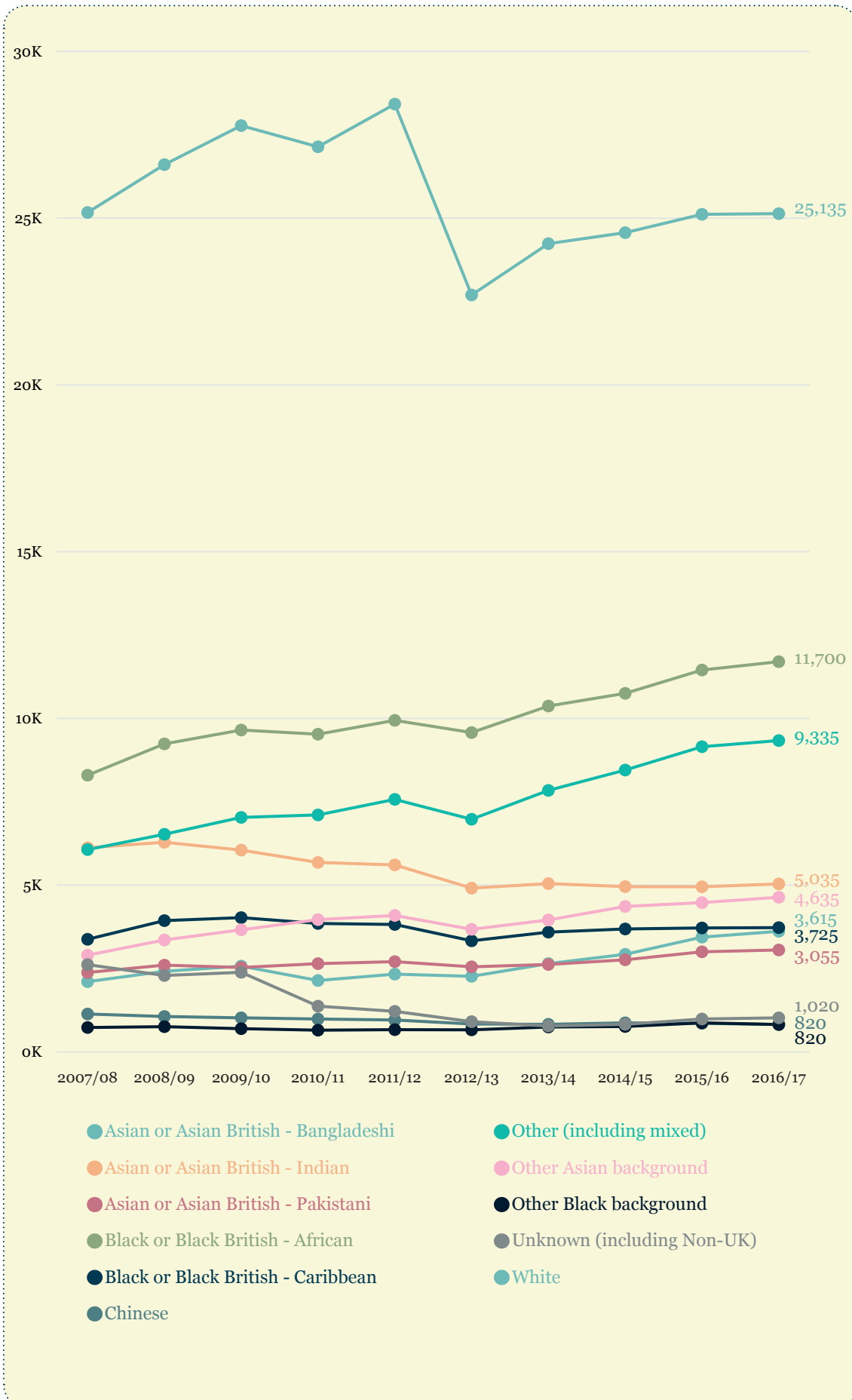
Although the gender gap in London has narrowed slightly in 2016/17 compared to the widening in 2015/16, gaps in gender participation; and links between gender, ethnicity and disadvantage in local areas are still an important focus for widening participation activity at both London and local borough level.

## ***Ethnicity***

Just over 36% of young London new entrants to HE identify themselves as White with the next highest proportions being Black or Black British-African students (17%) and students identifying as Other (including mixed, 13.5%). The time-series data presented in Figure 13 clearly indicates the fluctuation in White student numbers - primarily the result of the fee increases in 2012/13 - and the steady growth in young students from Black or Black British-African ethnicities.

Although the overall numbers are smaller, there is evidence of sustained increases in new young entrants from the Bangladeshi community. Over the last four years, annual increases in young Bangladeshi entrants have ranged from 5.1% to 17.6%.

**FIGURE 13:** ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS' PROGRESSION TO HE -  
TIME-SERIES



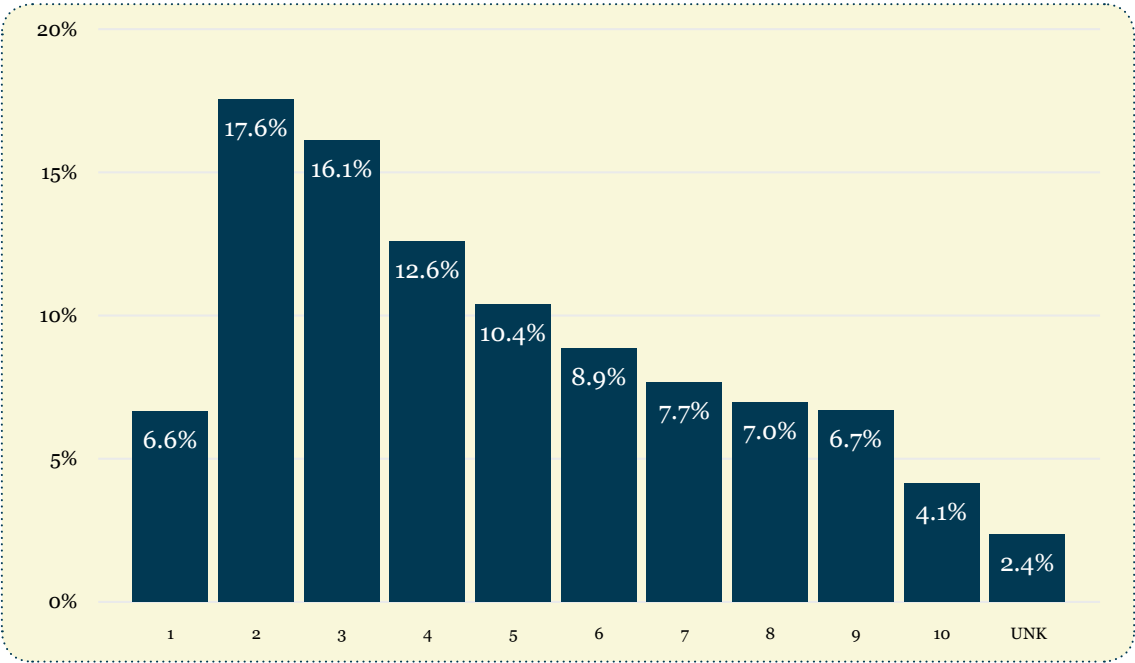


### 3.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF YOUNG ENTRANTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Despite decades of government widening participation initiatives, social inequality and social mobility are still the subject of reports about the continuing divide between the educational and occupational outcomes for young people from deprived socio-economic backgrounds compared to those from higher socio-economic backgrounds.

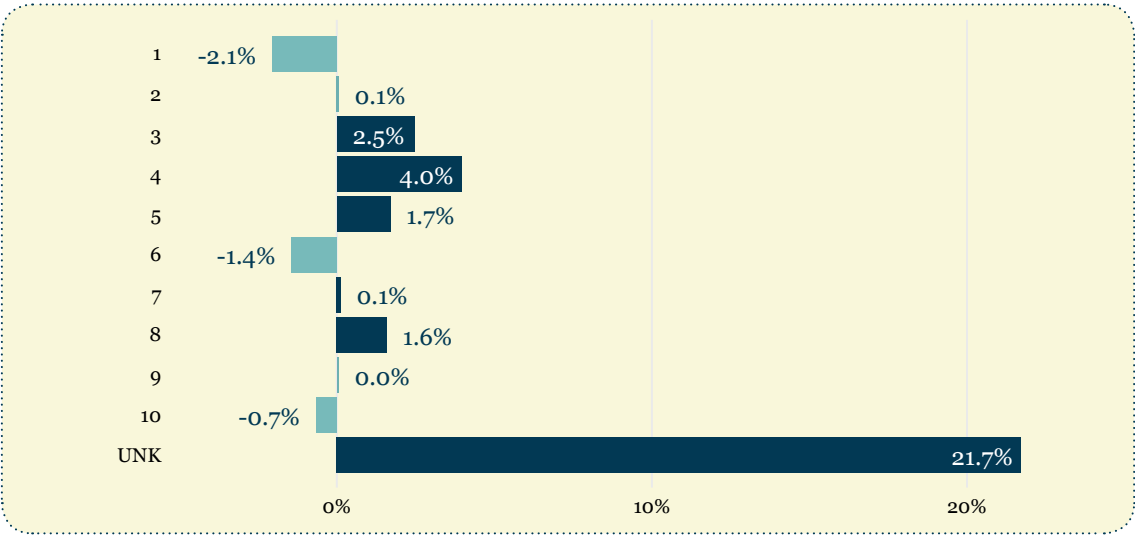
This section of the report analyses progression to HE for young people in London by socio-economic group, and seeks to locate the data within the context of a number of recent national reports.

**FIGURE 14:** PROGRESSION TO HE BY IMD DECILE 2016/17



The IMD measure is reported in Deciles. The Deciles are calculated by ranking all the neighbourhoods in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups based on the overall calculated score. These range from the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods (Decile 1) nationally to the 10% least deprived (Decile 10).

**FIGURE 15:** IMD % ANNUAL CHANGE 2015/16 - 2016/17



Data for 2016/17 shows that young Londoners entering HE are from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, with just under a quarter of young entrants from families resident in postcodes within Decile 1 and 2 – within the 20% most deprived wards in England. Typically, the government uses the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods as socially disadvantaged. Over 40% of young London-domiciled students are resident in postcodes within Deciles 1-3 representing the 30% most deprived wards in England.

Figure 15, shows a small percentage change in the participation of young Londoners in Decile 1 and increases in Deciles 2 and 3.

### ***Parental occupation of young entrants***

UCAS collects the socio-economic status of applicants each year, and they have data for just over 80% of entrants. For students aged under 21, the socio-economic status is that of their parents, and for students over 21, it is the socio-economic status of the student themselves. As we have already reported, 84% of young Londoners entering HE in the UK are aged under 21, so the majority of the data below relates to the parental occupation of students entering HE in 2016/17.

**FIGURE 16: PARENTAL OCCUPATION OF YOUNG LONDONERS PROGRESSING TO HE 2016/17**

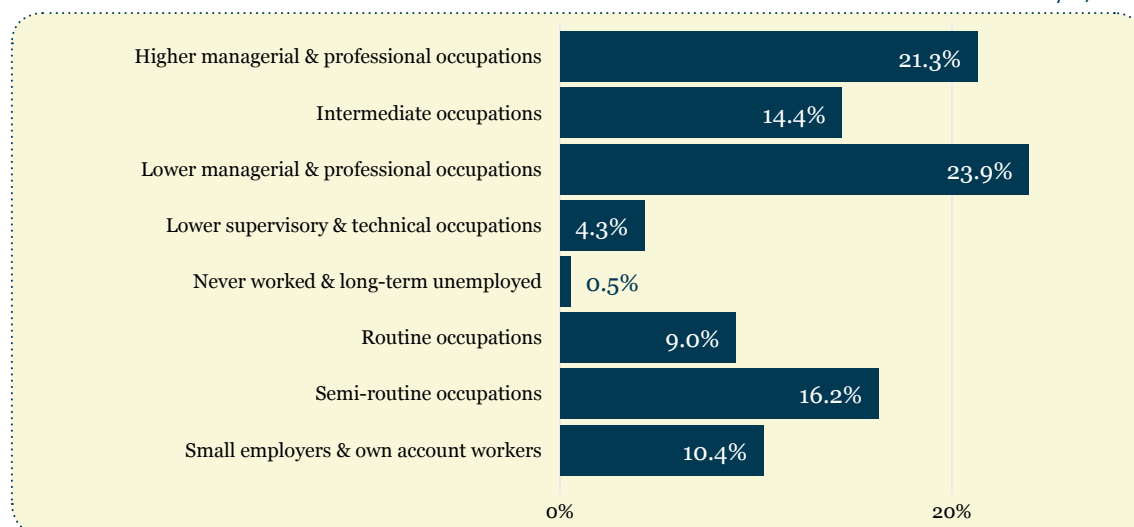


Figure 16 which excludes those with unknown status or gave an occupation that could not be classified, indicates that 45% of young London-domiciled entrants to HE emanated from parents employed in Higher/Lower Managerial and Professional Occupations and a further 10% from small employers and self-employed backgrounds. The remaining categories could be broadly classified as potentially emanating from widening participation backgrounds (Routine, Semi Routine Occupations, Intermediate, Lower Supervisory, etc.) and amount to 45% of young London residents. The percentages are broadly the same as in the previous year.

### ***Prior parental participation in higher education***

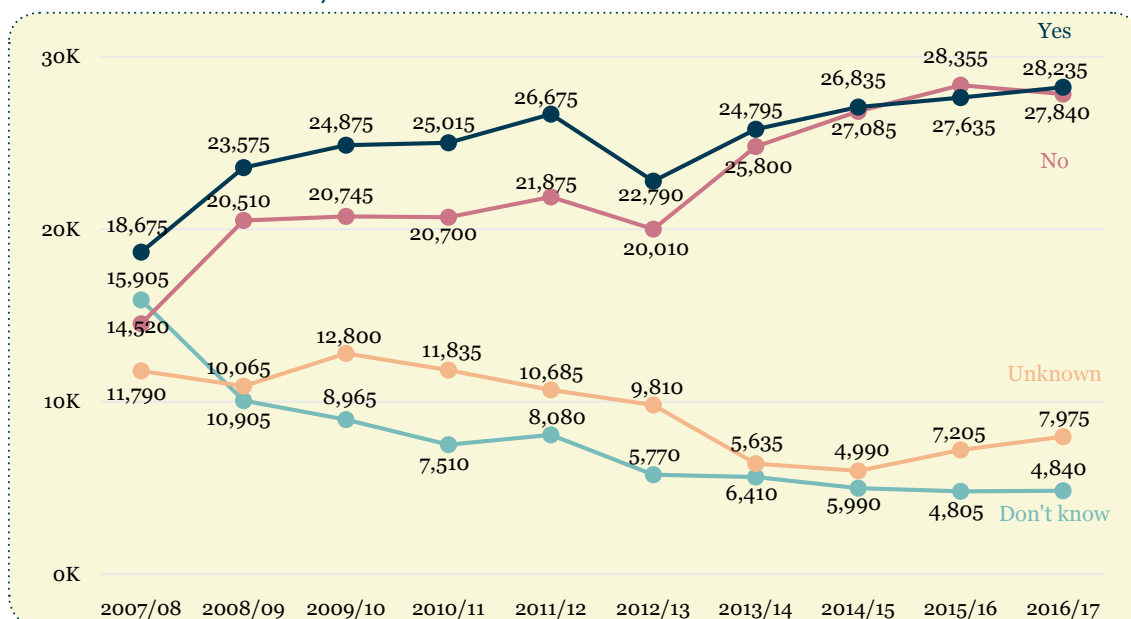
UCAS also collects data on whether applicants' parents attended university<sup>6</sup>. It is used as a widening participation indicator on which universities are measured in terms of the number of applications and acceptances from students with no parental experience of higher education.

The trend from 2007/08 has been a higher number of entrants whose parents had been to university than those whose parents had not. The gap began to narrow from 2012/13, and in 2015/16 the number of young HE entrants from London whose parents did not

<sup>6</sup> UCAS data is received by HESA

go to university overtook those whose parents had been to university. In 2016/17, this has reversed again, but the gap is narrow, may be an indicator of the impact of widening participation initiatives, which have been concentrated in boroughs with traditionally low HE participation and in schools and colleges with low progression to HE.

**FIGURE 17: PRIOR PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN HE - TIME-SERIES**



The data also shows a sharper rise in the number of young people whose parents did not go to university than in those whose parents did go to university. This may raise important questions around the contribution of HE outreach activities and investment across the capital. It is even more significant that the sharp rise is from 2013/14 onwards – the year after the introduction of higher tuition fees.

It is a concern that after three years of significant growth, the number of young Londoners entering HE whose parents had not been to university has fallen. There could be a number of factors involved, and this will require further investigation if the downward trend continues in the following year's data.

Young HE entrants whose parents had not been to university has risen from 14,520 to 27,840 over the ten-year period – an increase of over 90%. The group whose parents had been to university also increased significantly from 18,675 to 28,235 – an increase of over 51%. The 'Don't Know' group has reduced over 10 years from 15,855 to 4,840, and the 'unknown' group has also decreased by 5%.

### 3.5 HIGHER EDUCATION PROFILE

Figure 18 shows the previous (16-18) institution by type for young London residents who progressed to HE in 2016/17. Over half progressed from school sixth forms (including independent schools) with just under 19% from FE colleges and just under 10% from sixth form colleges.

‘Unknown’ students are generally those who studied overseas prior to entering university or whose previous institution are not recorded.

As in previous years, the numbers progressing to HE from school sixth forms has continued to increase in 2016/17. The numbers progressing from sixth form colleges has increased over the last two years, whilst the numbers progressing from FE colleges has fluctuated.

**FIGURE 18: PREVIOUS INSTITUTION (16-18) BY TYPE - 2016/17**

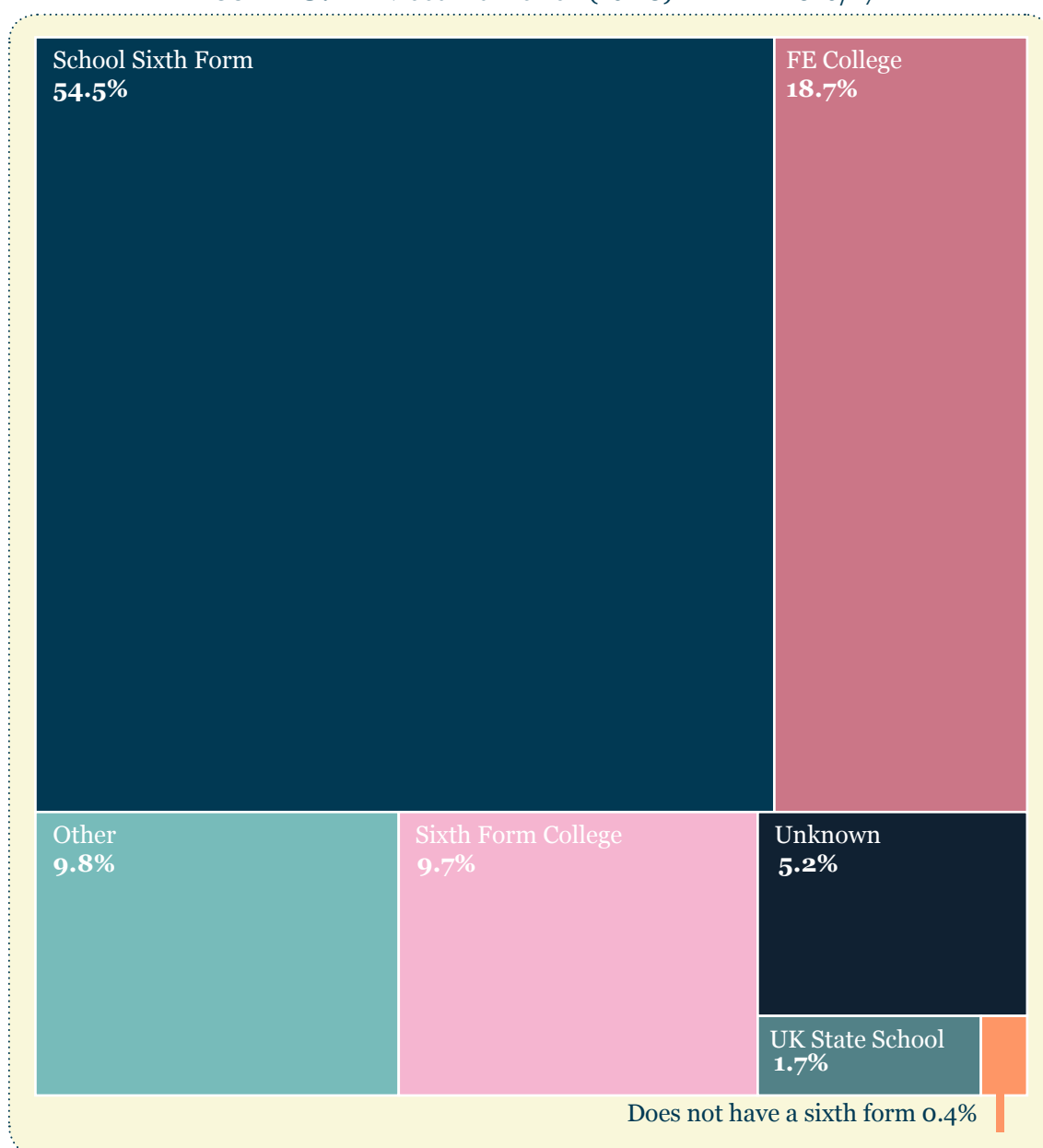
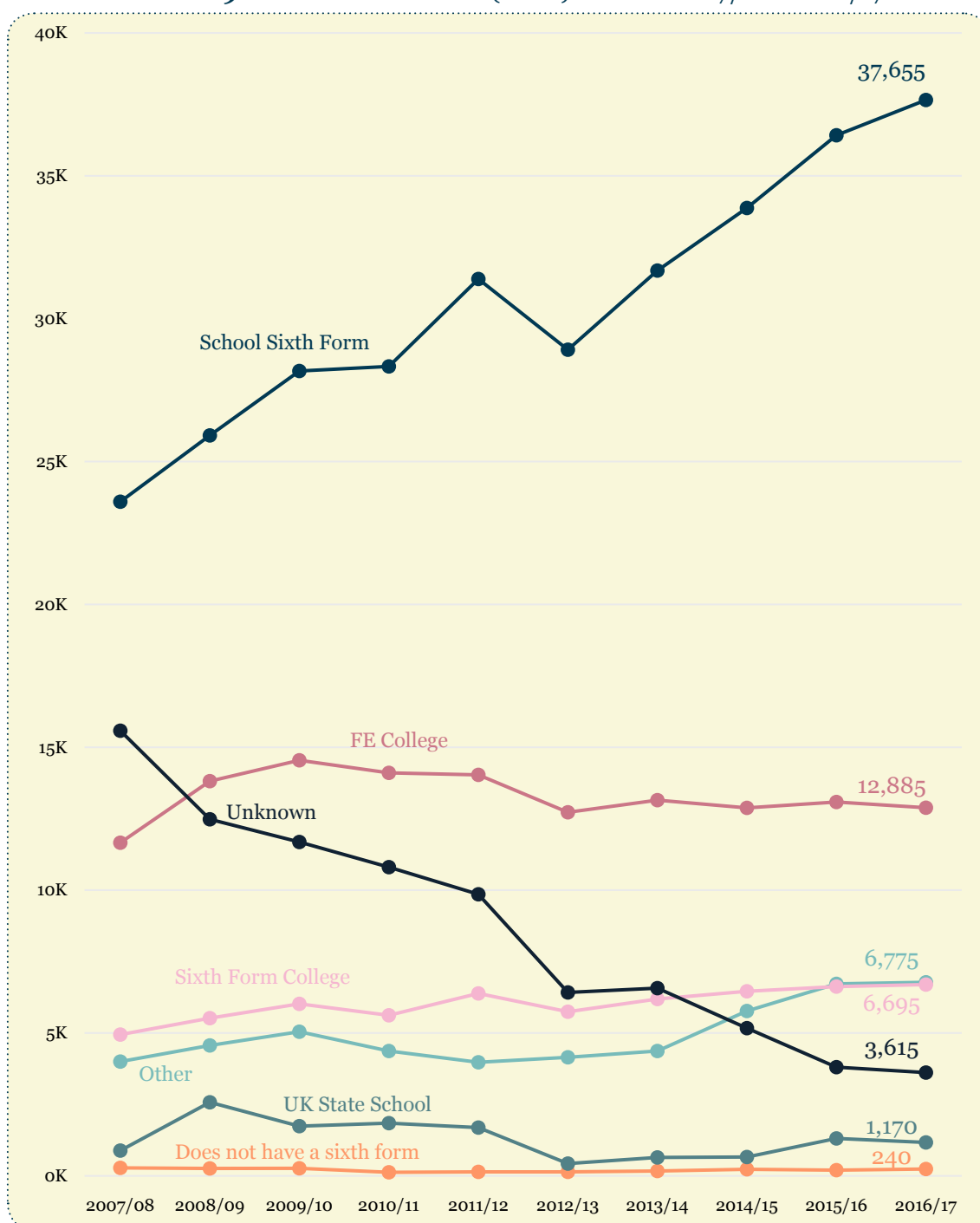


Figure 19 shows that the largest increases in the numbers of young Londoners progressing to HE has been from students progressing from school sixth forms, and this is partly due to the increase in the number of school sixth forms in London in recent years, the majority of which offer mainly A Level provision with a focus on progression to HE for their students.

The numbers of young Londoners progressing from school sixth forms has increased by over 14,000 between 2007/08 and 2016/17, whilst the number of students progressing from sixth form colleges has increased by more than 2,700 over the same period and the number progressing from FE colleges has only increased by just over 1,200.

This is in part due to a number of FE colleges withdrawing from A Level provision, and reducing Level 3 provision in recent years. Conversely, a number of large FE colleges are

**FIGURE 19: PREVIOUS INSTITUTION (16-18) BY TYPE - 2007/08 - 2016/17**





now directly funded<sup>7</sup> for provision of HE and delivering three year degree programmes. Although the data is not available within the HESA dataset, and is not collected in the same detail as the HESA dataset, we hope to obtain the data from OfS and include it in future reports.

A number of FE colleges and universities are also planning to offer higher level and degree apprenticeships as an alternative pathway to Level 4 provision and undergraduate degrees, and more higher and degree level apprenticeships are under development. This will inevitably influence participation patterns within the next few years, as new pathways to HE become available to young Londoners.

Over the ten year period from 2007/08, the increase in the number of students progressing from school sixth forms was higher in comparison to the increase at sixth form and FE colleges. In percentage terms, sixth form colleges experienced an increase of over 70% in students progressing to HE since 2007/08, and school sixth forms just under 60%, whereas the increase at FE colleges was just over 10%.

## Higher education destinations by university group

This report uses a common classification of universities by group (see appendix C for explanation).

Universities are grouped by common characteristics such as the Act of Parliament or Charter under which they were established, their mission and entry criteria. The Russell Group of universities is the only self-designated institutional grouping.

Examples of universities in institutional groups include: Kingston, Westminster, Greenwich, and Hertfordshire, which are all Post '92 universities. Essex, Kent, City, Brunel and Birkbeck are all pre-92 universities; University of the Arts, St George's Medical School and Ravensbourne are specialist institutions; Roehampton University and Canterbury Christ Church University are former Colleges of HE; and the Universities of Bristol, Southampton, Manchester and Leeds are Russell Group institutions.

**FIGURE 20: PROGRESSION TO HE UNIVERSITY GROUP 2016/17**

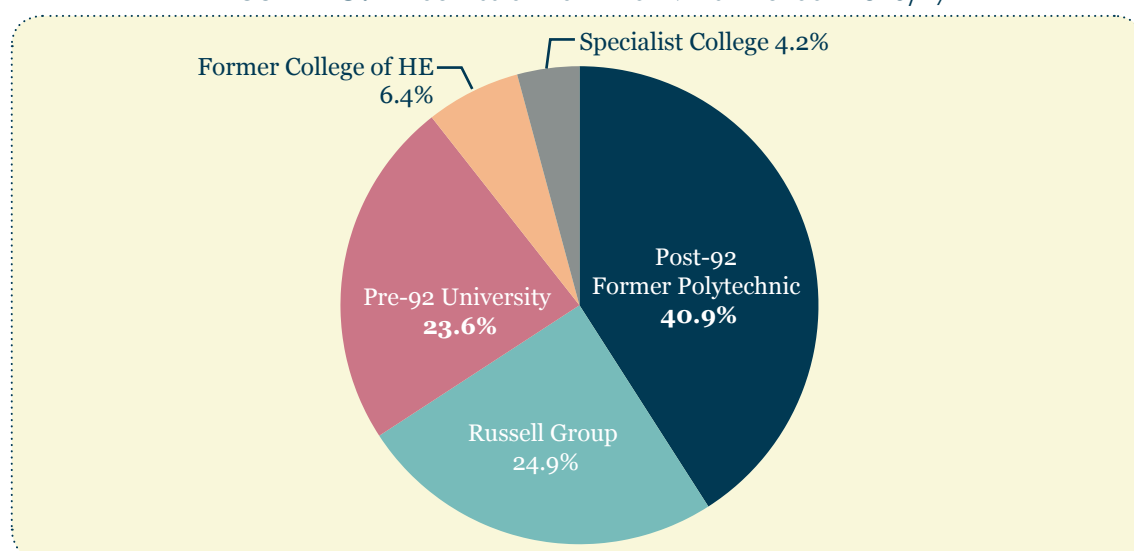


Figure 20 shows that the largest proportion of young Londoners progressing to HE in 2016/17 studied at post-92 HEIs. The second largest proportion progressed to Russell Group universities, and the proportion progressing to pre-92 universities was only slightly smaller than those progressing to Russell Group institutions.

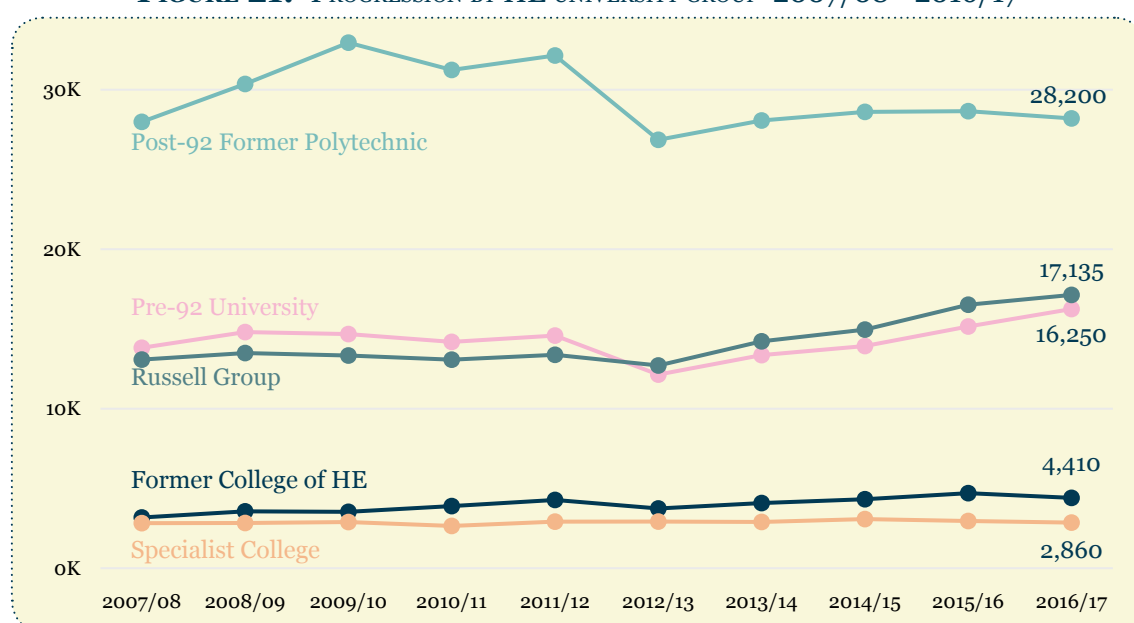
<sup>7</sup> Funded by DfE via HEFCE – Higher Education Funding Council for England until 1.4.18 and via OfS – Office for Students from 1.4.18

Figure 21 provides a time-series analysis which clearly shows that the introduction of increased tuition fees in 2012/13 appears to have had the greatest impact on young Londoners progressing to post-92 institutions.

Whilst there has been recovery across the HE sector in the following four years, post-92 institutions have only experienced very limited recovery compared to the rest of the sector, with the result that progression of young Londoners to post-92 institutions in 2016/17 is over 4,000 less than it was at the highest level in 2009/10.

Figure 21 shows that in 2016/17, the largest percentage of young London residents still progress to post-92 universities, but their market share has decreased between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Russell Group of universities, pre-92 universities and former colleges of HE have increased their market share in 2016/17 compared to the previous year, whilst Specialist institutions have decreased by almost 4%, and numbers progressing to former colleges of HE have also decreased.

**FIGURE 21: PROGRESSION BY HE UNIVERSITY GROUP 2007/08 - 2016/17**



This can be partly explained by the government removing the cap on the number of students that universities could recruit. This has led to increases in the number of home undergraduate places at a number of Russell Group and pre-92 institutions – particularly those that have the land and space to increase numbers on their campuses. It has also led to increased competition for students. The increase in the number of places at institutions requiring higher tariff points for entry has led to an upwards move of students. Pre-92 institutions have lost the top end of their market to Russell Group institutions, and post-92 institutions have lost the top end of their market to pre-92 institutions, which is a key factor in the lower numbers progressing to post-92 institutions.

Comparing the numbers of young London HE entrants in 2007/08 with the numbers in 2016/17; Russell Group institutions have increased the numbers by just under 18%; pre-92 institutions have increased the numbers by 24%, and former colleges of HE have increased their numbers by over 50%. The numbers at post-92 institutions have only increased by less than one per cent, and the numbers at Specialist institutions have decreased by 10%.

**FIGURE 22: TYPE OF HEI ANNUAL % CHANGE 2015/16 - 2016/17**

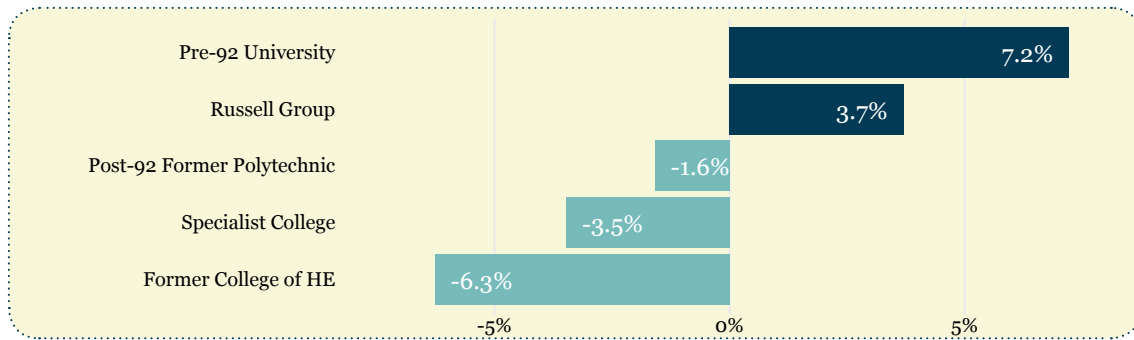
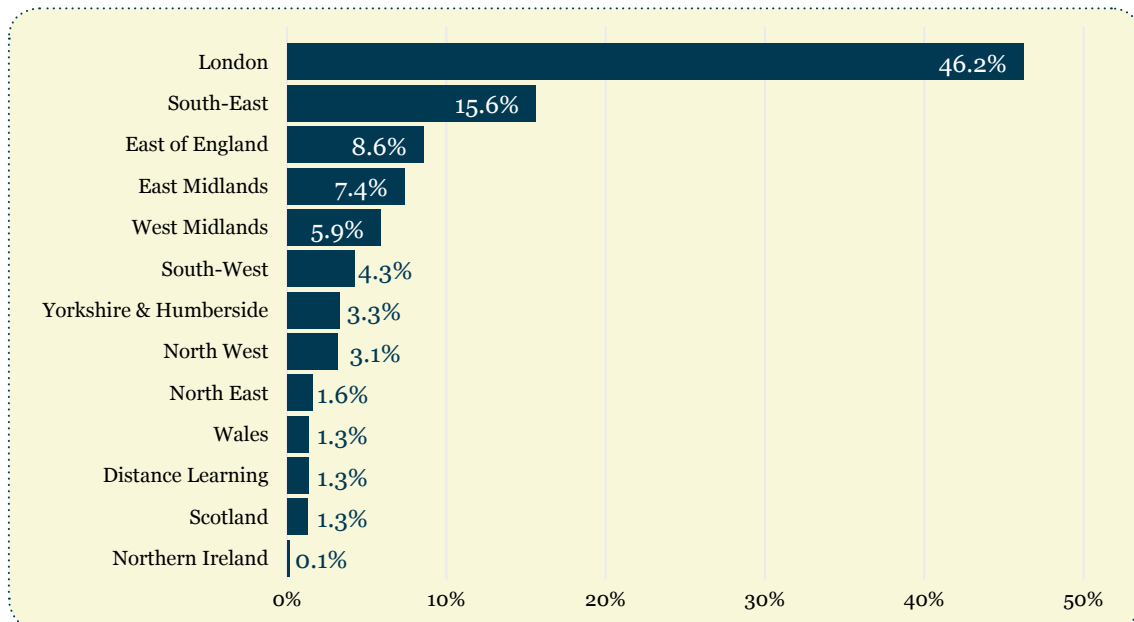


Figure 22 shows that the highest percentage gains between 2015/16 and 2016/17 were in pre-92 and Russell Group institutions, with decreases at other types of HE institution.

### ***Higher education destinations of young London residents***

Figure 23 shows that the HEIs with the largest proportion of young London-domiciled residents are based in London. This is unsurprising given that there are almost 160 higher education institutions in the UK and 39 of those are located in London. However, there is a small decline year-on-year in the proportion of young Londoners progressing to HE in London, and gradual increases in students progressing to universities in other parts of the country. This is reflective of more young Londoners progressing to Russell Group universities, of which 5 are based in London (UCL, LSE, Kings College, Imperial College, Queen Mary) whilst the other 19 are based in other regions of the UK.

**FIGURE 23: HEIs BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION 2016/17 (%)**



The largest numbers studying outside London enrol at HEIs based in the South East, East and East Midland regions, comprising just under 30% in 2016/17, a slight decrease compared to the previous year.

Comparing the numbers of young Londoners progressing to HEIs in London in 2007/08, to the numbers in 2016/17, there has been a decrease of just under 3,000. All other regions have seen significant increases over the same period, which demonstrates that many more young Londoners are studying at HEIs outside of London than there were ten years ago.

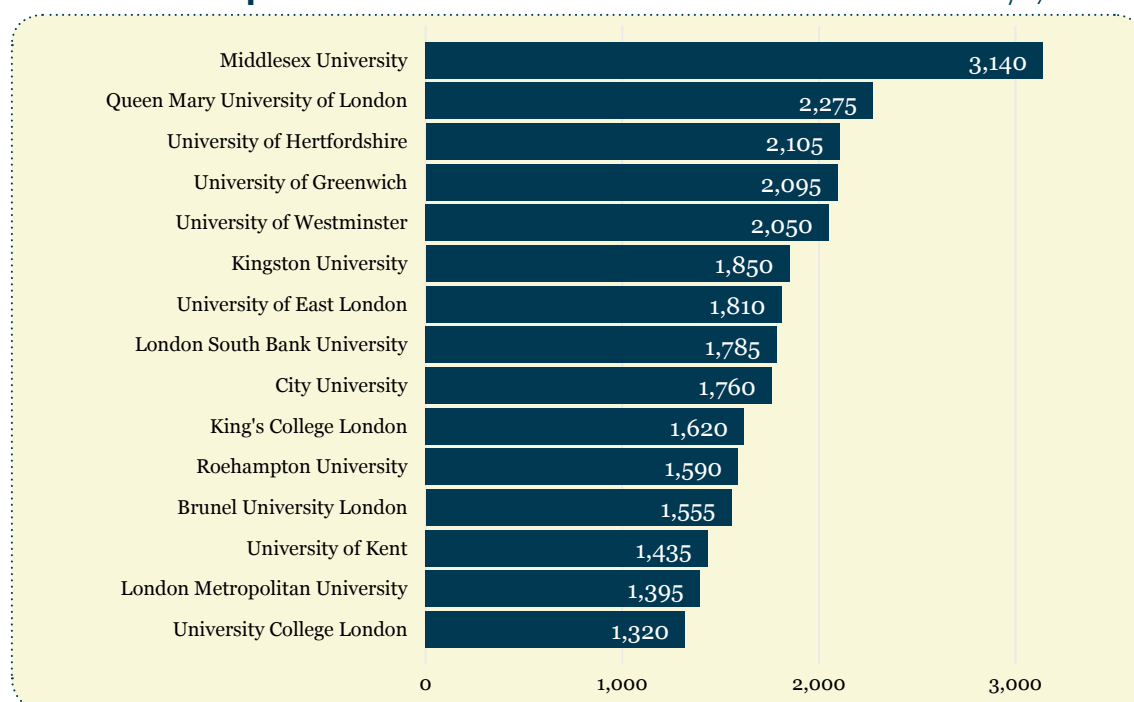
Figure 24 shows that thirteen of the top fifteen HEIs attended by London residents in 2016/17 are located in London.

Eight of the universities recruiting the highest numbers of young Londoners in 2016/17 were post-92 institutions; three were pre-92 institutions, one was a former college of HE and three were Russell Group universities.

In 2016/17, Middlesex University recruited the highest number of young London residents, as it did in 2015/16.

In common with other years, the universities with the highest proportions of young Londoners progressing to HE in 2016/17 had fairly similar market shares. Middlesex University had the largest market share (4.6%) followed by Queen Mary (3.3%).

**FIGURE 24: HEIs BY HIGHEST NUMBER OF ENTRANTS FROM LONDON IN 2016/17**



**FIGURE 25: ANNUAL % CHANGE IN PROGRESSION TO HE BY INSTITUTION 2015/16 - 2016/17**

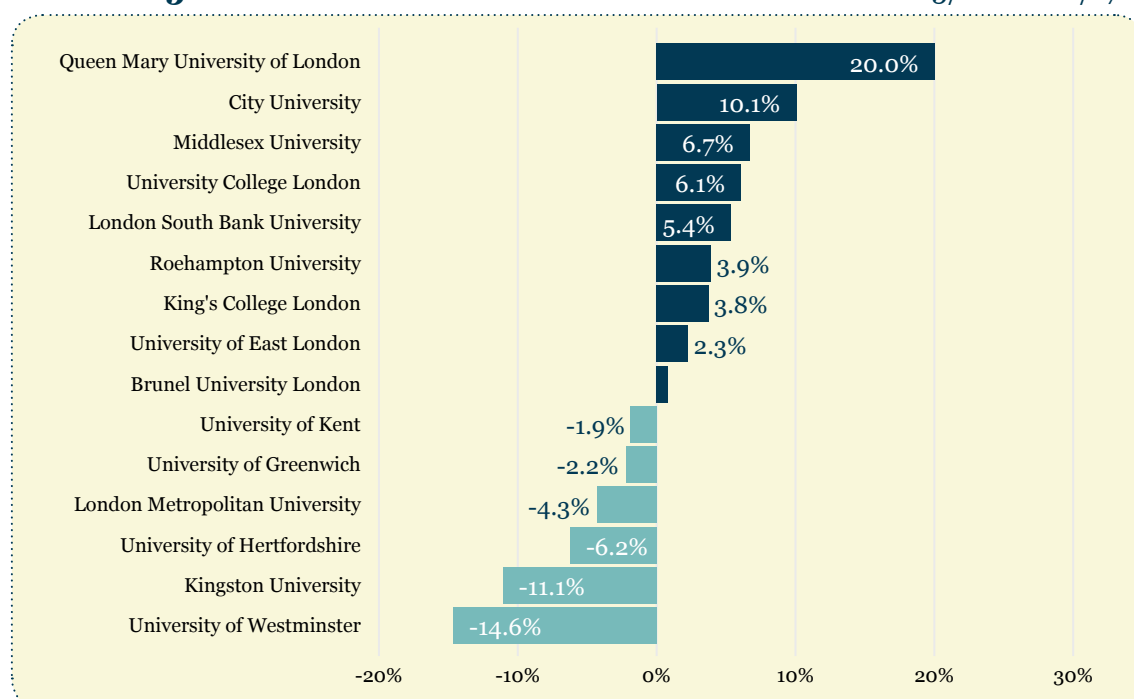


Figure 25 shows that Queen Mary, Middlesex, UCL and City University all increased their market share of young Londoners in 2016/17 quite significantly compared to the previous year.

Although not included in Figure 25, the number of young London residents progressing to the University of Cambridge only increased by 32 from 2007/08 to 2016/17 and the numbers progressing to the University of Oxford only increased by 35 over the same period.

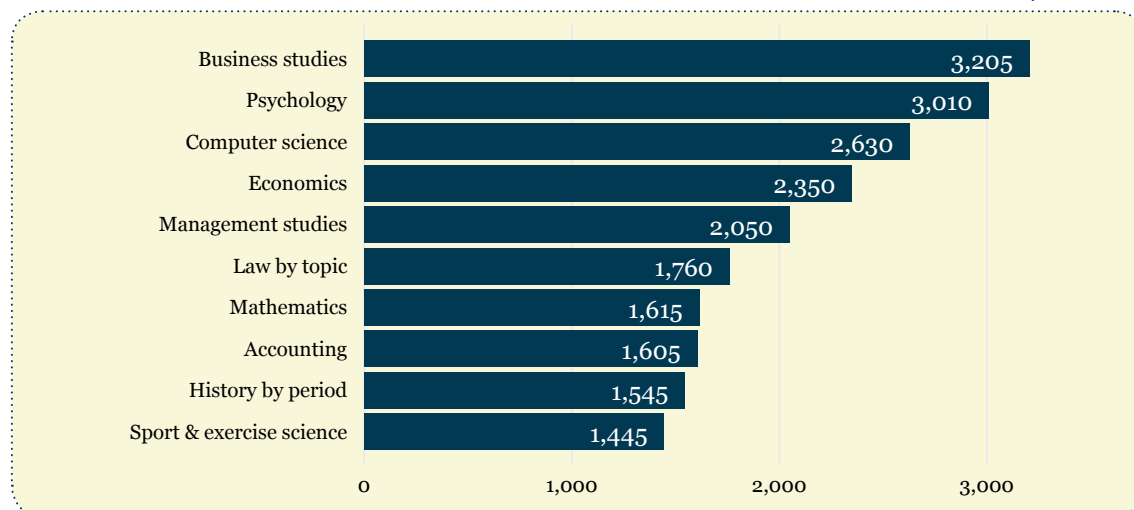
Post-92 institutions are generally the largest institutions in terms of undergraduate student places, so it is unsurprising that the highest percentages of young Londoners progress to those institutions. What is interesting is the increasing numbers of young Londoners progressing to Queen Mary - a Russell Group institution, and to other London Russell Group institutions – UCL and Kings College.

## ***Higher education subject of study***

The preferred choice of degree subjects for young London residents is relatively similar to the subject distribution nationally. Business Studies and Psychology remain the two most popular subjects with over 3,200 students studying Business and over 3,000 studying Psychology.

Figure 26 shows the ten most popular degree subjects by broad subject area in 2016/17. The subjects are broadly the same as in 2015/16. There has been an increase in the numbers of students studying some of the most popular subjects, particularly Management, Economics and Psychology, and a small decrease in the numbers studying Business compared to the previous year.

**FIGURE 26: DEGREE SUBJECTS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ENTRANTS IN 2016/17**



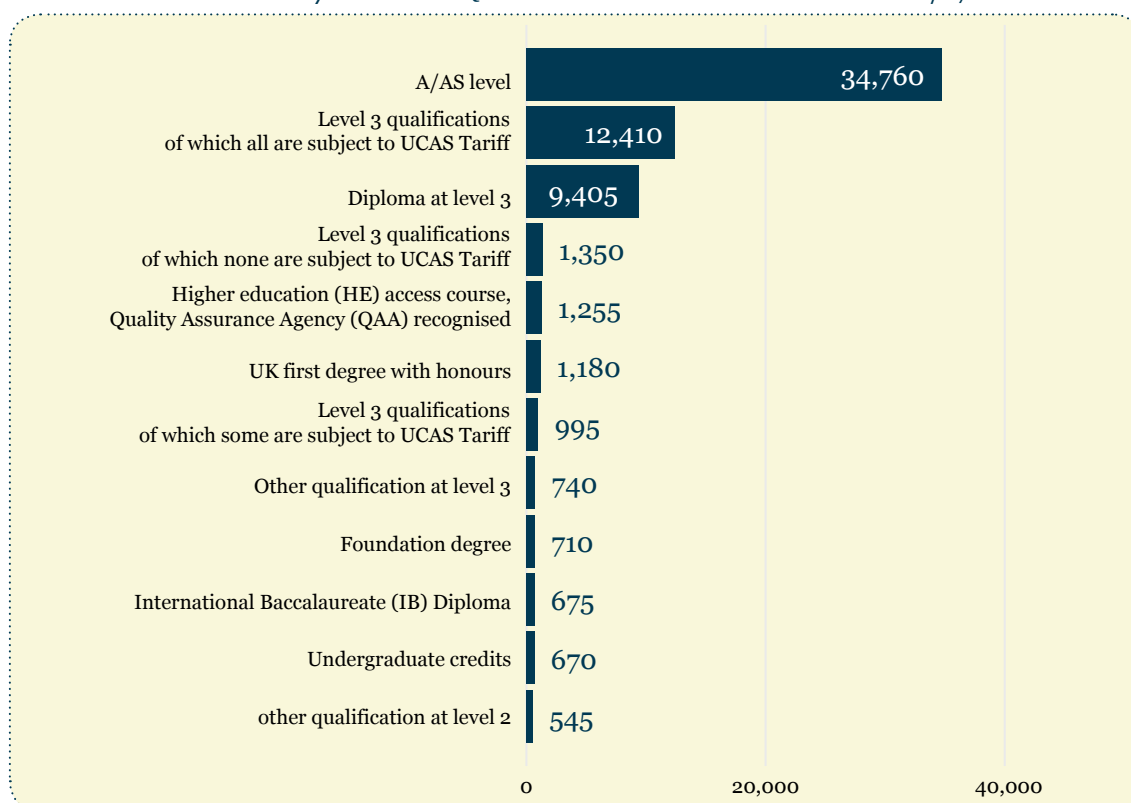
It is interesting to note that the total number of different degree subjects studied by London-domiciled new entrants is just over 700. As a consequence, Business Studies and Psychology only account for 5% and 4% of new entrants respectively and Computer Science would only account for just under 4%. The large number of subjects studied by young Londoners illustrates the diversity of available academic disciplines.

## ***Qualifications for entry to Higher Education***

Entry qualifications will differ significantly across HEIs given their mission, status and size. Figure 27 provides an indication of the highest qualification of new entrants. The pattern of entry qualifications for 2016/17 is similar to the previous year with over 50% of students entering HE with A Levels.



**FIGURE 27: HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ON ENTRY TO HE IN 2016/17**



The numbers and percentage of students entering HE with a non-A Level, Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A Level is increasing year on year. In 2016/17, 9,405 young Londoners entered HE with a Level 3 Diploma compared to just 3,465 in 2010/11

A Levels are still by far the main entry qualification for entry to HE by young Londoners, but the percentage of the cohort entering HE with A Levels is decreasing slowly year on year. This reflects the increases in the number of students studying Level 3 qualifications such as Diplomas and Extended Diplomas, and their increasing acceptance for HE entry by universities.

Although the name of the highest qualification is a useful guide to the range of qualifications acceptable for entry to a university or college, it does not by itself provide an indication of the grades required. Figure 28 attempts to remedy this by providing a breakdown of the UCAS tariff scores of young London residents in 2016/17.

The UCAS tariff framework was established to give an equivalent value to a wide range of qualifications, thereby allowing HE institutions to make informed decisions about prospective candidates. The tariff scores for entry in 2016/17 and previous years are based on 140 points for an 'A\*' at GCE A level or a qualification of equivalent size; 120 points for an 'A', 100 points for a 'B', 80 points for a 'C', 60 points for a 'D' and 40 points for a grade 'E'. These individual A Level grades are then aggregated to give an overall tariff score and Figure 29 provides an indication of the range of scores required for entry. The distribution of tariff scores is almost normally distributed with the most frequent scores ranging between 240 and 419 points. For a highly selective HE institution or a heavily over-subscribed course, the tariff scores required for entry would generally be in excess of 360 points and depending on subject and institution, could be 480-540 points. Interestingly, the increased competition between universities for students has led to a lowering of UCAS tariff points at a number of selective institutions, and an increase in the number of unconditional offers.

**FIGURE 28: TARIFF SCORES OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS IN 2016/17**

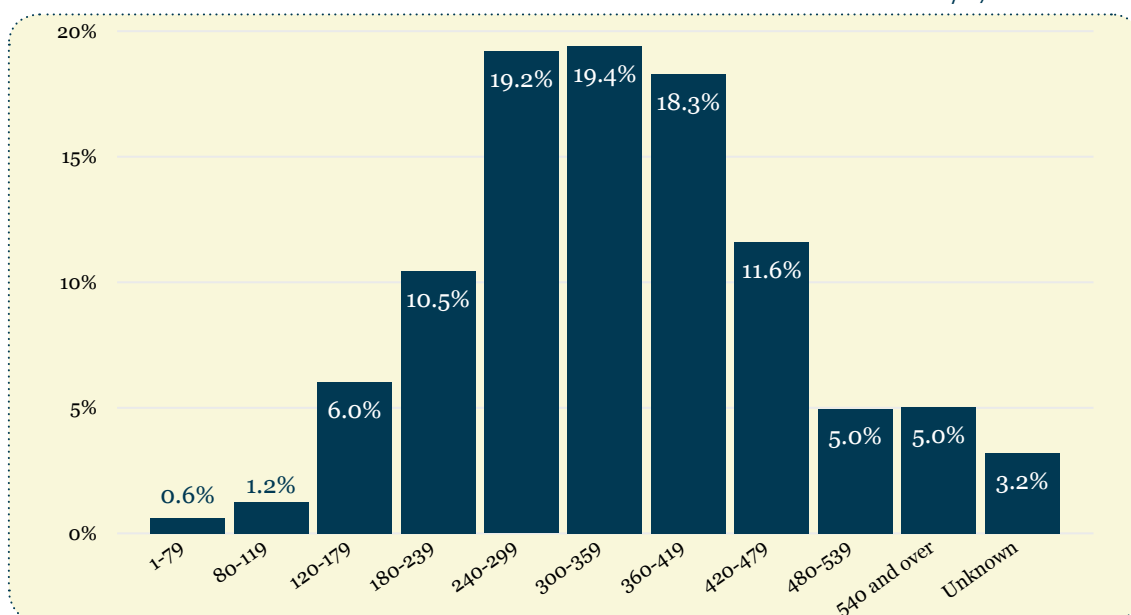
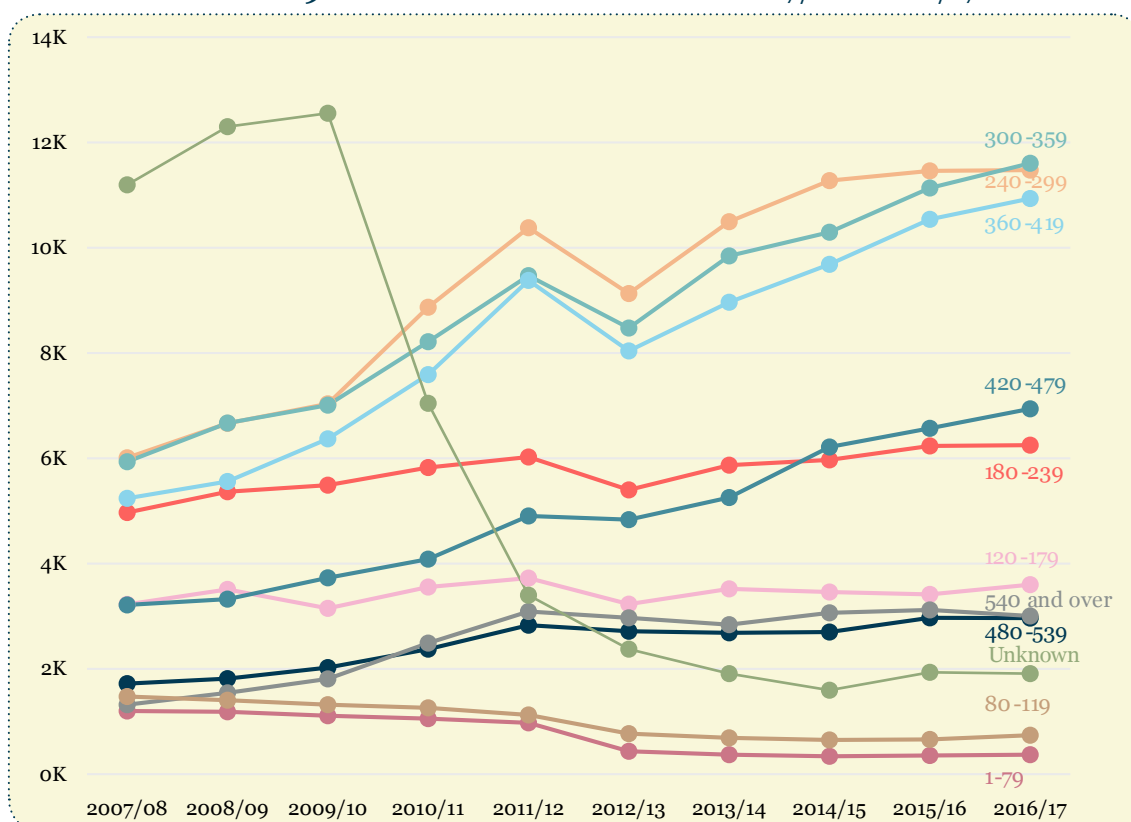


Figure 28 shows that just under 57% of young Londoners progressing to HE in 2016/17 had UCAS tariff points ranging from 240-419 points, and just under 22% had tariff points in the highest bands 420-540+. Less than 20% had tariff points in the lowest bands 239 points and below.

Over the ten year period from 2007/08 to 2016/17, the largest increases have been in the 240-479 tariff bands. This is most certainly due to an increase in A Level and Level 3 attainment in London, with students achieving increasingly higher grades. The increase in students achieving higher tariff points provides students with greater choice of universities and courses, including those at highly selective universities.

**FIGURE 29: TARIFF SCORES FOR ENTRY TO HE 2007/08 - 2016/17**



In actual numbers, the number of entrants progressing to HE in 2016/17 with tariff points of 420-479 increased by 370 compared to the previous year; entrants with tariff points of 360-419 increased by just under 400, and those progressing with tariff points of 300-359 increased by just under 500.

# 4. STUDENT RETENTION AND ACHIEVEMENT

## 4.1 STUDENT RETENTION

At the launch event for our 2017 report, one of the questions to emerge from the floor related to whether we could analyse student retention patterns in future reports<sup>8</sup>. HEFCE had been publishing national performance indicators dating back to 1999 focusing on non-continuation rates and projected degree completion rates. After discussions with HESA, the projection of degree completion rates was not feasible but the calculation of continuation after entry was possible and we have included continuation rates in the following section.

### *Continuation after entry*

The calculation of continuation rates for young Londoners is based on a methodology adapted for Unistats and although similar in the approach taken in calculating the national performance indicators published by HESA<sup>9</sup>, the Unistats approach provides a more detailed breakdown of student outcomes. In this context, 'Continuation' refers to whether full-time students are still on their HE courses one year following the year of entry to HE. It is regarded as a strong indicator of the likelihood of students completing their HE course. Comparison with the national performance indicators for the same year tends to suggest a similar non-continuation outcome (7.6%)<sup>10</sup> complemented by analysis undertaken by Social Market Foundation on the previous year on non-continuation of

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<sup>8</sup> Tindell, G., Weeden, S. & Storan, J. (2017). *The Higher Education Journey of Young London Residents*, December 2017

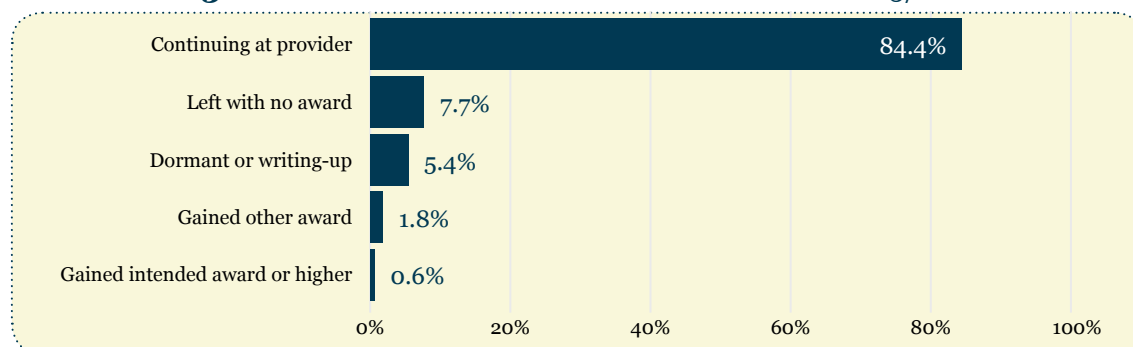
<sup>9</sup> HESA UKPIs <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators/guide>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/non-continuation-rates-and-transfers/>

young Londoners (7.7%)<sup>11</sup>. However, there is a caveat in terms of the relative proportion of dormant students who leave without an award in the following year.

Figure 30 shows that almost 85% of young Londoners who started a course of HE study in 2015/16 were still on their courses one year later. Nationally, the continuation rate in 2015/16 was 89.8%<sup>12</sup>, which although higher than the equivalent figure for young Londoners, would not include for example, students gaining an award or those writing up.

**FIGURE 30: CONTINUATION RATES FOLLOWING YEAR OF ENTRY - 2015/16 ENTRANTS**



Continuation rates for young Londoners have improved from just over 82% for 2007/08 entrants to an averages of 85%+ from 2011/12-2014/15, and have dipped just below 85% in 2015/16 (Figure 31).

Nationally, non-continuation rates for all A level grades are 7% whilst rates for all BTEC grades are between 10% and 21%<sup>12</sup>.

**FIGURE 31: CONTINUATION RATES FOLLOWING YEAR OF ENTRY 2007/08 - 2015/16**

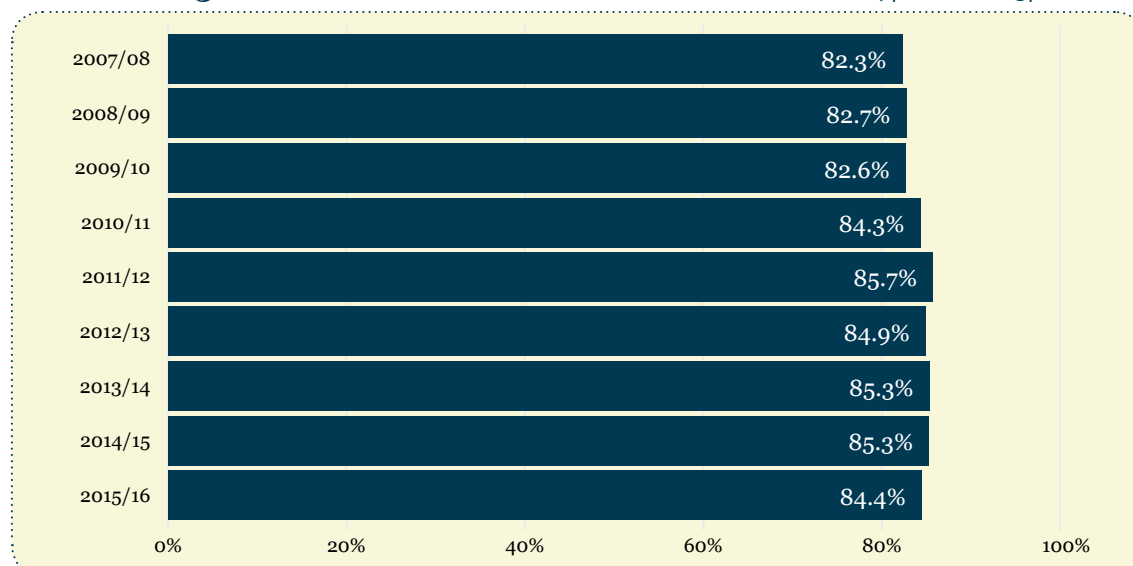


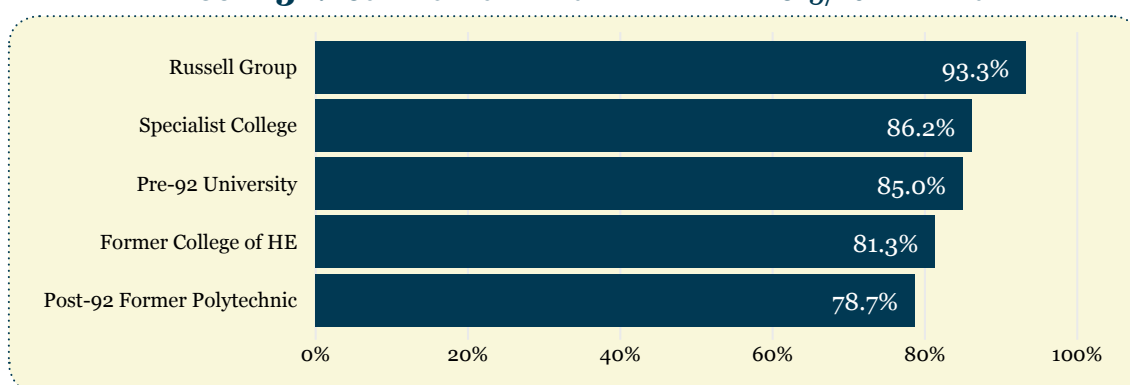
Figure 32 shows that students who attend Russell Group universities have a much higher continuation rate than those who attend post-92 institutions. Woodfield (2014) found that there are a complex mix of factors involved in non-continuation, and a range of characteristics which, are linked to increased rates of non-continuation, including gender, ethnicity, UCAS points on entry, subject of study, and distance of HEI from home<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> Social Market Foundation (2017). *On course for success? Student retention at university*

<sup>12</sup> HEFCE 2018 <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180322111550/http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/transfers/nc-rates/>

<sup>13</sup> Woodfield, R. *Undergraduate attainment and retention across the disciplines* (HEA, 2014)

**FIGURE 32: CONTINUATION RATES BY HEI TYPE - 2015/16 ENTRANTS**



Woodfield's study looked at students across the UK HE sector of all ages, not just young students. She found that across the HE sector, entrants with 340 UCAS points or more were 4% less likely than students with less than 340 UCAS points on entry (9%) to leave their courses without their award, and that this was true across all subjects of study.

**FIGURE 33: CONTINUATION RATES BY TYPE OF PREVIOUS INSTITUTION (16-18) - 2015/16 ENTRANTS**

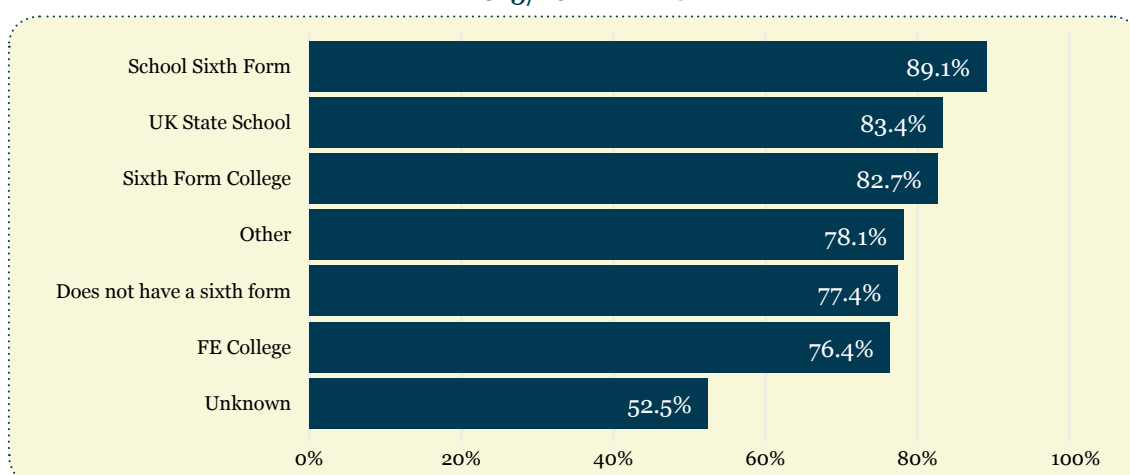


Figure 33 shows that students who attended school sixth forms have a much higher continuation rate than those who attended FE colleges. Again, there are complex factors and characteristics involved in non-continuation, so it would not be appropriate to draw conclusions on the reasons behind non-continuation rates from pre-18 institutions for young Londoners in this report, as it would require significant research and analysis.

## 4.2 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### *Higher education qualification obtained*

Table 3, shows the wide range of higher education qualifications achieved by young London residents in 2016/17. The number of qualifications awarded increased by over 2,000 compared to the previous year. Just under 80% achieved honours degrees, a marginal increase of 0.4% on the previous year. The other 20% of students achieved a mixture of undergraduate qualifications, including foundation degrees, combined undergraduate/postgraduate and professional qualifications.



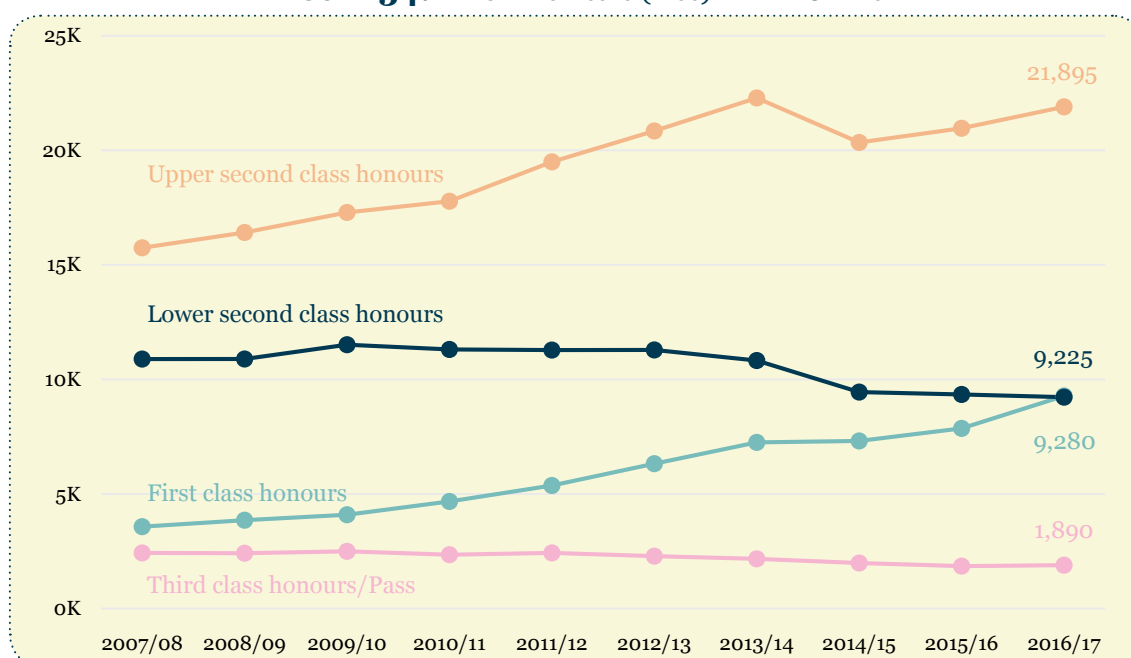
**TABLE 3: RANGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED IN 2016/17**

	Nos	%
First degree with honours	38,175	79.90%
Pre-registration first degree with honours leading towards obtaining eligibility to register to practice with a health/social care/veterinary regulatory body	2,128	4.50%
Integrated undergraduate/postgraduate taught masters degree on the enhanced/extended pattern	1,890	4.00%
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	1,853	3.90%
Foundation degree	574	1.20%
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	498	1.00%
Integrated undergraduate/postgraduate taught masters degree on the enhanced/extended pattern leading towards obtaining eligibility to register to practice with a health/social care/veterinary regulatory body	422	0.90%
Ordinary (non-honours) first degree	371	0.80%
First degree with honours leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)/registration with a General Teaching Council (GTC)	324	0.70%
Certificate at level C	273	0.60%
First degree with honours leading towards registration with the Architects Registration Board (Part 1 qualification)	168	0.40%
First degree with honours and diploma	124	0.30%
Pre-registration ordinary (non-honours) first degree leading towards obtaining eligibility to register to practice with a health/social care/veterinary regulatory body	117	0.20%
Higher National Diploma (HND)	101	0.20%
Graduate diploma/certificate at level H but where a previous qualification at level H is a pre-requisite for course entry	96	0.20%
Graduate diploma/certificate at level H	95	0.20%
Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)/registration with a General Teaching Council (GTC) only	82	0.20%
Professional Graduate Certificate in Education	77	0.20%
Higher National Certificate (HNC)	74	0.20%
Certificate at level H	60	0.10%
Qualification at level H (where another qualification at level H is a pre-requisite for course entry) leading towards registration with the Architects Registration Board (Part 2 qualification)	57	0.10%
First degree with honours on the enhanced/extended pattern but at level H	54	0.10%
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) leading towards obtaining eligibility to register to practice with a health/social care/veterinary regulatory body	31	0.10%
Other qualifications	101	0.20%

## Analysis of degree class achieved

Figure 34 shows that there has been an increase in the awarding of 2:1 degrees in 2016/17 compared to the previous year and that the trends over a ten-year period indicate significant increases in first and upper second class degrees with a consequent decrease in lower second class honours and third class honours. Over the ten years, the number of first class honours has increased by 5,716 (+61.5%) and upper second class by 6,153 (+28.1%). Conversely, the decline in the awarding of lower second and third class honours degrees is clearly evident with reductions of 1,663 (-18%) and 534 (-28.2%) respectively.

**FIGURE 34: DEGREE CLASSES (Nos) - TIME-SERIES**



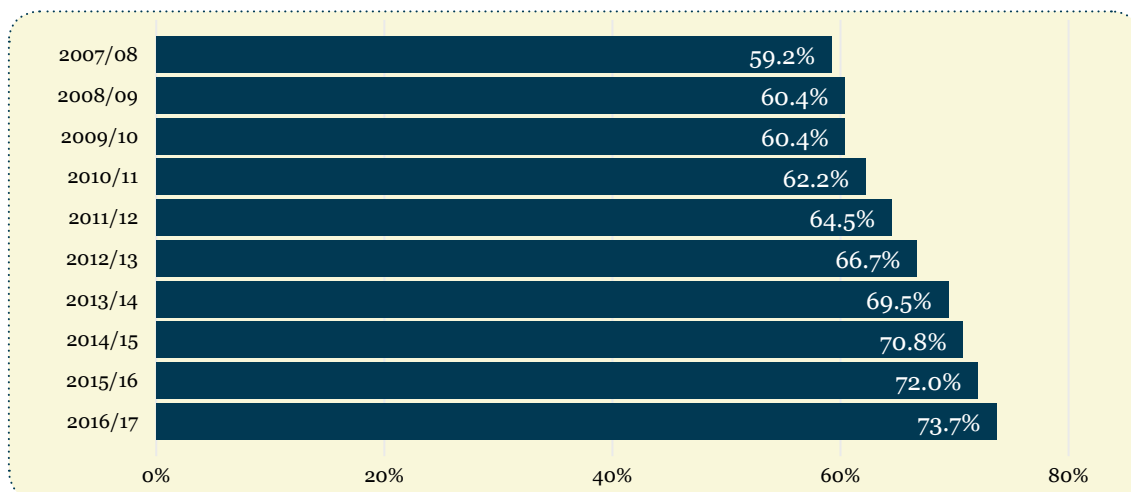
Almost 52% of young London residents that completed their courses in 2016/17 achieved an upper second-class degree, and just under 22% achieved a first class degree representing a 2% increase on the previous year. Analysis on UK degree outcomes for 2016/17 published by the Office for Students indicates 27% of graduates gained a first class degree with a further 49% awarded an upper second class degree<sup>14</sup>.

First and upper second-class degrees are commonly defined as ‘good degrees’ – meeting the application criteria for postgraduate study and for many large graduate employers. A ‘good degree’ is an important contributor to young graduates gaining employment after completing their undergraduate qualification.

Figure 35 provides a time-series analysis of the proportion of ‘good degrees’ awarded to young London graduates since 2007/08. The proportion of young Londoners achieving a first or upper second-class degree has continued to increase with almost 74% of graduates achieving a ‘good degree’ in 2016/17. This is just below the national average of 76% during the same period. Over ten years, the proportion of young Londoners achieving a ‘good degree’ has increased by 14.5%. One of the consequences of this increase in degree performance is that the proportion of young London graduates gaining full-time employment or undertaking further study has increased.

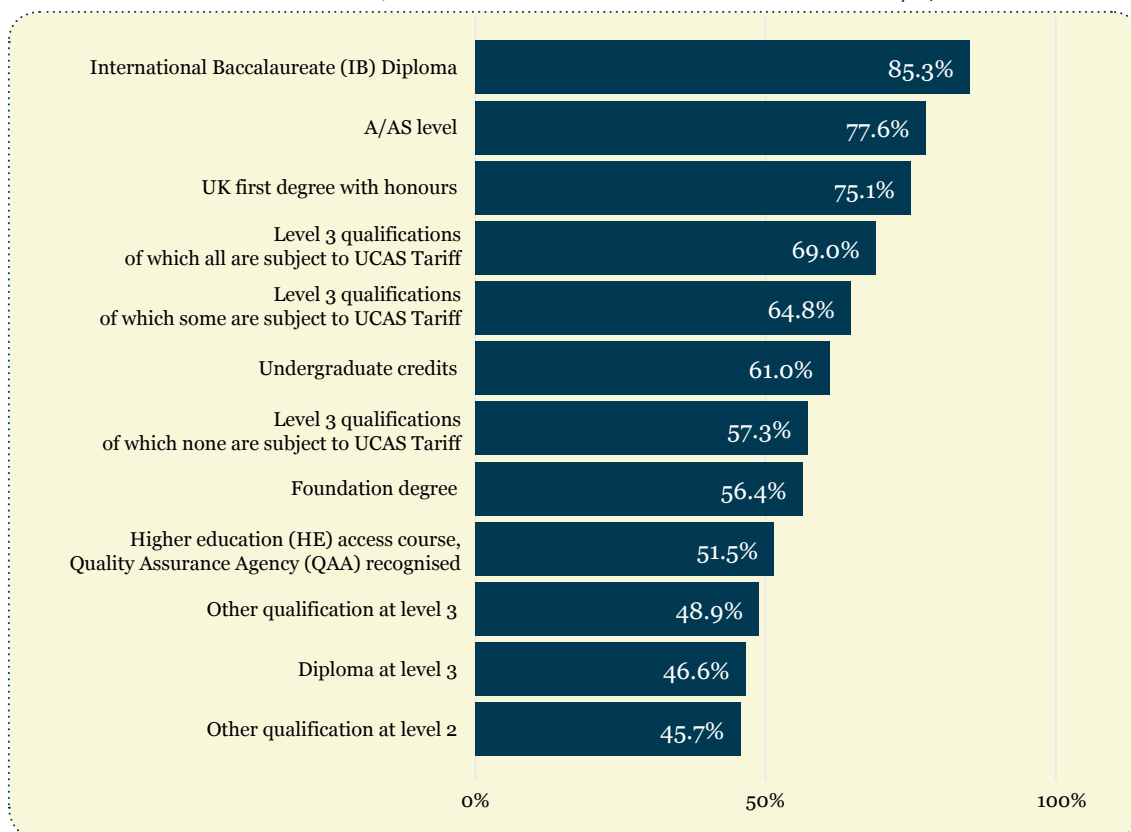
<sup>14</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/differences-in-student-outcomes/degree-outcomes-overview/>

**FIGURE 35:** PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OBTAINING A ‘GOOD DEGREE’  
(FIRST & UPPER SECOND CLASS HONOURS) - TIME-SERIES



One of the most accurate predictors of student success in achieving a ‘good degree’ is the entry qualification of the student. Analysis by HEFCE published in March 2018 on difference in student outcomes explicitly showed the clear relationship between the level of entry qualification and subsequent degree classification<sup>15</sup> and similar internal analyses carried out at University of East London (UEL) has demonstrated similar findings<sup>16</sup>. Figure 36 replicates these findings and clearly shows the differences in degree outcome for the large numbers of A Level entrants (51%), those with Level 3 tariff rated qualifications (16%) and Level 3 Diploma entrants (13%). These three groupings of entry qualifications account for 80% of new entrants in 2014/15 but the proportion of graduates

**FIGURE 36:** PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OBTAINING A ‘GOOD DEGREE’ (FIRST & UPPER SECOND CLASS HONOURS) BY HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ON ENTRY - 2016/17



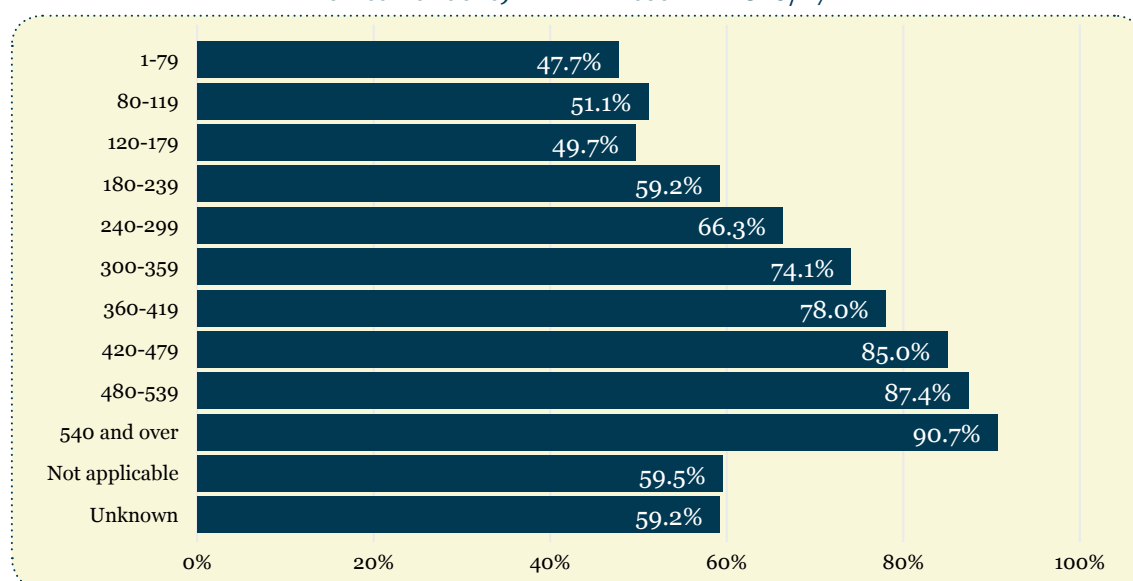
<sup>15</sup> HEFCE (2018). *Differences in student outcomes: The effect of student characteristics*

<sup>16</sup> G.Tindell (2017). *The relationship between entry qualifications and student achievement. UEL internal discussion paper*

earning a 'good degree; ranges from almost 78% for A Level entrants to 47% for Level 3 Diploma entrants. There are obvious relationships between the entry qualification, tariff score, type of HEI attended, subject, previous institution and student demographic characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

Figure 37 examines the relationship between entry tariff score and the awarding of 'good honours' degrees and it is not surprising that there is a linear relationship between tariff score and the proportion of 'good honours' degrees. For those entering HE with a tariff score in the 1-179 range, typically around half of all graduates leave with a first or upper second class honours degree. A step change is evident for those entering with 180+ tariff points before flattening out with the higher tariff scores above 420 points. Detailed analysis carried out initially by HEFCE found a difference of 29% between those entering with A\*A\*A\* (95%) at A Level and those entering with below CCD (67%) at A-level<sup>17</sup>.

**FIGURE 37: PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OBTAINING A 'GOOD DEGREE' (FIRST & UPPER SECOND CLASS HONOURS) BY TARIFF SCORE - 2016/17**

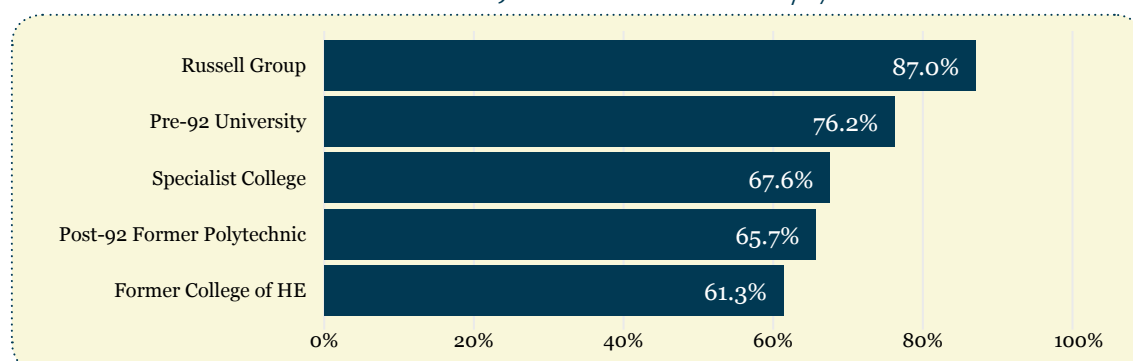


As Figure 38 indicates, when the HEI institutional group is taken into account, 87% of young London residents completing higher education qualifications in 2016/17 at Russell Group institutions achieved a first or upper second-class degree classification, a small increase on the previous year.

Just over 76% of young London residents completing HE qualifications at pre-92 universities achieved 'good' degrees, compared to just under 66% at post-92 universities, a 2% increase for post-92 institutions compared to the previous year.

The difference between institutions is largely reflective of the higher prior achievement

**FIGURE 38: PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OBTAINING A 'GOOD DEGREE' (FIRST & UPPER SECOND CLASS HONOURS) BY TYPE OF HEI - 2016/17**



<sup>17</sup> HEFCE (2018). *Differences in student outcomes: The effect of student characteristics*

criteria required for entry to Russell Group and pre-92 universities compared to post-92 institutions and former colleges of HE. Students are likely to have entered higher education at Russell Group or pre-92 universities with high tariff points gained from studying 3+ A Levels and achieving A\*-B grades.

# 5. POST- STUDY DESTINATIONS

This section utilises data from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, and the most recent data available is for students who completed their higher education studies by the end of the academic year 2015/16. The survey underwent a significant revision in 2011/12 with a number of new questions asked and changes to existing ones. Students who completed in 2015/16 will still be aged 18-24, and the data again identifies students who have home postcodes in London. The DLHE survey is initially conducted six months after graduation, so it is an early snapshot, and many students will not have settled into employment six months after completing their studies. A follow-up survey is conducted after a further six months on those graduates who did not respond on the first occasion. Nationally, the DLHE response rate in 2015/16 was 78%. One important point is that the DLHE sample is not the same cohort as the progression cohort. This is because the DLHE cohort contains all students who completed their course of study in 2015/16, and students would have had different starting points depending on the length of the qualification they studied.

## 5.1 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS

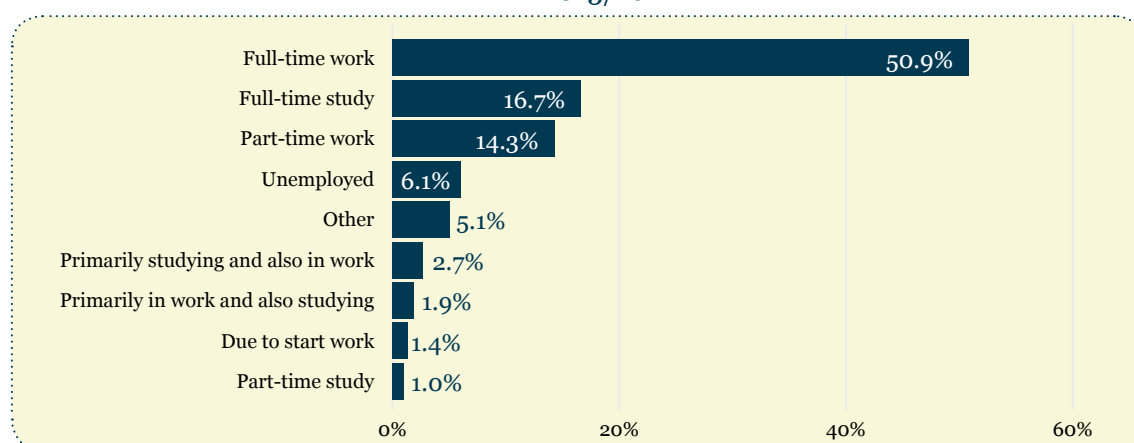
The DLHE data for 2015/16 shows that 51% of students were employed in full-time paid work six months after graduation, a small decline of 1% on the previous year (Figure 39). If part-time work, primarily in work but also studying and those due to start a job within the next month are taken into account, the employment figure increases to 68.5%. Graduate unemployment was 6.1%, identical to the previous year and a significant improvement on the 11% unemployment rate five years ago when the new DLHE survey began. Over the same period, full-time employment has increased from 47% to 51% and

engagement in further study has marginally increased.

For contextual purposes, overall analysis of the 2015/16 DLHE outcomes found that 54.5% of UK domiciled full-time leavers were employed in full-time paid work with a further 12.3% working on a part-time basis. An additional 23.5% opted for further study or a combination of both and 5.3% were unemployed at the time of the survey<sup>18</sup>.

The DLHE survey provides an early and detailed snapshot of new graduates entering the labour market in terms of job roles, employment sectors and starting salary. However, it doesn't take account of longitudinal patterns of graduate employment which Government Labour Market Statistics reports can provide. Making use of data from the Labour Force Survey, it indicates that in 2017 the rate of graduate employment is relatively stable. The employment rate for young working age undergraduates and postgraduates were almost identical at 88.7% and 88.3% respectively. This compares favourably to an employment rate of 75% for non-graduates. The unemployment rate for young graduates has marginally dropped to 4.1%, which is almost half the rate for non-graduates (7.1%)<sup>19</sup>.

**FIGURE 39: DESTINATIONS OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS COMPLETING A HE QUALIFICATION IN 2015/16**



One of the questions asked in the DLHE survey since 2012 relates to the contractual basis for those young graduates in employment. In conjunction with the destination data, it provides a far greater level of detail than has previously been available. Figure 40 provides a breakdown of the contractual basis of those in employment. In 2015/16, 54% of young London resident graduates were employed on a permanent or open-ended contract and just under 24% were employed on fixed-term contracts. Those young graduates who are either self-employed or starting up a business equate to just over 6%. There has been relatively little change in the contractual status of graduates compared to the previous year.

The 2015/16 DLHE destination data also includes some information on graduate starting salaries, with just over 68% of respondents disclosing their salary (Figure 41). Although this provides only a partial picture, for young graduates in full-time jobs, the typical starting salary would range between £20,000 and £30,000 annually and for part-time jobs, the salary would typically be less than £15,000.

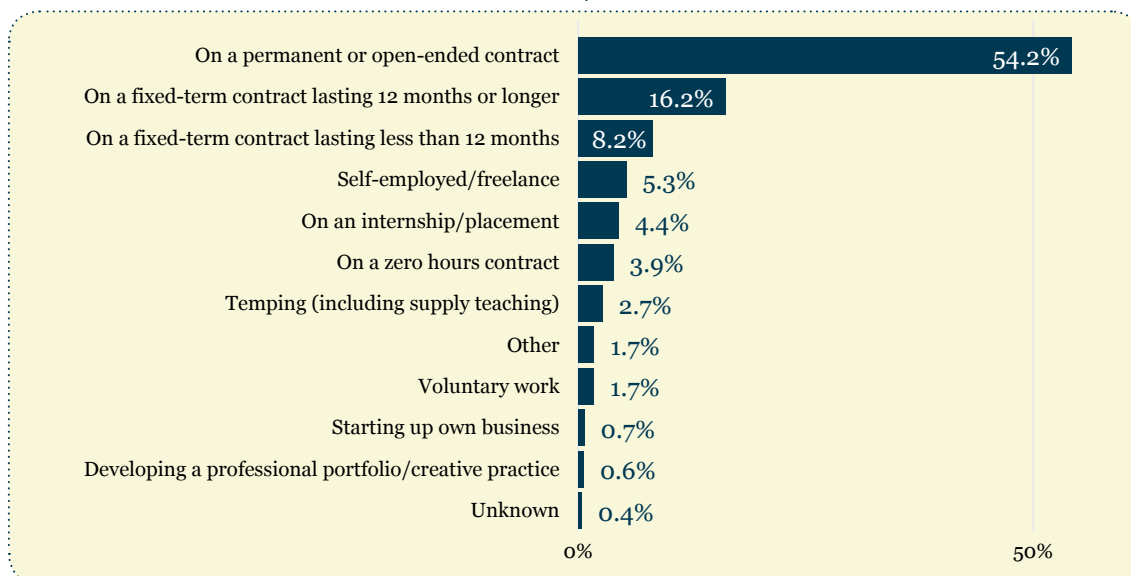
Although the DLHE survey provides an indication of graduate starting salaries, it does not indicate the longer-term value of possessing a higher education qualification. To rectify this, the Department for Education has produced a series of experimental statistics that provides an initial analysis on the employment and earnings of higher education graduates by subject and institution. This project has been referred to as the 'Longitudinal Education Outcomes' dataset and focuses on employment and earnings outcomes in the

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/destinations-2015-16>

<sup>19</sup> Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2017 (April 2018)



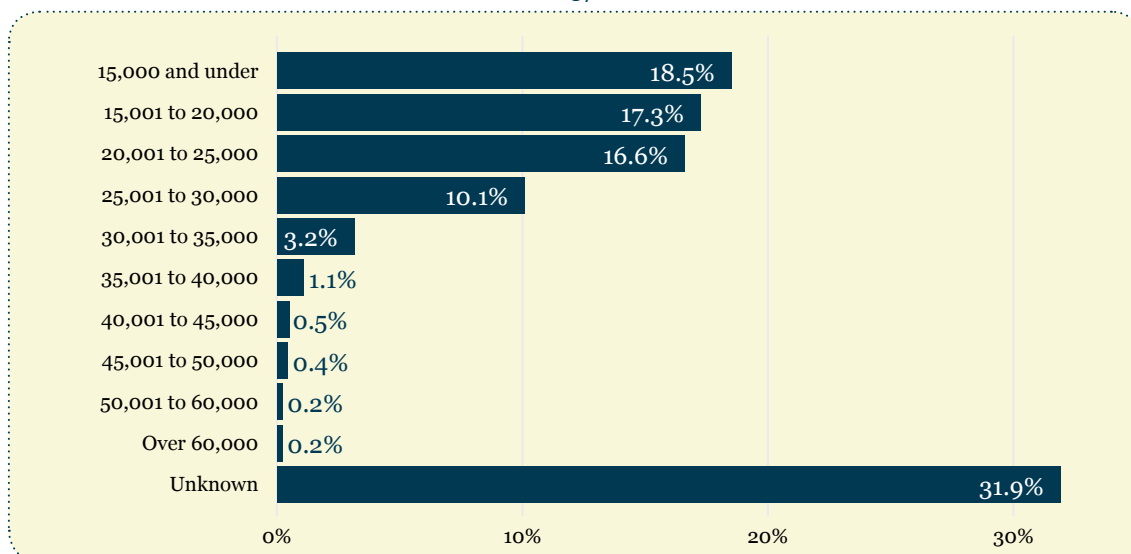
**FIGURE 40: THE CONTRACTUAL BASIS OF YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS IN EMPLOYMENT IN 2015/16**



2014/15 tax year for those who graduated in 2008/9, 2010/11 and 2012/13<sup>20</sup>. Analysis of median annual earnings five years after graduation reveal significant differences between subjects. Students graduating with a Medicine or Dentistry qualification typically earn a median salary of £46,940 five years after graduation compared to £20,075 for those graduating with a HE qualification in Creative Arts and Design. Other high earning subjects include graduates from Mathematical Sciences (£35,756), Veterinary Science (£36,100) and Economics (£34,917).

Complementing the publication of Longitudinal Education Outcomes data, analysis of the 2017 Graduate Labour Market Statistics indicates that a median salary for young graduates (aged 21-30) working in London is £29,500 and for those with a postgraduate qualification this figure rises to £38,500<sup>21</sup>.

**FIGURE 41: SALARY RANGES FOR THOSE YOUNG LONDON RESIDENTS IN EMPLOYMENT IN 2015/16**



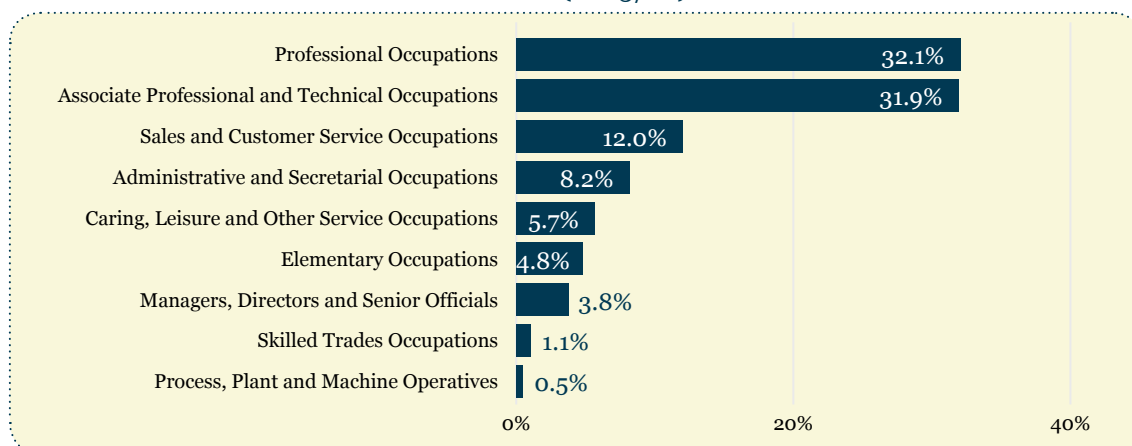
<sup>20</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543794/SFR36-2016\\_main\\_text\\_LEO.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543794/SFR36-2016_main_text_LEO.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2017 (April 2018)

## 5.2 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is available at different levels, with Level 1 depicted in Figure 42 providing a broad picture of occupational classes, and Level 2 SOC in Table 4 providing a more detailed picture of the employment destinations of the employed cohort of young London domiciled graduates of 2015/16.

**FIGURE 42: EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION (SOC) LEVEL 1 (2015/16)**



**TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY SOC LEVEL 2 (2015/16)**

SOC CYCLE	Nos
Business and Public Service Associate Occupations	4535
Health Professionals	2490
Sales Occupations	2345
Business, Media and Public Service Professionals	2040
Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	1665
Science, Research, Engineering and Technology Professionals	1535
Administrative Occupations	1495
Teaching and Educational Professionals	1495
Caring Personal Service Occupations	1110
Elementary Administration and Service Occupations	1090
Science, Engineering and Technology Associate Professionals	685
Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	550
Corporate Managers and Directors	505
Customer Service Occupations	495
Secretarial and Related Occupations	435
Other Managers and Proprietors	385
Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service Occupations	230
Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	165
Protective Service Occupations	95
Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	85
Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	50
Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	35
Skilled Construction and Building Trades	30
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	25
Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	5

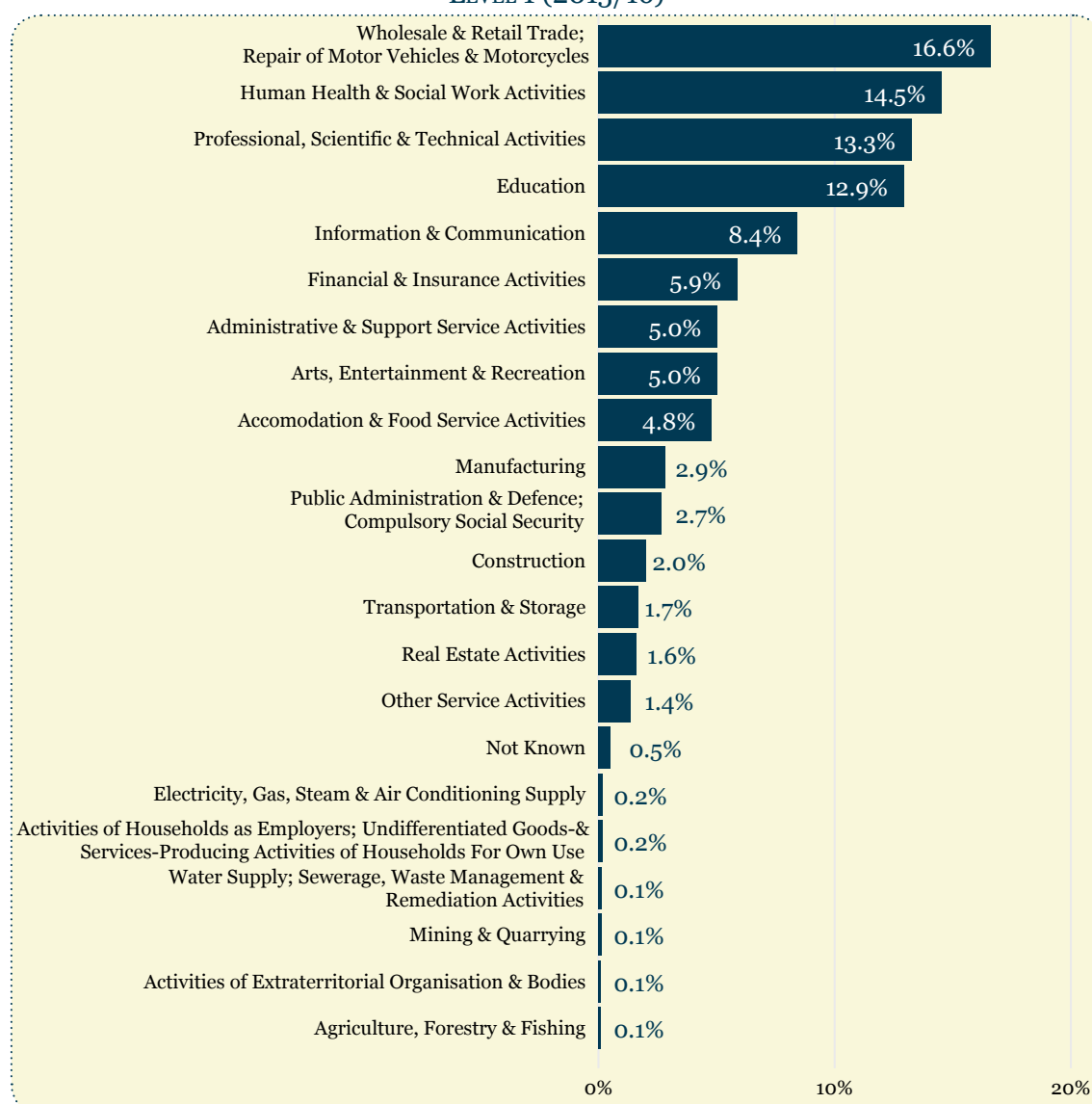
There has been little change from the previous year, with just under 68% (+0.4% on the previous year) of young London resident graduates in 2015/16 subsequently employed in Professional or Associate Professional & Managerial Occupations six months after graduation. These occupations would typically be classified as ‘graduate level’ or ‘highly skilled’ jobs and analysis for all UK domiciled full-time leavers suggests an overall benchmark of 70%.

Table 4 shows that the largest number of graduates are employed in Business and Public Service Associate Professional occupations. There are also a large number of recent graduates employed as Health Professionals, Sales Occupations and in Professional and Associate Professional roles associated with Health and Social Welfare, Teaching, Research, and Science and Technology. In addition, there are also large numbers employed in Culture, Media and Sports Occupations, which is not entirely surprising as London is a major employment hub for the Cultural and Creative Industries.

## 5.3 EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Similar to the SOC, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) is available at different levels, with Level 1 depicted in Figure 43 providing a broad picture of industrial sectors,

**FIGURE 43:** EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC)  
LEVEL 1 (2015/16)



and Level 2 SIC in Table 5 providing a more detailed picture of the employment destinations of the employed cohort of young London domiciled graduates of 2015/16.

The largest proportion of young London domiciled graduates from 2015/16 in employment, were working in the Wholesale and Retail trade. Approximately, one-in-every six recent graduates were working in this sector (the largest employment sector in the UK), although a proportion of these are likely to be employed in professional or managerial roles. The second largest group were working primarily within the public sector. These jobs were located in Human Health and Social Welfare activities, the education sector and Professional, Scientific and technical industries.

Table 5 provides a detailed breakdown at the second Level of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). It clearly reinforces the large numbers employed in the retail trade, human health activities and education. The large numbers employed in health and education reflects the high public sector employment in London.

**TABLE 5: EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS BY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION, LEVEL 2 2015/16**

SIC LEVEL 2	Nos	%
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3645	15.4%
Education	3055	12.9%
Human health activities	2660	11.3%
Legal and accounting activities	990	4.2%
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	965	4.1%
Food and beverage service activities	935	4.0%
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	780	3.3%
Advertising and market research	675	2.9%
Employment activities	665	2.8%
Social work activities without accommodation	650	2.8%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	630	2.7%
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	530	2.3%
Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities	485	2.0%
Creative, arts and entertainment activities	475	2.0%
Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	465	2.0%
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	455	1.9%
Real estate activities	380	1.6%
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	315	1.3%
Publishing activities	305	1.3%
Construction of buildings	235	1.0%
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	235	1.0%
Activities of membership organisations	225	0.9%
Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security	220	0.9%
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	215	0.9%
Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	205	0.9%
Information service activities	200	0.8%
Accommodation	195	0.8%

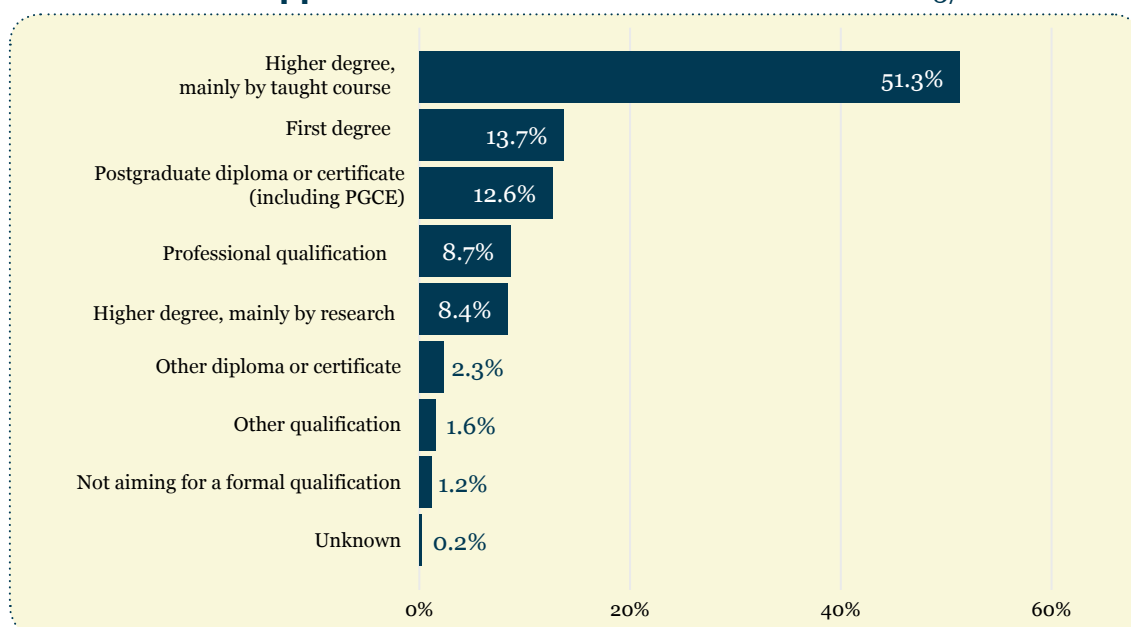
## 5.4 GRADUATES UNDERTAKING FURTHER STUDY

In addition to information about graduate employment, the DLHE survey also includes a series of questions relating to graduates opting to undertake further study. The destinations data shown in Figure 39 suggests that just over 22% of young London graduates choose to undertake further study.

Figure 44 provides a breakdown by the type of qualification young London graduates have chosen to study. As you would expect, 73% of young London graduates elect to study for a postgraduate (Masters Degree, PGCE, MPhil/PhD) degree or a professional qualification, a reduction of 4% on the previous year.

The remaining 27% have opted to study for a first degree or other qualifications representing a 4% increase on the 2014/15 DLHE survey. These graduates are most likely to have previously studied on foundation programmes or sub-degrees and are looking to convert their qualification into an honours degree.

**FIGURE 44:** GRADUATES CONTINUING ONTO FURTHER STUDY - 2015/16



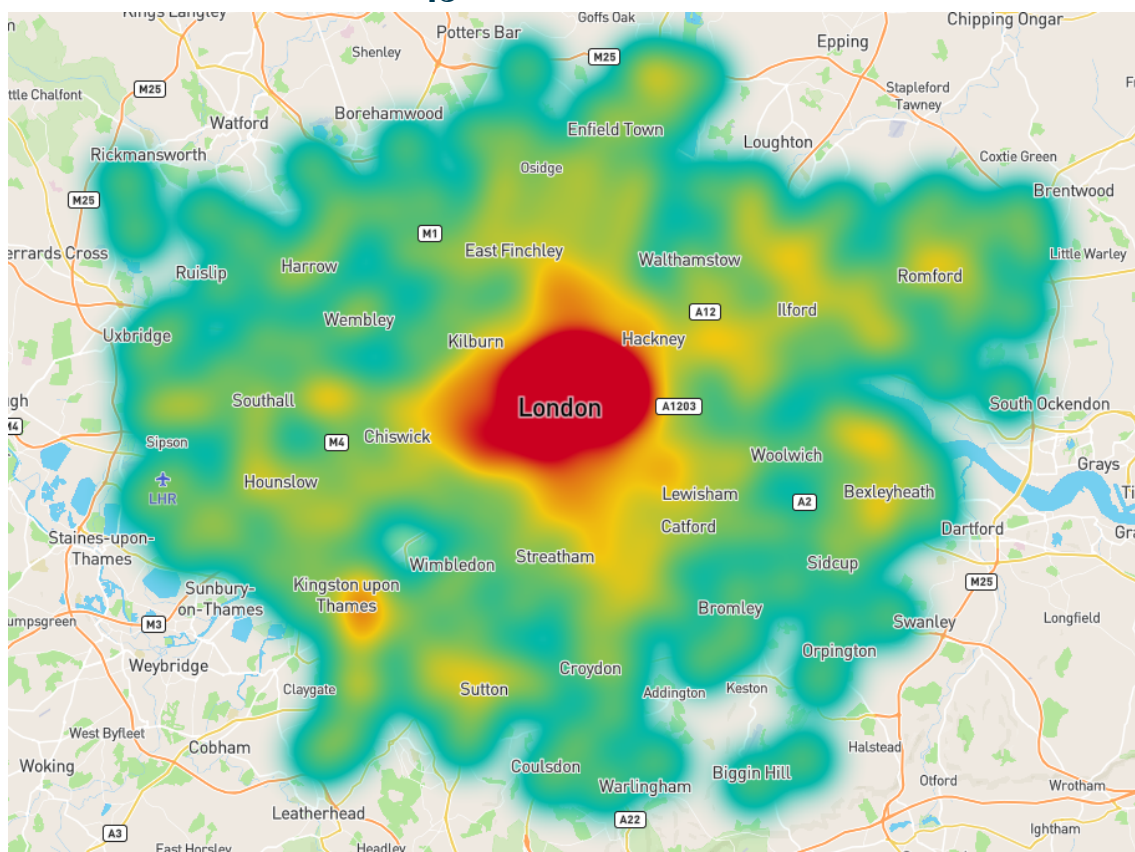
## 5.5 GIS MAPS OF GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

The employment heatmaps presented below and on the following pages indicate the employment locations of young London resident graduates who gained their higher education qualifications in 2015/16 and who progressed to employment within six months of graduating. DLHE data has been analysed using Mapbox supplied as part of Microsoft PowerBI to show areas with the largest numbers employed.

The London heatmap (Figure 45) clearly shows the dominance of Central London as a graduate employment hub and Figures 46-50 perform a similar role but are presented visually at London sub-regional level.

To give an indication of the number of jobs in each postcode, Table 6 provides a breakdown of young London graduates obtaining employment by the location of their employer. As you would expect, the large employment clusters in the City/Central London and Canary Wharf are clearly evident.

**FIGURE 45: LONDON EMPLOYMENT HEATMAP**

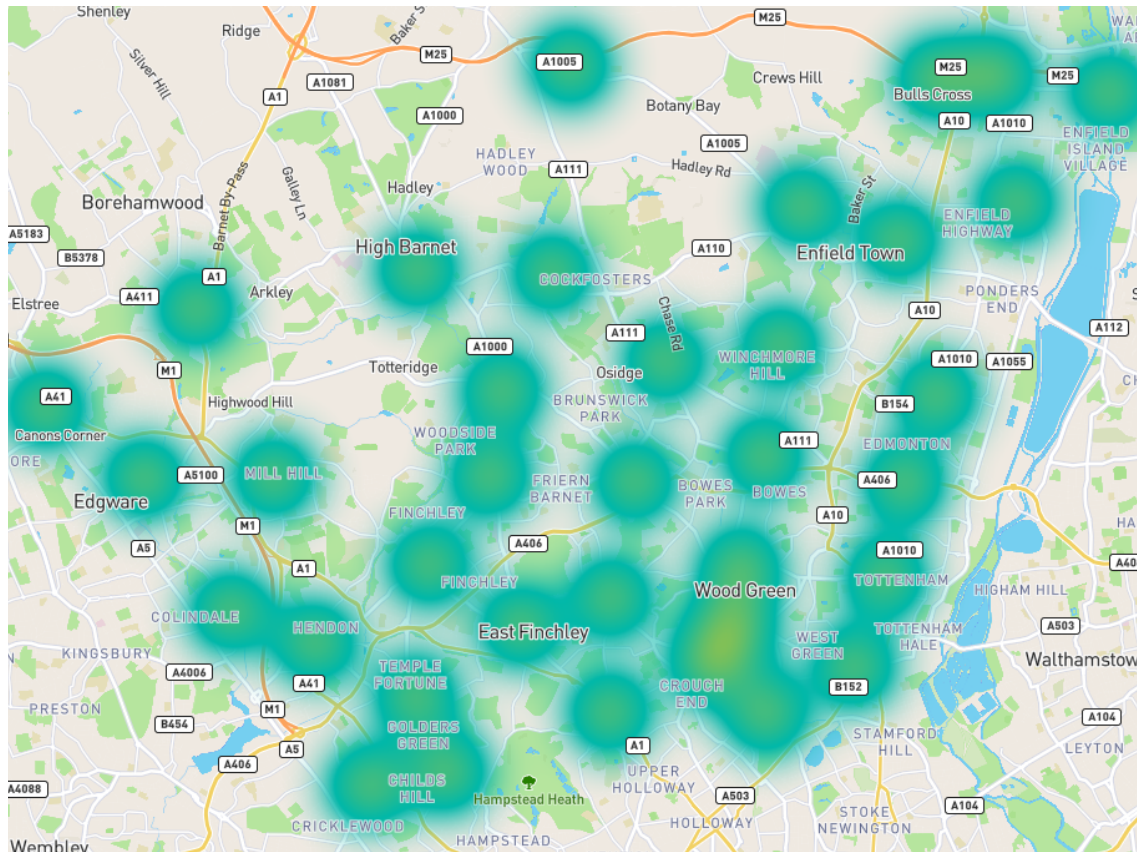








**FIGURE 48: NORTH LONDON SUB-REGION**



**FIGURE 49: WEST LONDON SUB-REGION**

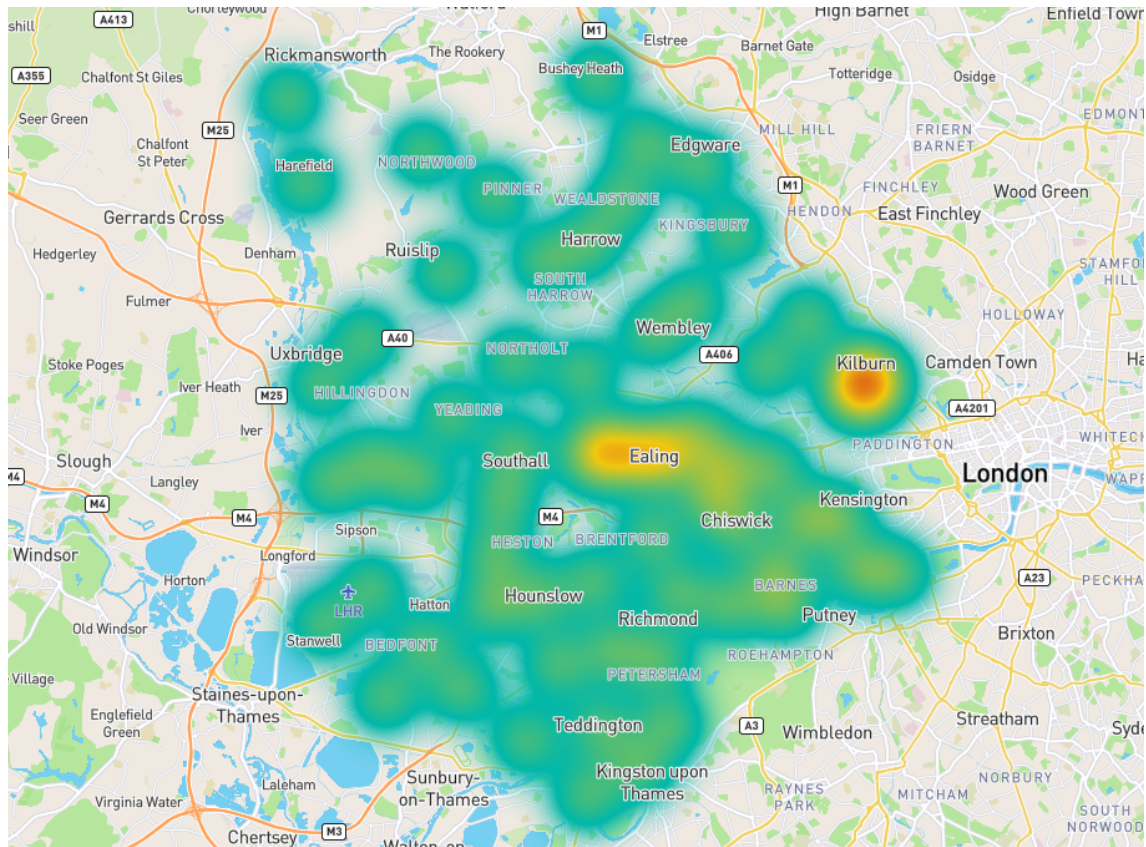
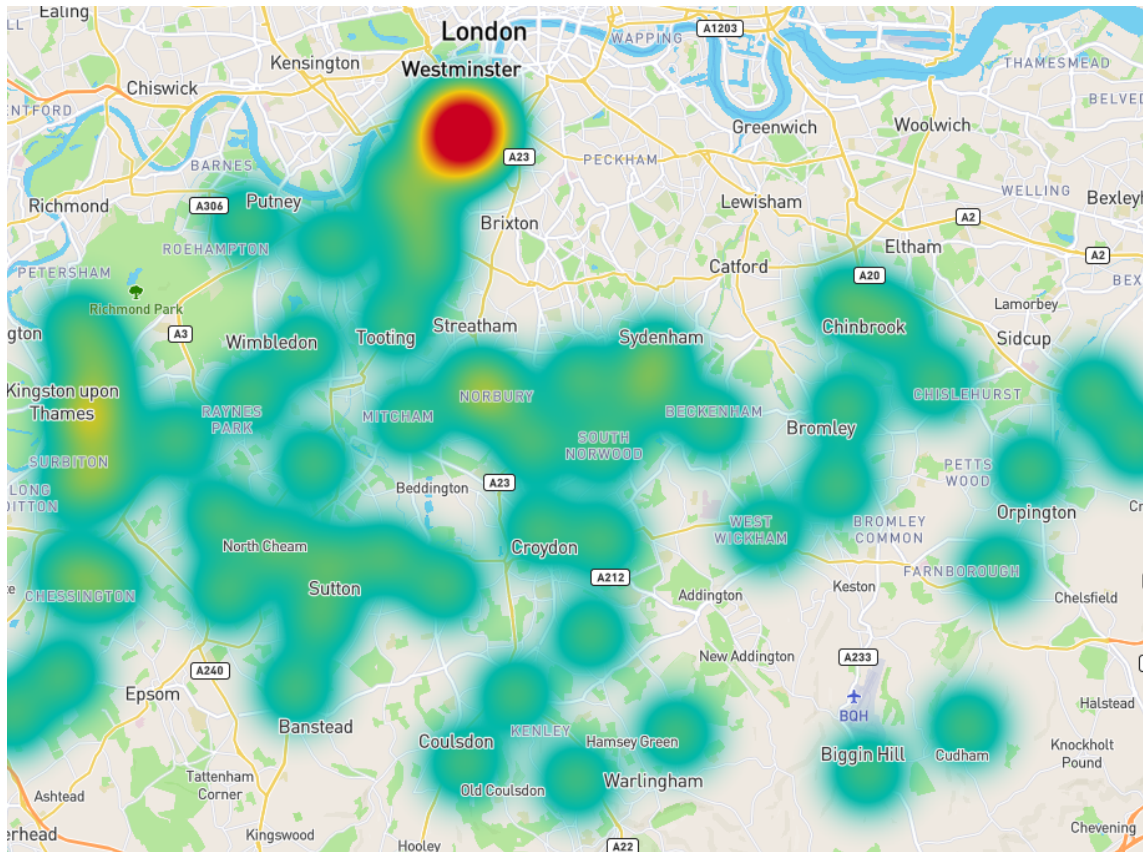


FIGURE 50: SOUTH LONDON SUB-REGION



**TABLE 6: NUMBER OF YOUNG 2015/16 LONDON GRADUATES EMPLOYMENT BY POSTCODE**

Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs
BR1	140	EN3	50	NW8	30	SW8	50
BR2	35	EN4	30	NW9	65	SW9	75
BR3	55	EN5	35	RM1	80	TN14	5
BR4	15	EN6	20	RM10	25	TN16	15
BR5	30	EN7	5	RM11	25	TW1	65
BR6	60	EN8	15	RM12	10	TW10	30
BR7	15	EN9	10	RM13	15	TW11	35
BR8	10	HA0	65	RM14	15	TW12	15
CM13	5	HA1	175	RM15	0	TW13	30
CM14	10	HA2	35	RM2	5	TW14	20
CR0	265	HA3	60	RM3	25	TW15	10
CR2	20	HA4	40	RM4	0	TW19	5
CR3	10	HA5	30	RM5	5	TW2	25
CR4	25	HA6	20	RM6	30	TW3	50
CR5	10	HA7	35	RM7	55	TW4	20
CR6	0	HA8	55	RM8	20	TW5	20
CR7	55	HA9	110	RM9	25	TW6	105
CR8	25	IG1	90	SE1	940	TW7	70
CR9	40	IG11	80	SE10	160	TW8	50
DA1	25	IG2	20	SE11	35	TW9	75
DA14	25	IG3	40	SE12	10	UB1	45
DA15	15	IG4	10	SE13	80	UB10	15
DA16	25	IG5	5	SE14	35	UB11	20
DA17	10	IG6	20	SE15	55	UB2	30
DA18	5	IG7	5	SE16	60	UB3	60
DA5	15	IG8	35	SE17	25	UB4	35
DA6	20	IG9	10	SE18	80	UB5	25
DA7	15	IG4	10	SE19	20	UB6	55
DA8	20	IG5	5	SE1P	0	UB7	20
E1	460	IG6	20	SE2	15	UB8	125
E10	35	IG7	5	SE20	15	UB9	15
E11	65	IG8	35	SE21	15	W10	50
E12	25	IG9	10	SE22	25	W11	95
E13	60	KT1	135	SE23	20	W12	190
E14	505	KT17	15	SE24	15	W13	40
E15	130	KT18	30	SE25	15	W14	50
E16	80	KT19	5	SE26	25	W1A	70
E17	105	KT2	60	SE27	10	W1B	105
E18	15	KT22	30	SE28	20	W1C	140
E1W	50	KT3	40	SE3	20	W1D	115
E2	95	KT4	10	SE4	25	W1F	115
E20	115	KT5	10	SE5	110	W1G	55



Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs	Employer Postcode	No. of Jobs
E3	55	KT6	25	SE6	30	W1H	35
E4	45	KT7	10	SE7	25	W1J	75
E5	30	KT8	5	SE8	20	W1K	85
E6	80	KT9	25	SE9	60	W1S	95
E7	40	N1	315	SM1	55	W1T	180
E8	95	N10	25	SM2	25	W1U	90
E9	55	N11	20	SM3	15	W1W	100
EC1A	165	N12	45	SM4	30	W2	165
EC1M	95	N13	15	SM5	40	W3	75
EC1N	85	N14	35	SM6	20	W4	95
EC1P	0	N15	30	SM7	10	W5	125
EC1R	65	N16	50	SW10	65	W6	190
EC1V	145	N17	60	SW11	70	W7	15
EC1Y	35	N18	65	SW12	25	W8	70
EC2A	220	N19	40	SW13	15	W9	30
EC2M	145	N1C	35	SW14	15	WC1A	40
EC2N	60	N2	20	SW15	90	WC1B	50
EC2P	5	N20	20	SW16	50	WC1E	60
EC2R	60	N21	20	SW17	125	WC1H	30
EC2V	115	N22	75	SW18	90	WC1N	70
EC2Y	70	N3	30	SW19	150	WC1R	20
EC3A	65	N4	30	SW1A	100	WC1V	70
EC3M	100	N5	35	SW1E	95	WC1X	65
EC3N	35	N6	20	SW1H	80	WC2A	355
EC3P	0	N7	95	SW1P	125	WC2B	80
EC3R	45	N8	35	SW1V	55	WC2E	85
EC3V	55	N9	50	SW1W	60	WC2H	100
EC4A	140	NW1	380	SW1X	100	WC2N	75
EC4M	80	NW10	130	SW1Y	70	WC2R	55
EC4N	55	NW11	30	SW2	40	WD23	0
EC4P	0	NW2	55	SW20	20	WD3	10
EC4R	35	NW3	115	SW3	90	WD6	45
EC4V	65	NW4	75	SW4	55		
EC4Y	60	NW5	65	SW5	35		
EN1	90	NW6	50	SW6	150		
EN2	50	NW7	25	SW7	85		

# 6. CONCLUSIONS

More young London residents progressed to higher education in 2016/17 than we have seen since this research began.

The increases are once again in 18 and 19 year olds on full-time undergraduate degrees, which underlines the importance of young Londoners progressing to HE at age 18, as they are far less likely to go into HE after the age of 19. The continuing decline in the number of 21-24 year olds and part-time learners is both a legacy of higher tuition fees, and fewer employers supporting part-time study<sup>22</sup>.

Widening participation initiatives have clearly had a positive impact on young Londoners' progression to HE over the last ten years. Whilst there is still an 8% gender gap in participation, with more females than males progressing to HE, there has been a greater increase in the number of males progressing to HE than females over the ten year period from 2007/08, highlighting the importance of widening participation and HE progression initiatives targeting boys.

The highest increases are also from non-White ethnic groups, and the social mobility data in the report shows that almost 40% of young Londoners progressing to HE are from the 30% most deprived postcodes in England, which is very encouraging. It evidences both the increasing attainment of young Londoners by age 18, which has enabled progression to higher education for increasing numbers of young people, as well as indicating the relative contribution of widening participation and outreach work in London. This finding is further amplified by evidence that over the last ten years, the increase in the number of young HE entrants whose parents did not attend university is significantly greater than those entrants whose parents had some previous experience of higher education. One of the measures of evaluating widening participation strategies relates to the proportion of new entrants who may be the first members of their family to

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22 The Lost Part-Timers, Claire Callender & John Thompson (2018) The Sutton Trust

undertake higher education study.

Further evidence of the value and impact of widening participation initiatives is that Barking & Dagenham, which has increased young participation by almost two thirds over the ten year period since 2007/08 – the largest increase of any London borough by far – is the only London borough where local schools decided to fund a local Aim Higher initiative themselves following the ending of government funding for the national Aim Higher programme in July 2011. Barking & Dagenham Council also continued to fund a Higher Education Co-ordinator to work with schools, colleges and HEIs.

Increased attainment by age 18 is evidenced through the increases in UCAS tariff points of young Londoners, particularly at the higher end of the UCAS scale. Higher achievement opens up a wider choice of university courses and universities for students, and this is reflected in the increasing number of young Londoners progressing to courses and universities with higher entry requirements, including Russell Group universities in 2016/17. However as we have pointed out in previous reports, the increase in the number of undergraduate places available at Russell Group and pre-92 universities is also a factor in the increasing numbers progressing to those institutions. It is also interesting to note that more young Londoners are prepared to study at universities outside London, which may be a result of students being prepared to travel further for places on popular courses, but may also be a result of the higher costs of living in London or near to London.

Previous analysis undertaken at the University of East London suggests that it is not coincidental that the high proportion of young Londoners achieving good degrees, coupled with similarly high proportions of students in employment six month after completing their studies is directly related to the high proportions of recent graduates obtaining graduate-level jobs within six months<sup>23</sup>.

This provides evidence of the outcomes and benefit of higher education to the young people themselves, as well as to schools, colleges and universities that advise young people and their families about the value of investing in higher education.

The 2016 Working Futures report from the UK Centre for Employment and Skills (UKCES)<sup>24</sup>, estimated that by 2024 46% of all UK employment will exist within highly skilled occupations. High-skilled occupations will comprise more than half (7.6 million) of the 14 million additional openings and account for over 70% of all newly created jobs in the UK economy.

This report provides evidence to local authorities and employers that London has increasing numbers of aspirational, high-achieving, resident young people who achieve good degrees, and are ready to take up the increasing numbers of jobs in London in highly skilled occupations that drive both the London and UK economy.

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<sup>23</sup> G.Tindell (2016). *Factors affecting the employment outcomes of London residents*. UEL discussion paper

<sup>24</sup> *Working Futures, 2016, UKCES*

# 7. APPENDIX

## *Appendix A. Explanation of terms*

**Post-92 HE institutions-** universities that were established by legislation, and awarded degree awarding powers by the Privy Council under the terms of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992. They are generally known as ‘new’ universities, and the majority developed from former polytechnics.

**Pre-92 HE institutions-** Ancient universities and those established by Royal Charter. This group also contains Russell Group institutions – a group of 24 of the top selecting universities who have styled themselves ‘The Russell Group’

**Specialist colleges of higher education-** generally specialise in particular subjects or groups of subjects, often vocationally oriented.

**Former colleges of HE-** have primarily been granted their own degree awarding powers since 2000, and now have university titles. They previously taught HE programmes, but their degrees were validated and awarded by partner universities.

**16-18 institutions-** are a DfE category of educational institution where students are aged from 16 to 18. Institutions in this category include school sixth forms, 16-18 provision in FE colleges, sixth form colleges, and 16-18 training providers.

**Sixth Form Colleges-** are colleges specialising in teaching 16-19 year olds, primarily on full-time, Level 3 A Level, vocational and technical courses.

**FE colleges-** are general further education colleges, which teach across the age ranges from 16 upwards. Colleges generally teach 16-18 year olds separately from adults (aged over 18). FE colleges generally tend to focus more on vocational provision and subjects and less on A Level provision. They generally offer progression routes to Level 3 for



students who have not achieved Level 2 qualifications, and often for 19 year olds who wish to study A Levels or full-time Level 3 programmes. Large colleges are increasingly offering Level 4 provision, and some FE colleges are also colleges of FE & HE, with directly funded higher education contracts from the DfE via the Office for Students.

**Level 3-** is A Level or a qualification of equivalent size at Level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework.

**The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)-** 2012/13 is a common classification of occupational information for the United Kingdom. Within the context of the classification jobs are classified in terms of their skill level and skill content. It is used for career information to labour market entrants, job matching by employment agencies and the development of government labour market policies.

**The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)-** 2012/13 is used by Govt and the Office for National Statistics in classifying business establishments and other statistical units by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. The classification provides a framework for the collection, tabulation, presentation and analysis of data, and its use promotes uniformity. In addition, it can be used for administrative purposes and by non-government bodies as a convenient way of classifying industrial activities into a common structure.

**UG-** Undergraduate

**PG-** Postgraduate

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## **Appendix C: Methodology**

### **Aims of the research**

This research was conducted to develop an understanding of the pattern of progression to higher education of London young residents aged 18-24 and their achievement and progression on completion of higher education qualifications into employment or other destinations, including further study. The report maps trends and patterns in participation over the nine-year period 2007/08 – 2016/17, and graduate employment from 2011/12-2015/16.

This report is a case study of the participation of London young residents, and the findings are therefore specific to London apart from instances where the findings mirror the findings of national research.

### **Methodology**

There is no national measure of the HE participation of the 18-24 age group. The two national measurements are 'young participation' which is 18 & 19 year olds (POLAR3)<sup>25</sup>, and the HEIPR<sup>26</sup> which is 17-30 year olds. The most recent published HEIPR data is for the 2016/17 academic year.

The paper uses quantitative data purchased from HESA, (Higher Education Statistics Agency). The progression and achievement data is derived from the annual HESA student return supplied to HESA by all UK-based HEIs (Higher Education Institutions). The HESA student return is a complete record of every student engaged in HE study in an academic year. The data is validated by HESA, and subject to rigorous data quality checks.

The full technical data specification is available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c16051>

All HESA figures quoted in the report have been rounded to the nearest five in accordance with HESA data protection protocols. All percentages have been calculated using raw figures and rounded, and therefore rounded figures may not sum precisely.

The destinations data is derived from the DLHE – The DLHE survey covers full-time and part-time qualifiers who were of UK and other EU domicile at the point of entry, it excludes those domiciled outside the EU. The survey includes those qualifiers who completed their programmes during the academic year 2015/16, that is, the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016. In 2015/16, 394,305 qualifiers provided information about their destinations.

Further information and the full technical data specification is available at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/destinations-2015-16/introduction>

The specification for the data was provided by UEL, and the data purchased by London Councils. Data analysis and reporting was conducted by UEL and the London Borough of Newham. To assist in analysis, UEL imported the data into their business intelligence reporting tools, QlikView and Microsoft Power BI, for data visualisation and analytical purposes.

The data analysed in this report is for young people aged 18-24, studying full or part-time, on undergraduate or first degrees. The latest available data is for students who entered higher education (HE) during the 2016/17 academic year. The data classifies students by their home postcode, and is aggregated at borough level and regional level. Time series data is available from 2007/08, and the report therefore includes time series analysis over a ten-year period. In these instances, the data shows students entering HE in those years.

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<sup>25</sup> HEFCE 2015

<sup>26</sup> Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), BIS 2015

DLHE data is from the 2015/16 academic year, the most recent survey available.

Where the number of students is five or less, it is displayed as <5, as this is a HESA data protection requirement. Where the data is drilled down to look at sub-groups, the numbers are not always statistically relevant due to the small numbers of students involved, so actual student numbers are reported next to the percentage where this occurs.

We have classified the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) into groups of institutions using commonly used groupings<sup>27</sup>. The institutional groupings are correct for the 2015/16 academic year:

- Russell Group – The Russell Group of 24 research-intensive universities
- Pre-92 – Ancient universities and those established by Royal Charter, excluding the 20 Russell Group institutions
- Post-92 – universities established under the F&HE Act 1992
- Specialist institutions – University Colleges specialising in specific subjects such as Art or music
- Former Colleges of HE – Universities granted degree awarding powers since 2000

A full explanation of terms and a list of the HE institutions in each category are provided in Appendix D

The reason universities are classified in this way is to group universities with similar entry criteria and characteristics.

Data is primarily reported directly from the HESA data, but where appropriate, references have been made to other data to evidence prior attainment when making a case for choice based primarily on prior academic achievement. Other national studies are also referred to, where they have utilised quantitative data in order to place some of the findings related to London students into a national HE context. The report also refers to other qualitative studies on student choice to provide a perspective on potential reasons for student HE choices apart from prior academic attainment.

Students studying on courses in further education colleges (FECs), which are franchised from HEIs, are already included in HESA data and the DLHE survey. But the DLHE survey now includes directly funded HE students at FECs. These results form part of FECs' wider information set published on the Unistats web-site, and have been included in the Key Information Set from September 2012. Data for students from FECs directly funded from the start of the 2012/13 academic year are not included in the HESA data. The data from FECs only records student numbers, and there is no detail available regarding age etc, so it is not possible to include the data in this report. We would like to include students studying Higher Level Apprenticeships in the future, if the data is returned to HESA by HEIs or directly-funded FECs.

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<sup>27</sup> These groupings are fairly common terminology within the HE sector

## ***Appendix D: List of HEIs by institutional group***

### **Pre-92 institutions:**

The Open University  
Brunel University  
The City University  
Birkbeck College  
The University of Kent  
Goldsmiths College  
The University of Sussex  
The University of Essex  
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College  
The University of Surrey  
Loughborough University  
The University of Reading  
The University of East Anglia  
The University of Leicester  
The School of Oriental and African Studies  
The University of Hull  
The University of Bath  
Aston University  
The University of Keele  
Swansea University  
The University of Bradford  
The University of Lancaster  
The University of St Andrews  
The School of Pharmacy (UCL)  
Aberystwyth University  
The University of Aberdeen  
Bangor University  
The University of Salford  
Institute of Education (UCL)  
University of Wales Trinity Saint David  
Heriot-Watt University  
The University of Dundee  
University of Ulster  
The University of Stirling

### **Post-92 institutions**

Kingston University  
The University of Greenwich  
The University of Westminster  
Middlesex University  
The University of East London  
London Metropolitan University  
London South Bank University  
University of Hertfordshire  
The University of West London  
The University of Brighton  
The University of Portsmouth  
University of Bedfordshire  
Coventry University  
The Nottingham Trent University  
Anglia Ruskin University  
De Montfort University

Bournemouth University  
University of the West of England, Bristol  
Oxford Brookes University  
The University of Northampton  
The University of Northampton  
Birmingham City University  
The Manchester Metropolitan University  
The University of Plymouth  
Leeds Metropolitan (Beckett) University  
Staffordshire University  
Bath Spa University  
Sheffield Hallam University  
The University of Lincoln  
University of Derby  
Teesside University  
The University of Wolverhampton  
The University of Central Lancashire  
University of Glamorgan  
University of Gloucestershire  
Liverpool John Moores University  
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle  
The University of Huddersfield  
The University of Sunderland  
The University of Buckingham  
The University of Bolton  
The University of Wales, Newport  
Edinburgh Napier University  
University of Abertay Dundee  
The Robert Gordon University  
Glasgow Caledonian University  
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh  
Edinburgh Napier University  
University of Abertay Dundee  
The Robert Gordon University  
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh  
The University of the West of Scotland

### **Specialist HEIs**

University of the Arts, London  
University for the Creative Arts  
St George's Hospital Medical School  
Ravensbourne  
The Arts University Bournemouth  
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama  
University College Birmingham  
The Royal Veterinary College  
Central School of Speech and Drama  
Heythrop College  
Rose Bruford College  
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance  
Writtle College  
Norwich University of the Arts  
Guildhall School of Music and Drama  
Glasgow School of Art  
Leeds College of Music



The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts  
Royal College of Music  
Courtauld Institute of Art  
Leeds College of Art  
Royal Academy of Music  
Royal Northern College of Music  
Royal Agricultural University  
Edinburgh College of Art  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Dartington College of Arts (University College Falmouth)  
SRUC  
Plymouth College of Art

**Former Colleges of HE**

Roehampton University  
St Mary's University College Twickenham  
Canterbury Christchurch University  
Buckinghamshire New University  
Southampton Solent University  
The University of Winchester  
The University of Chichester  
University of Cumbria  
Falmouth University  
University of Chester  
University Campus Suffolk  
The University of Worcester  
Edge Hill University  
York St John University  
Liverpool Hope University  
Harper Adams University  
Leeds Trinity University  
Glyndŵr University  
University of St Mark and St John  
Newman University  
Bishop Grosseteste University  
University of the Highlands and Islands  
Trinity University College

**Russell Group HEIs**

Queen Mary University of London  
King's College London  
University College London  
The University of Nottingham  
The University of Southampton  
The University of Bristol  
The University of Manchester  
The University of Warwick  
The University of Birmingham  
The University of Leeds  
The University of Exeter  
The University of Oxford  
The University of Cambridge  
University of Durham  
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine  
The University of Edinburgh

The University of Sheffield  
The University of York  
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
The University of Liverpool  
Cardiff University  
The University of Glasgow  
The Queen's University of Belfast

\* This list includes universities attended by London young residents, grouped according to their HE charter and is not necessarily a full comprehensive list of all UK HEIs

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An aerial photograph of London at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city below is densely packed with buildings, some of which are lit up. The River Thames is visible in the distance. The overall scene is a panoramic view of the city from a high vantage point.

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