

HEFCE 00/55  
November  
**Report**

# Franchised students 1998-99

**Students taught at institutions other  
then where they are registered**

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The logo for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). It features the word "hefce" in a blue, lowercase, serif font. The letters "h" and "e" are connected, and the "f" is a tall, thin stroke. The "c" is a simple curve. The "e" is a simple curve. The "f" is a tall, thin stroke. The "c" is a simple curve. The "e" is a simple curve.

## **Franchised students 1998-99**

### **Students taught at institutions other than where they are registered**

To	Heads of higher education institutions and further education colleges in England
Of interest to those responsible for Reference	Student data, Audit, Finance, Planning 00/55
Publication date	November 2000
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### **Executive summary**

#### **Purpose**

1. This document gives details of those higher education students who are registered at one institution but taught at another. All such sub-contractual partnerships will be referred to as franchises. Information is derived mainly from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data collections. Franchised students can be taught wholly or partly at the teaching institution. This document makes no reference to HEFCE funding consortia arrangements, details of which can be found in HEFCE 00/54 'HE in FE colleges: Indirectly funded partnerships – codes of practice for franchise and consortia arrangements'.
2. The need for better information about franchised students was recognised in the HEFCE 98/58 'The nature of higher and further education sub-contractual partnerships'.
3. Most franchised higher education (HE) students are registered at higher education institutions (HEIs). The teaching institution is not always publicly funded, and may not be named in the HESA data return.
4. A small number of franchised HE students are registered at further education colleges (FECs). Details of their teaching institutions are derived from the Further Education Funding Council's July 1998-99 individualised student record.
5. Thanks to the efforts of institutions and to our comparison of different data sets, the data are of better quality than in previous years. However, the data should still be treated with caution because of the diversity of franchising arrangements, the different interpretations of the guidance on completing HESA returns, and the complexities of the data extraction methods. These issues are being addressed.
6. For further information on franchising arrangements please refer to the following HEFCE publications:
  - a. HEFCE 99/36 'HE in FE colleges: Guidance for colleges on funding options'.
  - b. HEFCE 99/37 'HE in FE colleges: Code of practice on indirectly funded partnerships'.

**Key points**

7. This document describes the characteristics of franchised students and lists the teaching institutions with the corresponding numbers of students.

**Action required**

8. No action is required: the report is for information

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## **Contents and structure**

9. This document consists of the following sections:

- an introduction describing the characteristics of students who are registered at an HEI and taught at an FEC
- Annex A: tables detailing the numbers of students franchised out, by registering and by teaching institution. Where the students were registered at an HEI, both headcounts and full-time equivalents (FTEs) are given
- Annex B: details of the data extraction methods used to create the Annex A tables.

## **Franchised student characteristics**

10. The following section outlines the characteristics of students who are registered at an HEI and taught at an FEC. There are 29,957 such students. This is not the total number of franchised students in England and Northern Ireland (as shown in Tables A1 to A4) because only students for which the teaching institution was specified as an FEC were included. Franchised students who are taught at another HEI, rather than at an FEC, have been excluded because they are likely to have different characteristics.

11. In order to investigate the characteristics of franchised students we compared them with directly funded higher education students both at HEIs and FECs. We looked at the following three groups or populations of students:

- franchised students registered at an HEI and taught at an FEC
- all directly funded students at HEIs
- all directly funded HE students at FECs.

## **First degree full-time (FT) students**

12. Most students fall into this category for the three populations we are considering. The vast majority of full-time first degree students are directly funded at HEIs (708,121). There are 7,247 first degree full-time students who are franchised at a known FEC, and a similar number (6,695) directly funded at FECs.

13. Forty seven per cent of this category of franchised students are in their first year of programme of study, compared to 33 per cent of directly funded students at HEIs. This may be because many courses are only franchised for Year 1, or Year 1 and 2 of the programme. After this time, the franchised student becomes a directly funded student in an HEI. Where the course is franchised for all three years of the degree, the percentage in the first year of their programme of study is similar to that of the directly funded courses. We did not calculate the percentage in Year 1 of programme of study for the 'directly funded at FECs' group as their data are extracted from a different source where year of programme of study is not used.

14. Ten per cent of first degree FT franchised students are in Year 0 of their programme of study. For the same category of directly funded students at HEIs the percentage is 0.4 per cent. Year 0 of a programme of study is a preparatory year for those students who have been accepted to a degree course by an institution but who need an extra year of study first.

15. The majority of all three groups of full-time first degree students are under 21 on entry. Fifty five per cent of the franchised group are young entrants, compared with 62 per cent directly funded at FECs and 79 per cent directly funded in HEIs.

16. The entry qualifications of this category are broadly similar for the two groups taught at FECs (franchised and directly funded). They differ from those of directly funded students at

HEIs in that their entry qualifications are more varied. Eighty three per cent of directly funded first degree FT students at HEIs have A-levels or other school leaving qualifications; this compares with 55 per cent of the franchised group and 44 per cent of the directly funded at FECs group. Common entry qualifications for the franchised group are: an HE qualification (19 per cent), a foundation or access qualification (4 per cent), or a BTEC (9 per cent).

17. The subject spread is shown in Table 1 below. It can be seen that the spread of subjects studied by the franchised students in this category is as wide as that of directly funded students at HEIs, except for medicine and dentistry and the veterinary sciences. It is broader than that of directly funded students at FECs. Partly franchised students have a slightly narrower subject spread than fully franchised students; Architecture, Building and Planning, Humanities, and Law are not studied.

Table 1

<b>Subject group for first degree FT students</b>	<b>Directly funded in HEIs</b>		<b>Franchised from HEI to an FEC</b>		<b>Directly funded in FECs</b>	
Agriculture & Related Subjects	5,206	1%	745	10%	119	2%
Architecture, Building & Planning	15,975	2%	93	1%	12	0.2%
Biological Sciences	47,432	7%	578	8%	81	1%
Business & Administrative Studies	76,528	11%	1,088	15%	1,767	26%
Combined	83,443	12%	1,043	14%	1,720	26%
Computer Science	38,524	5%	459	6%	83	1%
Creative Arts & Design	60,882	9%	1,321	18%	1,836	27%
Education	35,545	5%	5	0%	376	6%
Engineering & Technology	61,110	9%	740	10%	34	0.5%
Humanities	24,946	4%	39	1%		
Languages	47,397	7%	114	2%	348	5%
Law	27,322	4%	44	1%		
Librarianship & Information Science	10,663	2%	359	5%		
Mathematical Sciences	12,861	2%	26	0%		
Medicine & Dentistry	22,344	3%				
Physical Sciences	38,359	5%	113	2%		
Social Economic & Political Studies	60,624	9%	262	4%	203	3%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	37,210	5%	218	3%	116	2%
Veterinary Sciences	1,750	0%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>708,121</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,247</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,695</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Figures of less than 10 are unreliable.

18. Generally, each HEI only offers a few subjects (one to five) partly franchised, whereas a much wider range of subjects is offered fully franchised. Furthermore, any given subject can only be studied partly franchised at a few HEIs (for example, Librarianship and Information Science is taught partly franchised at just two HEIs); whereas a much wider range of subjects is available to those on fully franchised courses across the country.

#### **First degree part-time students**

19. Almost 9 per cent of the franchised students fall into this category, compared with almost 6 per cent of the directly funded in HEIs group.

20. There are 41 per cent of part-time first degree students in the franchised group who are in their first year of programme of study. This compares with 29 per cent of the same category of student in the directly funded at an HEI group.

21. Seventy-five per cent of franchised part-time first degree students are mature (over 24 on entry). This compares with 56 per cent of part-time first degree students directly funded at FECs and 68 per cent at HEIs.

22. The entry qualifications of this category of franchised students do not differ markedly from those in the comparative groups in HEIs, the predominant entry qualification in all cases being an HE qualification.

23. The subject spread of first degree, part-time students is shown in Table 2 below. It can be seen that the spread of subjects studied by the franchised students in this category is narrower than that of the directly funded students at HEIs, but broader than that of directly funded students at FECs.

Table 2

<b>Subject group for first degree part-time students</b>	<b>Directly funded in HEIs</b>		<b>Franchised from an HEI to an FEC</b>		<b>Directly funded in FECs</b>	
Agriculture & Related Subjects	297	0%	52	2%	3*	
Architecture Building & Planning	4,767	6%	214	8%	31	1%
Biological Sciences	2,949	3%	112	4%	54	2%
Business & Administrative Studies	11,946	14%	634	24%	730	27%
Combined	8,239	10%	228	9%	868	32%
Computer Science	4,879	6%	19	1%	62	2%
Creative Arts & Design	2,823	3%	123	5%	170	6%
Education	3,494	4%	285	11%	121	5%
Engineering & Technology	7,183	8%	265	10%	44	2%
Humanities	2,260	3%	61	2%		
Languages	3,178	4%	35	1%	171	6%
Law	4,836	6%	107	4%		
Librarianship & Information Science	436	1%	12	0%		
Mathematical Sciences	275	0%				
Medicine & Dentistry	306	0%				
Physical Sciences	1,985	2%	9*		1*	
Social Economic & Political Studies	4,590	5%	175	7%	144	5%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	20,139	24%	348	13%	276	10%
Veterinary Sciences	11	0%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,593</b>		<b>2,679</b>		<b>2,675</b>	

\* Figures of less than 10 are unreliable.

24. The Annex A Tables A1 to A4 show those HEIs that offer franchised courses to part-time undergraduates. The distinction between first degree and 'other undergraduate' study is not made in those tables, but most HEIs with a substantial number of franchised students offer courses at both levels. The tables also show that franchised students are predominantly taught wholly by the teaching institution, rather than the teaching in a given year being shared between the registering and the teaching institutions. There are a couple of notable exceptions to this where part-time undergraduates are concerned, namely the University of

Huddersfield and the University of Plymouth.

### Other undergraduate students

25. The vast majority of 'other' undergraduate students are directly funded at HEIs: 363,744 of them, compared with 68,333 directly funded at FECs and 17,474 franchised. Just over 100,000 of the 363,744 are Open University students studying for institutional credits part-time and with an unknown year of programme of study.

26. More than 70 per cent of other undergraduate students in both the directly funded groups are part-time. This is true even when the Open University is excluded. This compares with 37 per cent of the franchised group.

27. The percentage of 'other' undergraduates with a known year of programme of study that are in their first year is slightly less for the franchised group at 56 per cent, compared with 66 per cent and 67 per cent for the directly funded students at FECs and HEIs respectively. The percentage in the first year of programme does not vary between modes for the franchised group but varies for the two directly funded groups.

28. In all three groups of 'other' undergraduates the majority of part-time students are mature (over 24 on entry), and the majority of full-timers are young (under 21 on entry). This pattern is most marked in the directly funded in HEIs group, where 87 per cent of the part-timers are mature and 47 per cent of full-timers are young. In the franchised group 70 per cent of the part-time 'other' undergraduates are mature and 64 per cent of the full-timers are young. The pattern in the directly funded in FECs group is the least marked with 62 per cent of part-timers mature and 62 per cent of full-timers young.

29. The subject spread is shown in Table 3 below. It can be seen that the spread of subjects studied by the franchised students in this category is narrower than that of the directly funded students at HEIs.

Table 3

Subject group for sub-degree students	Directly funded in selected HEIs		Franchised from an HEI to an FEC		Directly funded in FECs	
Agriculture & Related Subjects	1,685	0%	1,267	7%	1,517	2%
Architecture Building & Planning	3,367	1%	589	3%	4,034	6%
Biological Sciences	2,637	1%	625	4%	359	0.5%
Business & Administrative Studies	29,679	8%	5,090	29%	22,147	32%
Combined	155,864	43%	715	4%	1,813	3%
Computer Science	15,456	4%	1,963	11%	4,868	7%
Creative Arts & Design	6,746	2%	1,884	11%	8,259	12%
Education	10,282	3%	2,069	12%	3,825	6%
Engineering & Technology	7,933	2%	1,735	10%	15,276	22%
Humanities	9,304	3%	16	0%		
Languages	12,855	4%	1*		1,175	2%
Law	1,739	0%	84	0%		
Librarianship & Information Science	1,236	0%	121	1%		
Mathematical Sciences	692	0%				
Medicine & Dentistry	127	0%				
Physical Sciences	2,540	1%	150	1%	209	0.3%
Social Economic & Political Studies	14,601	4%	865	5%	3,764	6%

Subjects Allied to Medicine	86,850	24%	270	2%	1,087	1.5%
Veterinary Sciences	151	0%	30	0%		
Total	363,744	100%	17,474		68,333	

\*Figures of less than 10 are unreliable.

30. The subjects studied differ according to mode. Agriculture and Related Studies, Computer Science and Creative Arts and Design are dominant subjects for full-time franchised students in this 'other' undergraduate category. Education is dominant for part-timers; and Business and Administrative Studies the most dominant subject irrespective of mode. There is a different pattern in each of the directly funded groups.

31. The entry qualifications for 'other' undergraduate students are similar for both groups of directly funded students, with the following qualifications dominant: an HE qualification, unknown, and 'A-level or equivalent' with an unknown number of points. The franchised group has BTEC as an additional dominant entry qualification.

### **Postgraduate taught students**

32. There are 2,557 franchised postgraduate taught (PGT) students and 1,562 directly funded PGT students at FECs. Almost 65 per cent of both these groups of students are mature (over 24 on entry), part-time and studying Education. They are a group of students with an extremely homogenous set of characteristics and therefore differ from directly funded postgraduate taught students at HEIs where only 13 per cent of PGT students have all these characteristics.

33. The actual qualifications they are aiming for are slightly different in the two groups. The qualification aim for students directly funded at FECs is predominantly a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), while for many in the franchised group it is a postgraduate diploma or certificate.

## Description of tables showing franchised student numbers by institution

34. Table 4 below shows the overall numbers of franchised out students. The population described in the previous section are those registered at an HEI and taught at an FEC. The populations detailed in the Annex A tables are those registered at an HEI and franchised out (Tables A1 to A4), and those registered at an FEC and franchised out (Tables A5 and A6). All students considered are HE students.

Table 4

### Students registered at an HEI and taught at an FEC

Numbers given are headcounts

Category	Students
Full-time first degree	7,247 Table 1
Part-time first degree	2,679 Table 2
Other undergraduate (FT and PT)	17,474 Table 3
Postgraduate (FT and PT)	2,557
<b>HEI registered, FEC taught</b>	<b>29,957</b>

### Students registered at an HEI and franchised out

HEI registered, FEC taught	29,957
HEI registered, HEI taught	2,520
HEI registered, taught unknown	11,161
HEI registered, taught Scottish or Welsh institution	347
Net aggregate amendments	1,906 detailed in Annex B and Tables A1 to A4
<b>Registered at an HEI and franchised out</b>	<b>45,891</b> Tables A1 to A4

### Students registered at an FEC and franchised out

<b>Registered at an FEC and franchised out</b>	<b>720</b> Tables A5 and A6
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35. Details of the methods used to extract the data in these tables are given in Annex B.

36. Tables A1 to A4 show the total number of franchised students from the HESA 1998-99 student record. The figures are based on definitions that differ from the count of students on the HESA record for two reasons:

- a. Figures on Tables A1 to A4 are accurate at the date of publication and include all corrections the HEFCE has made to the HESA 1998-99 student record data it holds. Some institutions supplied amendments which could not be incorporated into our copy of the student record because they were aggregated into the categories shown in the tables. Such amendments were made manually to Tables A1 to A4, and their details added to the columns outside the print area.
- b. HEFCE definitions of students, mode and level have been used (see Annex B paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 for data sources, definitions, and extraction methods).

37. The tables break down the types of franchised students into two further categories of 'fully franchised' and 'partly franchised'.

38. 'Fully franchised' refers to those students who are taught entirely at the teaching institution for the relevant year of programme of study. This does not necessarily mean that the student is franchised for the full duration of their course. It could be that the student is fully

franchised for Year 1 of the programme of study and then directly funded for Year 2 and Year 3 of the programme of study. It is only in their first year of programme that they would be recorded as a fully franchised student. In Year 2 and Year 3 they would be recorded as a directly funded student.

39. 'Partly franchised' refers to those students who are partly franchised for that year of the programme of study. This applies to students who receive some of their teaching at their registering institution, and some at a collaborating institution. Again, this does not necessarily mean that the student is partly franchised for the full duration of their course. It could be the case that the student is fully franchised in Year 1 of the programme, partly franchised in Year 2 and directly funded in Year 3. It is only in their second year of programme that they would be recorded as a partly franchised student.

40. Tables A5 and A6 show the total number of students franchised from FECs according to the FEFC's July 1998-99 ISR data. The definition of franchised students is not the same in the ISR as in the HESA return. In the ISR, students are recorded as franchised out only if more than 50 per cent of their guided learning hours take place at another institution.