

University of Leicester Equality Information

Student Data- Participation of students at the University of Leicester 2020/21

Introduction

The University of Leicester is clear in its commitment to developing a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion, and creating an environment where difference is valued and respected. The University seeks to provide a positive working and learning environment, free from discrimination, harassment, or victimisation.

Under the Equality Act 2010 we are legally required to produce and publish diversity monitoring information annually. For students at the University, we collect data related to age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Specific duties of the Equality Act 2010 require public bodies to:

- Publish information relating to employees who share protected characteristics
- Publish information relating to people who are affected by the public body's policies and practices (e.g. students)

Collecting diversity data from students allows us to:

- Further understand our student demographic, and support all students. It will allow us to identify specific issues and barriers, and take targeted action.
- Assess the impact of proposed policies and initiatives on different student groups to support decision making.

The data is used to inform the University's actions to create a more inclusive environment, based on statistical evidence. Diversity monitoring information has previously helped us to identify and make positive changes to improve the experiences of some student groups. Examples include facilities on campus such as prayer spaces and events for particular student groups.

Our Commitments to Access and Participation: <https://le.ac.uk/about/making-a-difference/equality/access-participation>

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. The plans include: the provider's ambition for change, what it plans to do to achieve that change, the targets it has set, the investment it will make to deliver the plan. Our [Access and Participation Plan \(PDF, 1.3MB\)](#), [Impact Report \(PDF, 307KB\)](#) and the [Office for Students fee summary \(PDF, 116KB\)](#) details our expected fee income from Home/EU students and our ambition and strategy to widen participation for the 2020/21-2024/25 academic years.

Please note that where figures are given for UK HEI's (Higher Education Institutions), these are for the Academic Year 2019/20 which are the latest available. The UK HEI figures are based on data by Advance HE which provides representations of the protected characteristics for all students at UK HEI's. To see complete data from 2019/20, please see [Advance HE's 2021 statistical report on students in Higher Education](#).

Key

BAME- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic

PGT- Postgraduate Taught

PGR- Postgraduate Research

UG- Undergraduate

UoL- University of Leicester

Data Note

- Data for 2020/21 academic year.
- Note: the population of this dataset excludes students that are suspended, dormant or withdrawn on 1st December 2020.
- Dalian students studying at Dalian (China) for all 4 years of their course have been excluded. These students were included in the previous year (2019/20) shown in this report (341 students)

1. Age

Table 1.1 All UoL students by age group, 2015/16 to 2020/21

All UoL Students by Age									
2015/16	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	14	9900	4735	2893	1403	483	76	15	19519
%	0.1%	50.7%	24.3%	14.8%	7.2%	2.5%	0.4%	0.1%	100%
2016/17	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	14	10812	4556	2956	1401	451	86	16	20292
%	0.1%	53.3%	22.5%	14.6%	6.9%	2.2%	0.4%	0.1%	100%
2017/18	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	13	11128	4465	2045	1066	333	85	14	19149
%	0.1%	58.1%	23.3%	10.7%	5.6%	1.7%	0.4%	0.1%	100%
2018/19	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	139	11177	3993	1696	835	264	62	8	18174
%	0.8%	61.5%	22.0%	9.3%	4.6%	1.5%	0.3%	0%	100%
2019/20	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	188	10822	4356	1655	828	288	65	10	18212
%	1.0%	59.4%	23.9%	9.1%	4.5%	1.6%	0.4%	0.1%	100%
2020/21	17 and under	18-21	22-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and Over	Total
No.	138	10121	3567	1424	703	243	58	6	16260
%	0.8%	62.2%	21.9%	8.8%	4.3%	1.5%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%

- In 2020/21, 62.2% of UoL student population were ≤21, an increase from 59.4% in 2019/20. This is slightly above the 2019/20 national picture, 51.8% of students were ≤21 in the UK. Overall, the proportion of students ≤21 has increased since 2015/16 (50.7%) and the proportion of mature students has decreased slightly (see Table 1.2 for UG data).

Table 1.2 All UG by age group, 2015/16 to 2020/21

UoL First Degree UG by Age Group, 2015/16 to 2020/21												
	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Young *	9557	82.5 %	10673	85.1 %	10956	87.3 %	10921	89.2 %	10514	88.9 %	9878	87.9 %
Mature	2034	17.5 %	1870	14.9 %	1591	12.7 %	1328	10.8 %	1313	11.1 %	1357	12.1 %
Total	11591	100 %	12543	100 %	12547	100 %	12249	100 %	11827	100 %	11235	100 %

*Young is defined as ≤ 21 . Numbers provided for years were for all students recorded as UG course group and included new entrants and returners.

- The proportion of students over 21 at UG level steadily declined from 17.5% (2015/16) to 10.8% (2018/19), in 2019/20 and 2020/21 there was a slight increase in the proportion to 11.1% (2019/20) and 12.1% (2020/21). In the UK (2019/20), 82.3% of first degree UG students were ≤ 21 , this is lower than the proportion at UoL in 2019/20 (88.9%) and 2020/21 (87.9%).

Table 1.3 All UG new entrants by age group, 2020/21

UoL UG New Entrants by Age Group, 2020/21		
	No.	%
Young	3394	87.7%
Mature	475	12.3%
Total	3869	100%

- The proportion of new entrant mature students in 2020/21 is 12.3%.

2. Disability

Table 2.1 All UoL students by disability, 2015/16 to 2020/21

Year	All UoL Students by Disability 2015/16 to 2020/21						
	Disability		No disability disclosed		Unknown		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015/16	1853	9.5%	17270	88.8%	315	1.6%	19438
2016/17	1942	9.6%	17872	88.1%	478	2.4%	20292
2017/18	1830	9.6%	17137	89.5%	182	1.0%	19149
2018/19	1679	9.2%	16358	90.0%	137	0.8%	18174
2019/20	1761	9.7%	16283	89.4%	168	0.9%	18212
2020/21	1713	10.5%	14373	88.4%	174	1.1%	16260

- Disability disclosure rates have steadily increased among students in UK higher education, rising from 5.4% in 2003/04 to 14.6% in 2019/20 (Advance HE, 2021).
- In 2019/20, 10.5% of UoL's student body were known to have a disability, this proportion has increased from 9.7% in 2019/20 (see Table 2.1). UoL's figure is lower than the national picture, where in the UK 14.6% of students disclosed as disabled in 2019/20.

3. Ethnicity

Table 3.1 All UoL students by ethnicity (BAME, White and Unknown) 2015/16-2020/21

Year		All UoL Students by Ethnicity (BAME, White and Unknown), 2015/16 to 2020/21			
		BAME	White	Unknown	Total
2015/16	No.	8132	9588	1799	19519
	%	41.7%	49.1%	9.2%	100.0%
2016/17	No.	9275	9767	1250	20292
	%	45.7%	48.1%	6.2%	100.0%
2017/18	No.	9382	9040	727	19149
	%	49.0%	47.2%	3.8%	100.0%
2018/19	No.	9201	8325	648	18174
	%	50.6%	45.8%	3.6%	100.0%
2019/20	No.	9631	7972	627	18212
	%	52.8%	43.8%	3.5%	100.0%
2020/21	No.	8469	7237	554	16260
	%	52.1%	44.5%	3.4%	100.0%

- In 2020/21 52.1% of all UoL students identified as BAME (Table 3.1), a slight decrease from 52.8% in 2019/20. Table 3.2 shows a detailed ethnicity breakdown of UoL students who identified as BAME in 2020/21. In 2019/20, 25.3% of UK-domiciled students identified as BAME, this shows that UoL has a higher proportion of BAME students than the sector average.

Table 3.2 Breakdown of UoL BAME Students 2020/21

All UoL Students by detailed Ethnicity- 2020/21		
Ethnicity	No.	%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	146	1.7%
Mixed - White and Black African	80	0.9%
Mixed - White and Asian	227	2.7%
Other mixed background	233	2.8%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	2329	27.5%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	699	8.3%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	230	2.7%
Chinese	1150	13.6%
Other Asian background	661	7.8%
Black or Black British - African	1610	19.0%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	322	3.8%
Other Black background	141	1.7%
Arab	473	5.6%
Other ethnic background	168	2.0%
BAME Only	8469	100.0%

Table 3.3 Breakdown of UoL Students by ethnicity 2020/21

Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian or Asian British	5069	31.2%
Black or Black British	2073	12.7%
White	7237	44.5%
Other and Mixed	1327	8.2%
Not declared	554	3.4%
Total	16260	100.0%

- Of total BAME students (8469), the large majority were Indian (27.5%); 8.3% were Pakistani and 2.7% were Bangladeshi.
- 31.2% of UoL students were Asian or Asian British.
- 12.7% of all UoL students were Black or Black British, most of whom were from a Black African background (19.0%). Black Caribbean students were less represented, constituting 3.8% of BAME students overall.
- Nationally, 42.6% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic UK domiciled students were Asian, of which the large majority were Indian (13.6%) and Pakistani (13.9%); 6.3% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic students were Bangladeshi. A further 30.2% were Black, most of whom were from a Black African background (22.9% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic UK domiciled students). Black Caribbean students were much less represented, constituting 5.7% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic UK domiciled students overall. 16.7% of Black, Asian and minority ethnic UK domiciled students were from a mixed background, 3.3% were Chinese, and 7.2% identified as an ethnic group other than those listed (Advance HE, 2021).

4. Gender

Table 4.1 All UoL students by gender, 2015/16 to 2020/21

Year	All UoL Students by Gender 2015/16 to 2020/21			
	Female	Male	Total	F%
2015/16	10196	9323	19519	52.2%
2016/17	10453	9839	20292	51.5%
2017/18	9964	9185	19149	52.0%
2018/19	9657	8517	18174	53.1%
2019/20	9728	8484	18212	53.4%
2020/21	8739	7521	16260	53.7%

- The proportion of female students at UoL has steadily increased since 2015/16 (52.2%). In 2020/21, 53.7% of students were female, however the total number of students does fluctuate. The higher proportion of female students aligns with UK figures, in 2019/20, 57% of all students studying in UK higher education were female.

5. Religion or Belief

Table 5.1 All UoL students by religion or belief, 2015/16 to 2020/21

Religion and Belief All Students	2015/6		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Buddhist	87	0.4%	156	0.8%	182	1.0%	186	1.0%	200	1.1%	139	0.9%
Christian	2205	11.3%	3995	19.7%	4940	25.8%	5114	28.1%	4874	26.8%	4522	27.8%
Hindu	337	1.7%	589	2.9%	771	4.0%	897	4.9%	954	5.2%	1234	7.6%
Jewish	20	0.1%	41	0.2%	54	0.3%	51	0.3%	52	0.3%	48	0.3%
Muslim	841	4.3%	1573	7.8%	1931	10.1%	2105	11.6%	2229	12.2%	2345	14.4%
Sikh	236	1.2%	393	1.9%	510	2.7%	555	3.1%	543	3.0%	573	3.5%
Spiritual	75	0.4%	128	0.6%	169	0.9%	163	0.9%	158	0.9%	151	0.9%
Other religion or belief	56	0.3%	100	0.5%	119	0.6%	125	0.7%	123	0.7%	123	0.8%
No religion	3669	18.8%	6145	30.3%	7571	39.5%	7282	40.1%	7753	42.6%	6112	37.6%
Information refused	618	3.2%	1005	5.0%	1229	6.4%	1149	6.3%	1129	6.2%	956	5.9%
Not Known	11375	58.3%	6167	30.4%	1673	8.7%	547	3.0%	197	1.1%	57	0.4%
Total UoL	19519	100%	20292	100%	19149	100%	18174	100%	18212	100%	16260	100.0%

- Of the full student body (including overseas) in 2020/21, 37.6% reported no religion or belief, a decrease from 42.6% in 2019/20. 27.8% were Christian and 14.4% Muslim, compared to 2019/20: 26.8% were Christian and 12.2% were Muslim.
- Nationally, Advance HE report the three religion and belief groups with the highest proportions of students in 2019/20, were those who reported having no religion, Christians and Muslims.

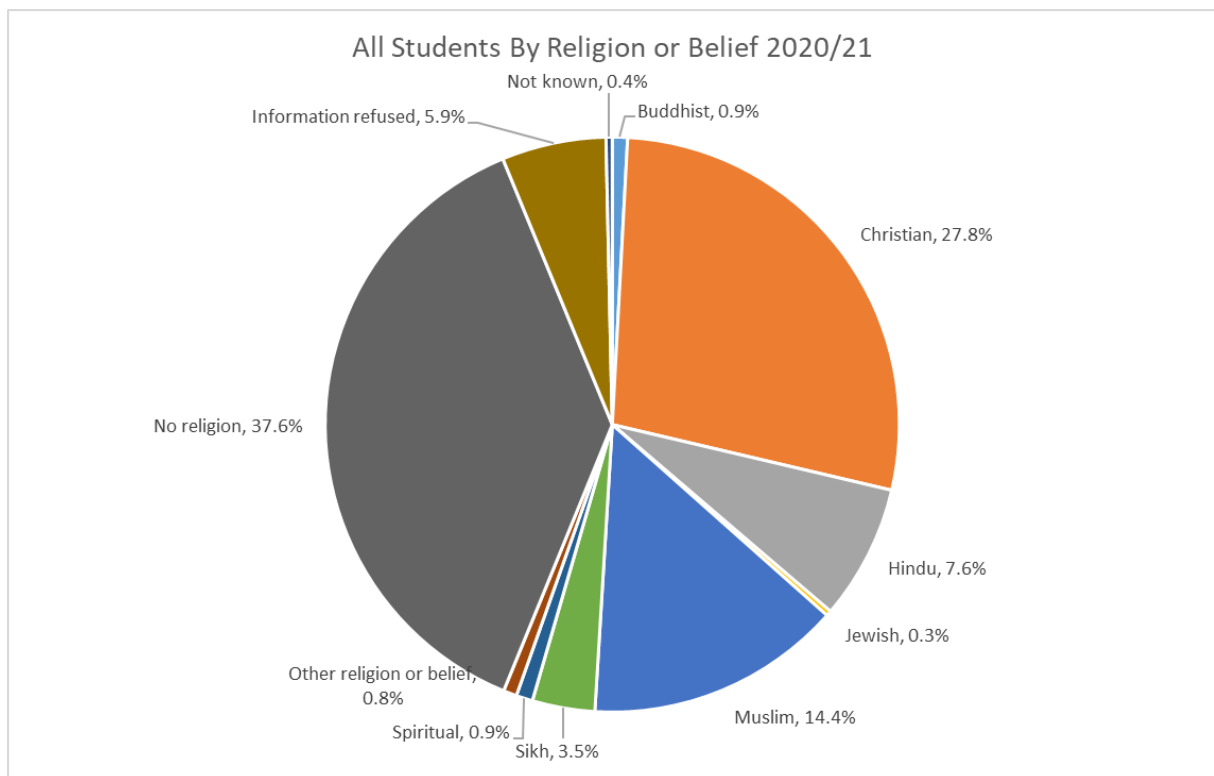


Figure 1 All Students by Religion or Belief 2020-2021

Figure 1 shows all students by religion or belief in 2020/21. 0.9% of students are Buddhist, 27.8% Christian, 7.6% Hindu, 0.3% Jewish, 14.4% Muslim, 3.5% Sikh, 0.9% Spiritual, 0.8% identified another religion or belief, 37.6% no religion or belief, 5.9% did not declare and 0.4% did not respond.

6. Sexual Orientation

Table 6.1 All UoL students by sexual orientation, 2015/16 to 2020/21

All UoL Students by Sexual Orientation	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
LGB*	486	2.5 %	821	4.0 %	1071	5.6 %	1054	5.8 %	1191	6.5 %	1198	7.4 %
Heterosexual	6523	33.4 %	11355	56.0 %	14332	74.8 %	14586	80.3 %	14710	80.8 %	13326	82.0 %
Information refused	952	4.9 %	1563	7.7 %	1959	10.2 %	1941	10.7 %	2106	11.6 %	1677	10.3 %
Not known	11558	59.2 %	6553	32.3 %	1787	9.3 %	593	3.3 %	205	1.1 %	59	0.4 %
Total UoL	19519	100 %	20292	100 %	19149	100 %	18174	100 %	18212	100 %	16260	100 %

*LGB includes: Bisexual, Gay man, Gay woman/Lesbian, Other

- The University first started recording sexual orientation in 2015/16 and the proportion of students choosing to disclose sexual orientation has increased each year.