

HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND



A Review of Evidence

April 2010



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1. BACKGROUND

This report presents the findings of a review of existing studies and official statistics related to the Higher Education (HE) sector in Northern Ireland. The aim of the report is to provide an understanding of the HE sector in Northern Ireland according to the mostly recently published data. This provides a baseline for exploring the need for additional HE provision in the Derry/Londonderry area. The report is structured around four key themes:

- Introduction to Derry/Londonderry
- The Economic Impact of Universities
- Higher Education Provision in Northern Ireland
- The Current Provision of the University of Ulster

The report has been compiled by the Enterprise Research and Development Unit (ERDU) at the University of Lincoln. ERDU is an independent academic research centre, which offers expertise in economic analysis, regional economic development, and enterprise policy.



2. INTRODUCTION TO DERRY/LONDONDERRY

2.1 Population

The city of Derry/Londonderry is the regional capital of the North West of Ireland and is historically the second city of Northern Ireland. This cross-border region has 0.5 million residents. Within region, the new combined Derry and Strabane council area comprises 147,965 people, of which Derry city alone accounts for 108,535 residents¹.

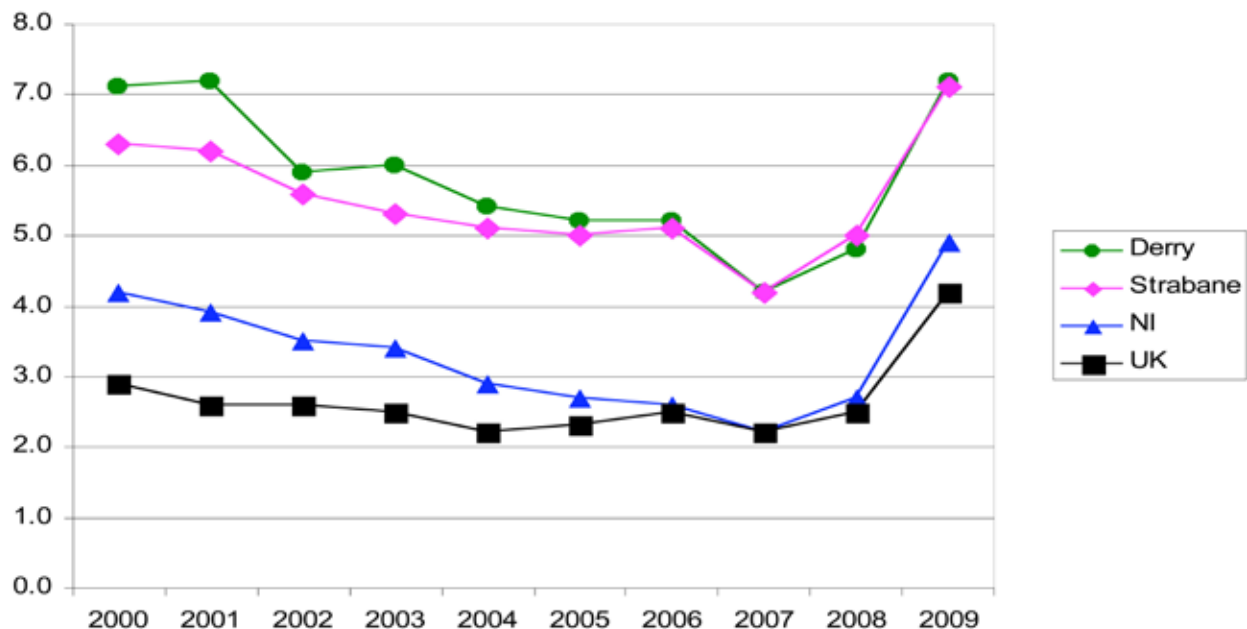
The population of the North West region is much younger than that of the UK: 23.7% is under 16, compared to 19% in the UK as a whole². This is a key variable in the region's economic appeal for the future. However, the growth in population has increased faster than the growth in jobs – even before the recession. Employment growth in Derry/Strabane has been the second lowest of all the 11 new council areas in Northern Ireland³.

2.2 Economic Activity

In 2007 Derry/Strabane had the second highest rate of economic inactivity of any area in Northern Ireland at 34.2%⁴ compared to 21.1% in the UK and just 8.3% in the lowest area (St Edmundsbury in Suffolk). The rate of economic inactivity in Derry is close to the highest rate in the whole of the UK – Liverpool at 35%⁵.

Graph 1 shows the unemployment claimant count rates for Derry and Strabane in comparison with Northern Ireland and the UK overall. The unemployment rate is consistently higher in Derry and Strabane. Derry currently has the highest claimant count of any council area in Northern Ireland at 7.2%, compared to 4.9% in Northern Ireland and 4.2% across the UK⁶.

Graph 1: Unemployment Claimant Count Rates for Derry and Strabane



Source: NOMIS (ONS Crown Copyright Reserved)

- 1 Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service, 2007 mid-year population estimates
- 2 PriceWaterhouseCoopers (2009) Government Futures: Perspectives on Policy for a New Northern Ireland, p 13
- 3 PriceWaterhouseCoopers (2009) Government Futures: Perspectives on Policy for a New Northern Ireland, p 17
- 4 Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey 2007
- 5 ONS (2009) Labour Market Statistics
- 6 NOMIS, Claimant Count Rates, September 2009

2.3 Education and Skills

A high proportion of Derry and Strabane residents hold no formal qualifications. Almost a third (29%) of Derry and 40% of Strabane working age populations have no qualifications, compared with 22% in Northern Ireland⁷. Derry has a low level of graduates among its working age population. On a number of measures, set out in Table 1, Derry consistently performs poorly when compared with Belfast, Northern Ireland and the UK. According to the 2001 Census, just 15% of 16-75 years in Derry and 9% in Strabane are educated to degree level.

Table 1: Proportion of Working-Age Population Qualified to Degree Level

Measure	Source	Derry	Strabane	Belfast	Aberdeen	NI	UK
% 16-75 year olds qualified to level 4/5	Census 2001	15	9	19	24	16	20
% 16-59/64 year olds qualified to level 4/5	Labour Force Survey 2007	21	-	33	29	25	29
% 25-75 year olds qualified to ISCED levels 5/6 (2001)	Eurostat State of Cities 2007	18	-	22	35	-	-

Northern Ireland has a particular difficulty in attracting graduates from elsewhere. According to a recent report by the Higher Education Careers Service Unit⁸, very few graduates come to work in Northern Ireland if they are not already domiciled there. It has the lowest percentage of any UK region of residents who are not from the region and graduated elsewhere, at 1.5%. According to the report, these numbers suggest that graduates from outside Northern Ireland are not attracted by the local labour market.

2.4 Income and Deprivation

Derry performs poorly across a range of indicators related to income and housing. Northern Ireland has the lowest average earnings of any UK region. In April 2008, the gross median weekly pay was £417 in Northern Ireland compared with £478 in the UK overall and £612 in London⁹. The weekly median pay is £359 in Derry, 14% below that of Northern Ireland. In Strabane, median pay is £295, 30% lower than the Northern Ireland figure¹⁰.

Households in Derry receive the highest percentage of income from non-disability social security benefits at 15%: this is over twice that of the NI average of 7%. A quarter of all the people living in Northern Ireland who cannot afford to keep their homes warm live in Derry – despite it having just 6% of the population. Nearly 80% of children in Derry are in families in the bottom 40% of income. Derry has the highest proportion of social rented households (29%) compared to the Northern Ireland average of 16%¹¹.

2.5 Productivity and Investment

Northern Ireland consistently performs poorly in economic productivity, measured by gross value added (GVA) per head. According to the most recent GVA figures, Northern Ireland ranks in the third lowest of all the UK regions, with GVA per head at £16,170 compared with £19,965 across the UK overall¹².

7 Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey 2007

8 Ball, C (2008) Graduate mobility? Who goes to work in each region? [accessed online at prospects.net]

9 ONS (2009) Economic and Labour Market Review, Vol 3, Issue 2

10 ONS (2008) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Local Authority District

11 DSDNI (2007) Family Resources Survey

12 ONS (2008) First Release: Regional, Sub-Regional and Local Gross Value Added

Northern Ireland is shown to perform poorly in business investment in R&D, which is recognised as a key determinant of the innovation process. Northern Ireland has the lowest R&D expenditure as a share of regional GVA, at 0.5% in 2006 compared with 1.3% in the UK. This figure has fallen since 2000, when expenditure on R&D was 0.7% of regional GVA¹³.

The latest European Urban Audit report, *State of European Cities*, classifies Derry as a 'de-industrialised city' alongside a large number of cities from new EU member states, such as Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. It states that *"the economic performance of most de-industrialised cities is weak... Only the future will tell which de-industrialised cities will be able to adjust and take advantage of new opportunities, and which will remain in a negative economic spiral."*¹⁴



13 ONS (2009) Economic and Labour Market Review, Vol 3, Issues 2
14 European Commission (2007) *State of European Cities Report*, p 76

3. THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF UNIVERSITIES

Universities contribute to the economic health of an area. They create skills which raise personal and average incomes; they create academic, clerical and manual jobs; and they spend money in the local community. There is a close correlation between the proportion of graduates in a population, the rate of economic activity and GDP per head. Individual students earn more by going to university and become more likely to be employed: others locally become more likely to be in work and to earn more.

According to the latest report by Universities UK¹⁵, universities contributed £31bn to UK GDP in 2007/08. The off-campus expenditure of international students and visitors contributed a further £2.4 billion to GDP. Together this comes to over £33.4 billion, equivalent to 2.3% of UK GDP.

Universities employ staff and spend money in the local economy, which in turn create knock-on or multiplier effects. The report calculates that for every 100 full-time jobs created directly by a university, more than 100 other full time jobs are generated through knock on effects. Over 324,000 full time jobs in other sectors are dependent on the expenditure of universities. For every £1 million of university output a further £1.38 million of output is generated in other sectors of the economy. This means that an additional £32.4 billion of output is generated outside the universities as a result of their expenditure.

The Lambert Review emphasises the important role that universities play in helping businesses to innovate through collaborative research and commercialisation projects¹⁶. A university that focuses on commercially relevant subjects – such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) – has greater potential to generate commercial income and create spin-off companies, which in turn create jobs and add to the productivity of the local economy.

Economic growth and labour productivity are closely linked to higher level qualifications in the workforce. Analysis conducted by the OECD suggests that obtainment of higher education qualifications is linked to higher levels of employment. 89% of working aged adults with degree/professional level qualifications are in employment in the UK, compared with 81% of adults with upper school qualifications, and 65% of those with lower school level qualifications. Earnings are also shown to be 57% above the mean for those with degree-level qualifications.¹⁷

There is a clear distinction between graduate and non-graduate remuneration levels in Northern Ireland. Graduates of working age earn around 70% more per week than their non-graduate counterparts. In addition, the graduates' weekly earnings gender pay gap is slightly smaller than that for non-graduates: 32.6% compared with 36.6%.¹⁸

Annex A provides a case study of the University of Lincoln's impact on its local and regional economy – recently cited by Richard Lambert as an example of best practice.¹⁹

15 UUK (2009) The Impact of Universities on the UK Economy, 4th report

16 HM Treasury (2003) Lambert Review of Business-University Collaboration

17 OECD (2009) Education at a Glance

18 DETINI (2005) Graduates in the Northern Ireland Labour Market

19 Guardian.co.uk reported that 'Lincoln is an example of a small city benefiting greatly from its new university' in an article entitled *Higher education's importance goes well beyond teaching* by Richard Lambert (director general of the CBI) and Steve Smith (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter and President of Universities UK):<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/mortarboard/2009/nov/03/higher-education-funding-universities-economy>

4. HIGHER EDUCATION PROVISION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Table 2 sets out some key facts about the full-time UK student population at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Northern Ireland and England. Compared with England, Northern Ireland has a low number of HEIs per head of population. There are 887,500 residents per HEI in Northern Ireland compared with 398,806 in England. For Northern Ireland to have the same number of HEIs per head of population as England, it would need to have two more institutions.

The number of full-time HE students per HEI is shown to be significantly higher in Northern Ireland compared to England. The HEIs in Northern Ireland have, on average, almost twice the number of students of a HEI in England. This suggests that the two Northern Ireland HEIs have significantly large student populations.

The number of full-time students per 1,000 resident population is less, at 24, in Northern Ireland compared with England, at 32. This suggests that Northern Ireland exports higher education students to other areas of the UK.

Table 2: HEIs in Northern Ireland compared with England

	Northern Ireland	England
Number of HEIs	2	129
Population (mid 2008)	1,775,000	51,446,000
Population per HEI	887,500	398,806
Students at all HEIs	43,170	1,637,925
Students per HEI	21,585	12,697
Students per '000 population	24	32

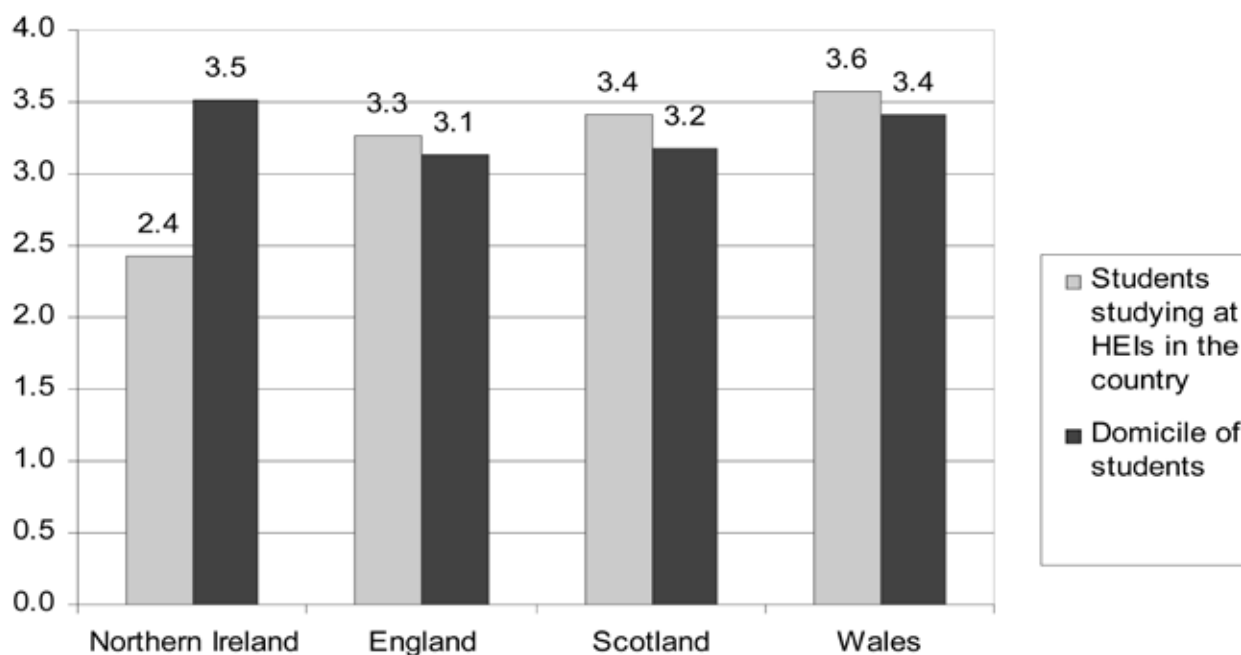
Full-Time HE students, undergraduate, postgraduate, full and part time, domiciled in the UK, for 2007/08

Source: HESA Statistics 2007/08, Mid-Year Population Estimates 2008 (ONS and NISRA)

Graph 2 sets out the number of students as a percentage of the overall population in each of the countries of the UK. It represents (a) the number of students studying at HEIs in each of the countries and (b) the number of students who are domiciled from each country. Students studying in Northern Ireland institutions represent 2.4% of the total population, while for the other UK countries this figure is at least 3%. This suggests that the number of students studying in Northern Ireland and/or the number of HE places available are low when compared with the rest of the UK. However, compared with other UK countries, students domiciled in Northern Ireland represent a higher proportion (3.5%) of the population which suggests a strong propensity to take up higher education.



Graph 2: HE Students as a proportion of the total population: (a) by country of study and (b) by country of domicile



Students studying at HEIs in Northern Ireland currently represent 2.4% of the total resident population, as Graph 2 shows. To bring this number up to 3.3%, the same rate as England, would require an additional 15,405 higher education places in Northern Ireland²⁰. The under-provision of higher education in Northern Ireland was highlighted in the Dearing report in the late 1990s. This stated that, “a serious issue for the Province is that 40 per cent of young people have to leave to take up higher education opportunities. A considerable number of these do not do so from choice, but because of the limitation on the number of places and the relatively high standards of entry to the local universities”.²¹ The authors of this report calculated that to increase higher education provision in Northern Ireland to Scottish levels an additional 12,000 places would be needed. Graph 6 illustrates that growth in HE overall was relatively static between 2002 and 2007, given Northern Ireland’s ‘MaSN’ cap.

The cost to the Northern Ireland economy is significant in the longer-term, as Northern Ireland loses the impact of higher investment, productivity, entrepreneurship and direct and indirect job creation from the students continuing to locate in Great Britain after they have completed their studies.

4.2 Higher Education Institutions in Northern Ireland

There are two Higher Education Institutions in Northern Ireland which, in 2007/08, delivered to 48,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students. As Table 3 shows, Queen’s University Belfast and the University of Ulster are the largest providers, accounting for almost 46,000 or 95% of the student population. St Mary’s University College and Stranmillis University College are much smaller institutions which provide teacher training and a range of other courses validated by Queen’s University.

Five higher education campuses - Queen’s University, St Mary’s, and Stranmillis University Colleges and the Jordanstown and Belfast campuses of the University of Ulster - are located in Greater Belfast. The University of Ulster is the sole provider of Higher Education outside Greater Belfast, with campuses in Coleraine and Derry. As a result, HE provision is very heavily concentrated in Greater Belfast, which

20 Includes undergraduate, postgraduate, part-time and full-time students, calculated from HESA figures for 2007/08 and ONS mid-year population for 2008

21 Dearing (1997) Higher Education in the Learning Society, Summary Report

contains 79% of university students, compared to about 28% of the population. The university student population is around 5% of the total population of Greater Belfast. In Derry, students account for around 2.5% of the total population²². Greater Belfast has ten times more higher education students than Derry, but a population slightly more than six times the size.

Table 3: Student Counts for Northern Ireland HEIs, 2007/08, all years, all domiciles

Institution	First degree	Other Under-graduate	Higher degrees (Research)	Higher degrees (Taught)	Other Post-graduate	TOTAL
The Queen's University of Belfast	13,865	3,745	1,350	1,970	1,290	22,220
St Mary's University College	925	0	0	90	25	1040
Stranmillis University College	1,085	95	0	90	25	1295
University of Ulster	16,655	2,390	640	1,845	2,115	23,645

Source: HEIDI HESA Statistics

In the Republic of Ireland, the density of HE provision is lowest in the North West region and highest in Greater Dublin and Greater Belfast areas. Full time higher education students comprise 20 in 1,000 population in the North West region (16 in Donegal and 22 in NI parts), against 23 in Northern Ireland and 32 in the Republic of Ireland²³.

4.3 Where Northern Ireland Students attend University

As Graph 3 shows, Northern Ireland loses just under a third (32%) of its higher education students to Britain. In 2007/08, a total of 62,345 students from Northern Ireland were studying for undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications within the United Kingdom²⁴. Of these, 42,085 (67%) were studying in Northern Ireland. A total of 20,260 were studying in England, Wales and Scotland, with England accounting for 14,995 students and Scotland 4,800 students.

Table 3: Where HE Students from Northern Ireland Study, 2007/08

England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total UK
14,995	465	4,800	42,085	62,345

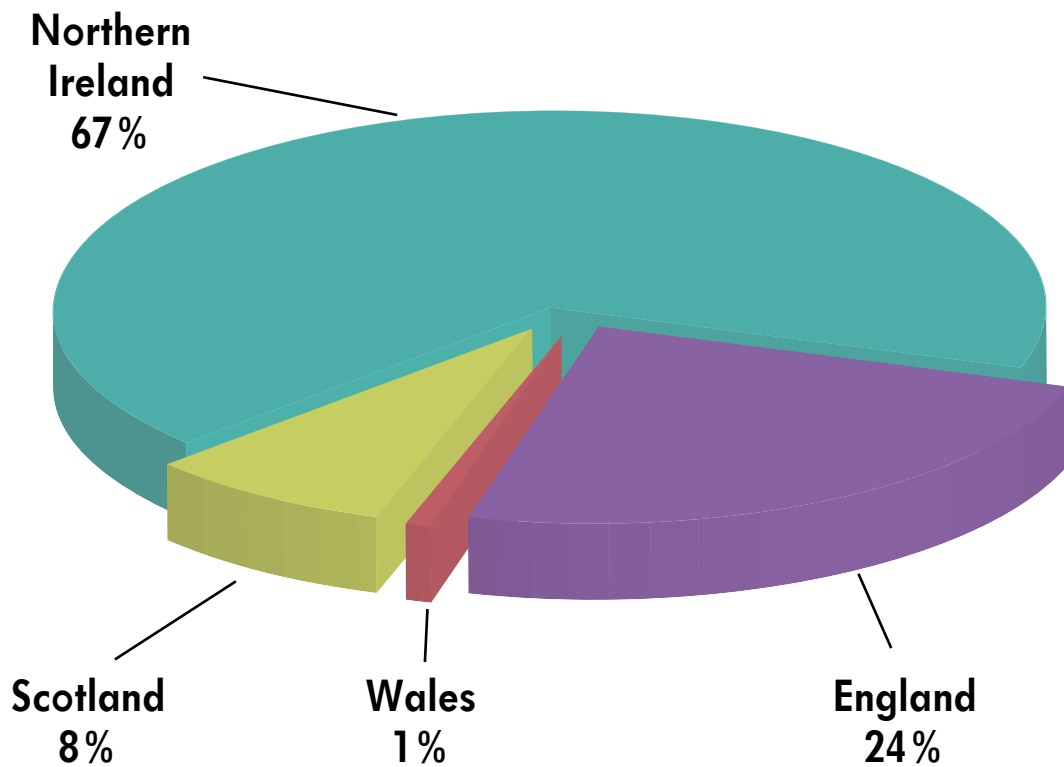
Source: HESA HEIDI Statistics, undergraduate, postgraduate, full and part-time student counts

²² Mid-2006 population estimates, NISRA, and student numbers from HESA and individual institutions

²³ Indecon and London Economics (2009) North West Gateway Strategic Alliance Scoping Study, p 14

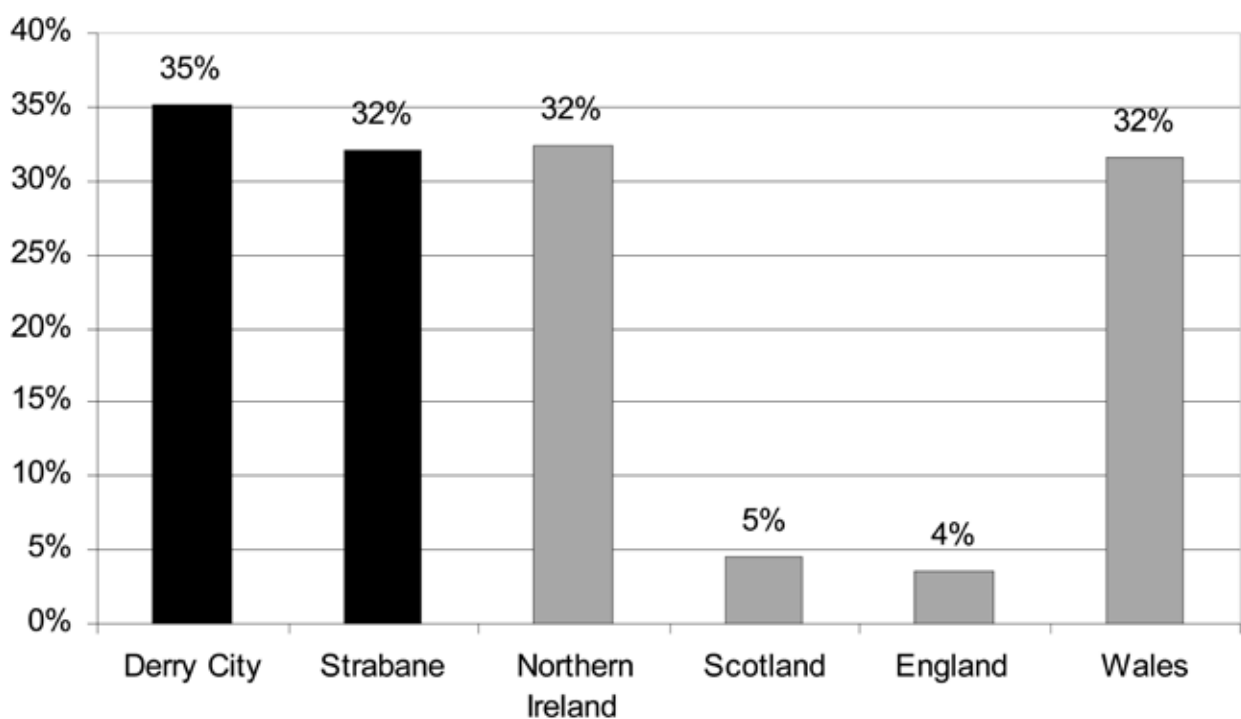
²⁴ HESA figures do not include number of students studying at HEIs in the Republic of Ireland

Graph 3: Where Full Time HE Students from Northern Ireland Study, 2007/08



Graph 4 shows that the proportion of students domiciled from each country in the United Kingdom that are studying outside their home country. Just 5% of students in Scotland and 4% in England study elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Just under a third of students domiciled in Wales study elsewhere. More than a third of students from Derry (35%) leave Northern Ireland to study elsewhere in the UK.

Graph 4: Proportion of UK HE Students studying elsewhere in the UK (not in their home country)



Around half of students who leave Northern Ireland to study in Great Britain find employment outside Northern Ireland after graduation. According to the Destination of Leavers Survey, Northern Ireland domiciled students who attend university in Great Britain are much less likely to return to Northern Ireland after graduation. Of those who attended Northern Ireland HEIs in 2002/03, 79% were in employment in Northern Ireland 3.5 years after graduation. Just 50% of students who attended university in Great Britain were working in Northern Ireland²⁵.

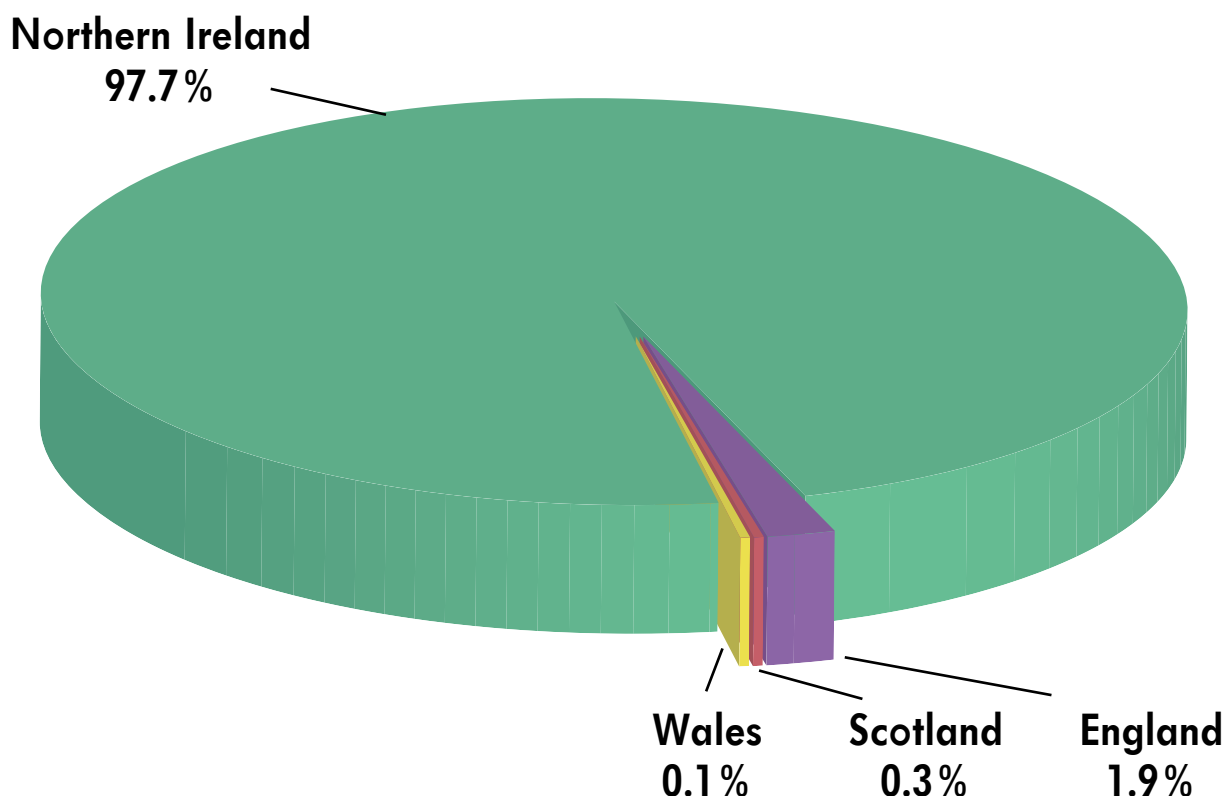
The flow of students between Great Britain and Northern Ireland is not two-way, as Table 5 and Graph 4 show. While 20,260 students domiciled in Northern Ireland study elsewhere in Great Britain, Northern Ireland receives 1,005 students (2.3% of its students) from Great Britain. This suggests that Northern Ireland does not attract students from outside the Province, and that student numbers lost to institutions in Great Britain are not being replaced by students from elsewhere in the UK.

Table 5: Domicile of HE Students Studying in Northern Ireland, 2007/08

England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total UK
835	40	130	42,085	43,090

Source: HESA HEIDI Statistics, undergraduate and postgraduate student counts

Graph 5: Domicile of HE Students Studying in Northern Ireland, 2007/08



More than half of Northern Ireland graduates go on to work in the public sector, against about a third in Great Britain. Northern Ireland has lowest proportion of graduates moving into manufacturing and construction of any UK region outside London²⁶.

²⁵ DELNI (2008) Destination of Leavers from Higher Education, Longitudinal Survey of 2002/03 Graduates

²⁶ HECSU (2006) Destination of Graduates from Northern Ireland



There has been a significantly greater growth in the number of English undergraduates than of Northern Ireland undergraduates. For 2008, admissions of English undergraduates rose by 11.9%, whereas the increase for Northern Ireland undergraduates was only 3.3%. The increase across the UK was 11.1%²⁷. There is a lower level of undergraduate study in Northern Ireland per capita than in the other nations of the UK. New undergraduate admissions in higher education institutions in England represented 0.74% of the population; in Scotland they were 0.79%; in Wales they were 0.79%; but in Northern Ireland they were 0.55%²⁸.

The figures presented in Table 5 and Graph 5 show that just over 20,000 Northern Ireland students are attending universities in Britain at any one time – the equivalent of two large universities. Using multipliers developed by Universities UK²⁹, the economic impact of this number of students is around £400m per year in terms of the direct and indirect economic benefit to the localities in which the students are located. It is, similarly, £400m lost annually to the Northern Ireland economy.

Northern Ireland allocates a lower proportion of its expenditure to higher education than do the other nations of the UK. The UK spends 2.5% of its total public expenditure on tertiary education and Scotland spends 3%. In Northern Ireland, higher education accounts for 1.9% of total expenditure³⁰. If investment into HE in Northern Ireland were to rise to English levels, there would be a 72% increase – or an additional £170 million per year.

27 UCAS, Figures for 2008 Entry www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/media_enquiries/media_releases/2009/2009-01-15
28 UCAS, Figures for 2008 Entry and ONS mid-year population estimates for 2008
29 UUK (2009) The Impact of Universities on the UK Economy, 4th report
30 HM Treasury (2008) Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

5. KEY FACTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

5.1 University of Ulster Campuses

The University of Ulster is the largest provider of higher education on island of Ireland, with 23,645 students in 2007/8. Its operations are split across four campuses: Belfast, Coleraine, Jordanstown and Magee. The Magee campus is located in Derry. Coleraine, a town of about 24,000 residents, is the administrative headquarters of the University of Ulster. Coleraine lies approximately 35 miles from Derry and can take an hour to reach by road. In 2007/08 Magee and Coleraine accounted for 9,024 full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students³¹. Table 6 sets out the graduate enrolments for Magee and Coleraine for 2007/08 by subject:

Table 6: Graduate Enrolments for 2007/08³²

Faculty	Coleraine	Magee
Life and Health Sciences	1,749	900
Ulster Business School	1,119	618
Arts	1,063	609
Social Sciences		579
Computing and Engineering		619

In 2007/08, there were 2,814 full-time undergraduates at Magee, comprising 17.4% of University of Ulster full-time undergraduate students – a percentage that has been broadly stable over recent years. This equates to about 9% of all university student places in Northern Ireland. While there has been a significant increase in the percentage of University of Ulster students who attend Magee, the numerical increase at Magee has been much smaller than that at Jordanstown. In the period of 1998/99 to 2007/08, the net gains in student numbers per campus at University of Ulster were:

Table 7: Increase in Total Students at University of Ulster Campuses

University of Ulster Campus	Increase in Students 1998/09 to 2007/08
Jordanstown	1,459
Magee, Derry	868
Coleraine	474
Belfast	372

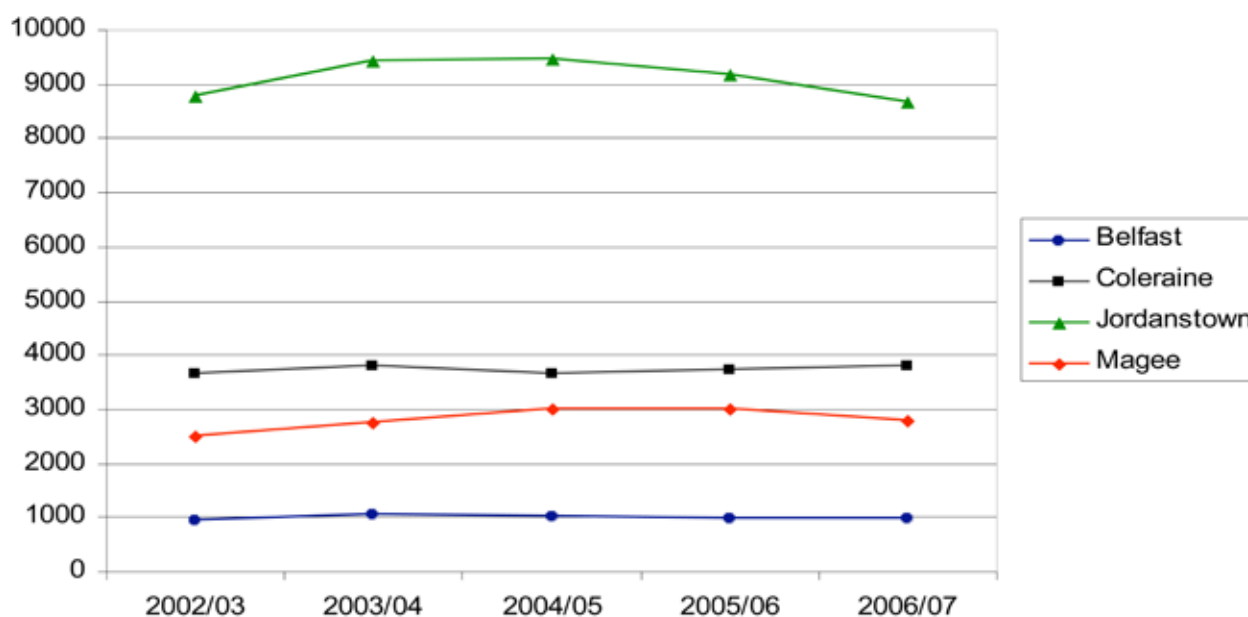
31 Internal University of Ulster Statistics (available from the web address below: http://plangov.ulster.ac.uk/information/information_development.html#Section1) Accessed 9 Nov 09

32 Indecon and London Economics (2009) North West Gateway Strategic Alliance Scoping Study, p 9

The Coleraine campus is separate from the town, which itself is a very small urban centre. Anecdotally a much higher proportion of Coleraine students are recruited on 'Clearing' than is the case with Jordanstown or Magee. Although Jordanstown (in Greater Belfast) has the largest number of students, Coleraine offers the most courses. The number of undergraduate courses offered at the University of Ulster for 2009 entry are: 408 courses at Coleraine; 236 at Magee; 173 at Jordanstown; and 26 at the art and design campus in Belfast.³³

Graph 6 sets out the number of full-time undergraduate students recruited to the University of Ulster campuses between 2002/03 and 2006/07. The graph shows that, while numbers increased slightly at the Belfast and Coleraine campuses, there was an overall decline in numbers at Jordanstown and Magee.

Graph 6: Full-time equivalent undergraduate enrolments at the University of Ulster 2002/03 - 2006/07



Source: HESA HEIDI Statistics

While there has been an expansion in student numbers at Magee, there have also been losses of some important courses. The main expansion in Magee has been in life and health studies, rising from 2.6% of students in 1999/2000 to 13.7% in 2003/4. Nursing students rose from 7 in 1999/2000 to 602 in 2003/4. But hotel leisure and tourism dropped from 151 in 1999/2000 to 35 in 2003/4. The department is now located at Belfast. Community development, accounting, housing management and art and design courses have all been moved away from Magee. PGCE courses have also ceased at Magee.

As the administrative centre of the University, Coleraine employs a large proportion of the University's total 3,700 staff. About 1,700 staff are employed at the Jordanstown campus and 300 at the existing small Belfast campus. This suggests about 400 staff are employed at Magee, though the University does not publish separate figures for its employment levels at Magee.

The Magee campus focuses on courses in International Business Studies, Computer Science, Performing Arts, Humanities and Languages. There are a limited number of STEM subjects taught at Magee. The number of single honours STEM related courses offered at institutions across the island of Ireland are shown in Table 8 opposite.

Table 8: Perceived STEM-related Single Honour Undergraduate Degree Courses offered in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland³⁴

HEI/Campus	Science	Technology	Engineering	Maths	Health
Magee	1	7	0	0	1
Jordanstown	2	8	9	0	6
Coleraine	6	2	0	0	6
Galway	7	4	9	1	7
DCU	8	2	8	0	2
Limerick	9	10	10	1	7
Maynooth	11	5	2	3	0
Queen's	14	6	10	1	6
Trinity	17	2	5	1	17
Cork	23	1	4	1	9
UCD	25	3	10	4	13

Magee has the most successful of the University of Ulster's three science parks attached to its main campuses. The Magee Science Park has generated 327 jobs; the Jordanstown Science Park has generated 64 jobs; and the Coleraine Science Park has generated 49 jobs. A smaller proportion of Magee's academic staff is research active than at Coleraine or Jordanstown.³⁵

5.2 Origin of University of Ulster Students

A very large proportion of Magee's students originate from or near to Derry. Nearly half of all Magee students previously lived in Derry and another quarter originate from close to Derry. Only 3% of Magee students are from outside Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. About 40% of Magee's intake is from non A level students. These statistics suggest that the Magee campus attracts few students from outside the immediate area, and as a consequence the university may have a limited academic, economic, social and cultural impact on the city of Derry.

34 McCourt P (2009) *The Provision of Perceived STEM and Health-Related Undergraduate Programmes in Higher education Institutions on the Island of Ireland for the 2009/10 academic year* A Preliminary Study for the U4D Group, unpublished paper.

35 Ramsey P (2009) *Development of Derry Knowledge Base*

Table 9: Origin of Students Studying at University of Ulster Magee Campus

Origin of Students	%
Derry	47.5
Tyrone	19.9
Republic of Ireland	17.5
Antrim	8.9
Great Britain	1.3
Other EU	0.6
Non-EU	1.3



Derry constitutes an important constituency for the University of Ulster in terms of its student intake – significantly beyond its proportion of the NI population. Across all of Ulster's campuses, some 17.7% of Ulster's students come from Derry, with 22.8% from Antrim, yet a mere 9% are from Belfast (excluding the parts of Greater Belfast that are outside the Belfast City Council area).





ANNEX A

The University of Lincoln: an example of a new university

The University of Lincoln was established on a brownfield site in the city of Lincoln in 1996. The University was founded with endowments and infrastructure from Lincolnshire individuals, businesses and local authorities totalling £30 million. Lincoln's main campus was the first new city centre university campus to be built in the UK in 25 years.

Prior to the establishment of the new university, there was no substantial HE presence in the city of Lincoln, other than a Higher Education College which at the time focused primarily on teaching training. At the time the University of Lincoln was being established, Lincolnshire's economy was falling back against the region and country as a whole, with GVA per head at 77% of the UK average³⁶.

More than £100 million has been invested in the University of Lincoln's city centre campus over the last ten years, and the institution has expanded rapidly. The student cohort has grown from 2,000 in 2002 to almost 10,000 in 2008. Staff numbers have tripled during this time, and the University now employs 1,180 staff³⁷. The University has five faculties which encompass a range of subject areas, including Art, Architecture and Design, and Health, Life and Social Sciences. It has recently announced the creation of a new School of Engineering, which will be delivered via a partnership of the University of Lincoln and Siemens.

The direct impact of the University of Lincoln on the local economy, through consumption and expenditure, is estimated to be between £187.5 million and £250 million per year. This contributes an average increase of £18-26 million to the GDP of the Lincoln economy, equivalent to a net rate of additional growth of 1.2% to 1.8% per year. The indirect impact, based on expenditure in the economy by staff and students, is calculated to be at least an £33 million worth of additional GDP per year³⁸.

In addition to economic impact, the University has contributed to the socio-cultural assets of Lincoln with the construction of two major performance venues; facilities that are used by both students and local residents.

36 Office for National Statistics (2005) GVA per head by NUTS3 region in the East Midlands 2003

37 University of Lincoln (2009) Facts and Figures

38 University of Lincoln (2008) Contribution from the University of Lincoln to DIUS report on Regional Cold Spots



Liz Price
Enterprise Research and Development Unit
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On behalf of: U4D Group



UNIVERSITY FOR DERRY (U4D)

University for Derry (U4D) is a group established by leaders of the business and community sectors in the North West of Ireland. Its aim is to substantially expand the provision of undergraduate and post-graduate education in Derry~Londonderry. U4D believes that this is essential to address the serious economic weakness of the region and related poverty. Increased university provision would raise skill levels, increase employment, attract higher levels of inward investment and improve the prospects of locally owned businesses.



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