



# USW Overview of Student Demographics 2023-2024

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USW Student profile overview

The Specific Duties within the Equality Act 2010 require public authorities to outline the steps that have been taken to identify and collect relevant information within the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report. This report provides an overview of the diversity of the student population for the academic year 2023 to 2024.

The statistical information is based on the information provided by 15,063. Students (on campus) enrolled in September 2023 and covers all protected characteristics. During this reporting period there were 10,007 students enrolled on Undergraduate (UG) courses; 5,003 enrolled on Postgraduate (PG) courses and 53 enrolled on pre-study courses. These 53 students would progress onto either UG or PG courses as illustrated in Table 1.

To note:

- In previous years we have utilised AdvanceHE student statistical reports however at point of writing AdvanceHE student statistical report 2024 has not been published due to issues with collect HESA data. AdvanceHE student statistical report is due early 2025.
- HESA disability categorisation is referred to throughout this report.
- This report provides an overview rather than an in-depth analysis of student data

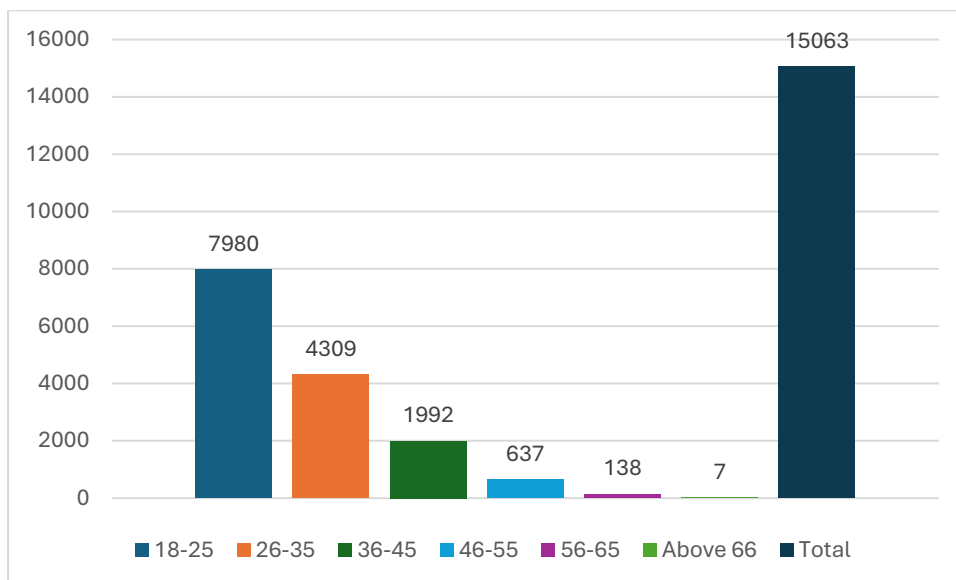
Table 1 Overall Student Count across Study level

| Study Level       |                     | 2023 - 2024 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| UG                | HC                  | 10007       |
|                   | % of total students | 66.43%      |
| PG                | HC                  | 5003        |
|                   | % of total students | 33.21%      |
| Pre-Study Courses | HC                  | 53          |
|                   | % of total students | 0.35%       |
| Total             |                     | 15063       |

## Overview of USW student demographics 2023-2024

### Age

Figure 1 - Age of USW students



### Age

- 18-25 years old: 7,980 students (largest single category)
- 26-35 years old: 4,309 students
- 36-45 years old: 1,992 students
- 46-55 years old: 637 students
- 56-65 years old: 138 students
- Above 66 years old: 7 students

Total student population: 15,063 students

### Key Insights in respect of age:

#### 1. Young Adults (18-25) Dominate

- This age group makes up more than half of the total student population, suggesting a strong presence of traditional undergraduate students.

#### 2. Mature Student Representation (26-45)

- The 26-35 age group (4,309 students) is the second-largest, indicating a significant number of postgraduate and career-switching students.
- 36-45 (1,992 students) also has a notable presence, possibly representing professionals returning for further education.

### 3. Older Students (46+)

- The numbers decline significantly beyond age 45, with only 637 students aged 46-55, and 138 students aged 56-65.
- Only 7 students are over 66 years old, indicating very low participation from retirees or lifelong learners.

## Disability

Figure 2 - Proportion of students by disability declaration

| Disability (HESA Categories)                                            | % of student population |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| An impairment, health condition or learning difference not listed above | 1.14%                   |
| Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses                | 0.21%                   |
| D/deaf or have a hearing impairment                                     | 0.57%                   |
| Development Condition since childhood                                   | 0.15%                   |
| Information not available                                               | 0.38%                   |
| Learning difference                                                     | 9.27%                   |
| Long-term illness or health condition                                   | 1.77%                   |
| Mental health condition, challenge or disorder                          | 6.57%                   |
| No Disability                                                           | 74.65%                  |
| Physical Impairment                                                     | 0.82%                   |
| Prefer not to say                                                       | 3.06%                   |
| Social/communication conditions                                         | 1.38%                   |
| Information not available                                               | 0.02%                   |

### Disability Representation

- 74.65% of students reported no disability.
- The most reported disability category was learning differences (9.27%), followed by mental health conditions (6.57%).

- Smaller percentages reported long-term illnesses (1.77%), social/communication conditions (1.38%), and physical impairments (0.82%).
- This data highlights the importance of mental health and learning support services on campus.

## Gender Identity

Figure 3 – Gender Identity of Students

|               | <b>% Yes - My gender identity is the same as the gender I was assigned at birth</b> | <b>% No – My gender has been reassigned since birth</b> | <b>% Prefer not to say</b> | <b>% Missing Data</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Totals</b> | 96.86%                                                                              | 1.29%                                                   | 1.70%                      | 0.15%                 |

## Gender Identity

- 96.86% of students identified with the gender they were assigned at birth.
- 1.29% reported a reassigned gender.
- 1.70% preferred not to disclose their gender identity.
- While the percentage of reassigned gender is low, gender inclusivity measures remain crucial.

## Nationality

Table 11 illustrating top 10 enrolled nationalities across UG and PG study level

| <b>Nationality</b>    | <b>UG</b>   | <b>PG</b>   |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>United Kingdom</b> | <b>8161</b> | <b>1738</b> |
| <b>Nigeria</b>        | <b>197</b>  | <b>1487</b> |
| <b>Sri Lanka</b>      | <b>173</b>  | <b>417</b>  |

|                   |            |            |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Bangladesh</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>510</b> |
| <b>India</b>      | <b>110</b> | <b>305</b> |
| <b>Poland</b>     | <b>108</b> | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>Pakistan</b>   | <b>106</b> | <b>196</b> |
| <b>Malaysia</b>   | <b>94</b>  | <b>88</b>  |

During this reporting period there were a total of 117 Nationalities studying at the University of South Wales. The above table illustrates the 8 highest populations.

## Race

Figure 4 – Ethnicity of student population (UG and PG)

| Faculty     | White      |                    | BEM        |                    | Other      |                    | Refused Unknown |                    |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|             | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC      | % of Student Count |
| <b>FBCI</b> | 2276       | 44.20%             | 2704       | 52.52%             | 55         | 1.07%              | 114             | 2.21%              |
| <b>FCES</b> | 1971       | 54.80%             | 1467       | 40.78%             | 28         | 0.78%              | 131             | 3.64%              |
| <b>FLSE</b> | 5055       | 80.70%             | 1056       | 16.86%             | 33         | 0.53%              | 120             | 1.92%              |

Figure 5 – Ethnicity of student population, split by level of study

| Course Level | White      |                    | BEM        |                    | Other      |                    | Refused Unknown |                    |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|              | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC | % of Student Count | Student HC      | % of Student Count |
| <b>UG</b>    | 7636       | 76.31%             | 2073       | 20.72%             | 64         | 0.64%              | 234             | 2.34%              |
| <b>PG</b>    | 1666       | 33.30%             | 3154       | 63.04%             | 52         | 1.04%              | 131             | 2.62%              |

## Race

Insights from Figure 4 – Ethnicity of Student Population (UG and PG) by Faculty:

## **Faculty Ethnic Distribution Variations:**

### **FBCI (Faculty of Business and Creative Industries):**

BEM (Black, Ethnic Minority) students form the majority at **52.52%**.

White students make up **44.20%**, which is lower than in other faculties.

### **FCES (Faculty of Computing, Engineering & Science):**

White students are the majority at **54.80%**, but the BEM population is still significant at **40.78%**.

### **FLSE (Faculty of Life Sciences & Education):**

A strong White majority at **80.70%**, with a much lower BEM percentage (**16.86%**).

### **BEM Student Representation is Highest in FBCI:**

The FBCI has the most ethnically diverse student population, with BEM students forming the majority.

The FLSE has the lowest BEM representation, indicating a potential diversity gap.

### **Refused/Unknown Ethnicity:**

Across faculties, the percentage of students who did not disclose their ethnicity remains low (~2-3%).

FCES has the highest percentage of students refusing to disclose ethnicity (**3.64%**), slightly higher than the other faculties.

## **Insights from Figure 5 – Ethnicity of Student Population by Level of Study:**

### **Undergraduate (UG) Students:**

White students dominate at **76.31%**.

BEM students make up **20.72%**, indicating a lower diversity ratio compared to the overall faculty breakdown.

The percentage of students in the "Other" category is very low (**0.64%**).

### **Postgraduate (PG) Students:**

A significant reversal of the trend seen in UG.

BEM students form the majority at **63.04%**, while White students are only **33.30%**.

This suggests that postgraduate programs attract a more ethnically diverse student body.

### Overall Key Takeaways:

#### **BEM Representation is Higher in Postgraduate Studies:**

The percentage of BEM students significantly increases at the postgraduate level compared to undergraduate.

#### **FLSE is the Least Diverse Faculty:**

With over **80% White students**, FLSE stands out as the least ethnically diverse faculty.

#### **FBCI is the Most Diverse Faculty:**

With **52.52% BEM students**, it is the only faculty where BEM students outnumber White students.

## Religion & Belief

Figure 6 – Religion and Belief of students at USW

| Religion                     | Student Count | % of Total |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Buddhist                     | 517           | 3.43%      |
| Christian                    | 4012          | 26.63%     |
| Hindu                        | 395           | 2.62%      |
| Jewish                       | 14            | 0.09%      |
| Muslim                       | 1821          | 12.09%     |
| Sikh                         | 23            | 0.15%      |
| Any other religion or belief | 257           | 1.71%      |
| No religion                  | 7116          | 47.24%     |
| Not available                | 19            | 0.13%      |
| Prefer not to say            | 889           | 5.90%      |

### Religion and Belief

- 47.24% of students reported having no religion.
- Christianity is the most common religion (26.63%), followed by Islam (12.09%).

- Small percentages of students identify as Hindu (2.62%), Buddhist (3.43%), Jewish (0.09%), and Sikh (0.15%).
- 5.90% prefer not to disclose their religious beliefs.

## Sex

Figure 7 – Sex of Undergraduate students by Faculty

| Faculty     | Female     |                 | Male       |                 | Other      |                 | Information refused |                 |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|             | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC          | % of Student HC |
| <b>FBCI</b> | 1283       | 45.02%          | 1472       | 51.65%          | 43         | 1.51%           | 52                  | 1.82%           |
| <b>FCES</b> | 734        | 28.50%          | 1773       | 68.85%          | 17         | 0.66%           | 51                  | 1.98%           |
| <b>FLSE</b> | 3068       | 66.96%          | 1481       | 32.32%          | 15         | 0.33%           | 18                  | 0.39%           |

Figure 8– Sex of Postgraduate students by Faculty

| Faculty     | Female     |                 | Male       |                 | Other      |                 | Information refused |                 |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|             | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC | % of Student HC | Student HC          | % of Student HC |
| <b>FBCI</b> | 1224       | 53.24%          | 1062       | 46.19%          | -          | -               | -                   | -               |
| <b>FCES</b> | 300        | 29.35%          | 711        | 69.57%          | -          | -               | -                   | -               |
| <b>FLSE</b> | 1296       | 77.05%          | 361        | 21.46%          | -          | -               | 19                  | 1.13%           |

## Sex

### Undergraduate

- FBCI: Balanced male (51.65%) and female (45.02%) representation.
- FCES: Male-dominated (68.85%), with only 28.50% female students.
- FLSE: Female-dominated (66.96%).

### Postgraduate

- The trend is similar, with FLSE having more females (77.05%) and FCES being male-dominated (69.57%).

## Sexual Orientation

Figure 9 – Sexual orientation of all students

| Sexual Orientation        | % of USW Students |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Bisexual                  | 6.44%             |
| Gay/Lesbian               | 2.47%             |
| Heterosexual/Straight     | 77.44%            |
| Other Sexual Orientation  | 1.42%             |
| Prefer Not to Say         | 12.11%            |
| Information Not Available | 0.12%             |

### Sexual Orientation

- The majority of students identify as heterosexual (77.44%).
- 6.44% identify as bisexual, 2.47% as gay/lesbian, and 1.42% as another sexual orientation.
- 12.11% prefer not to disclose, indicating a need for greater inclusivity and safe spaces.

### Key Insights

- Mental health support is crucial, as 6.57% of students reported mental health challenges.
- BEM representation is higher in postgraduate courses than undergraduate programs.
- STEM fields (FCES) have a gender imbalance, which may require targeted outreach programs.
- A significant proportion (12.11%) of students prefer not to disclose their sexual orientation, highlighting the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusivity