



## Universities Scotland submission to the call for evidence to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding in England

As the representative body of Scotland's 19 higher education institutions, Universities Scotland welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence to the Review.

Our evidence focuses on student choice, specifically the ability of applicants to make a choice to study at any institution within the UK higher education system unaffected by policy for university funding and student support.

Along with colleagues in Wales and Northern Ireland, we wrote to Mr Augar on 12 March 2018 to highlight the significant numbers of students who choose currently to study in a different part of the UK from where they are domiciled at the point of application. We invited the Panel to engage directly with the sector across the UK, noting that this important element of student choice was absent from the terms of reference of the Review.

In the case of Scotland, in 2016-17:

- there were 17015 England-domiciled students studying for a first degree at a Scottish higher education institution; and
- there were 4830 Scotland-domiciled students studying for a first degree at an English higher education institution<sup>1</sup>.

This is not only an important matter of individual choice. It is a key element in the UK meeting its strategic skills needs.

### England-domiciled students studying for a first degree at Scottish institutions 2016-17, selected disciplines

Discipline	FTE Students
Languages	2190
Biological Sciences	1460
Physical Sciences	1265
Medicine & Dentistry	1140
Creative Arts & Design	1200
Business & Administration	1000
Subjects Allied to Medicine	940
Mathematical Sciences	810
Engineering & Technology	695

Source: HESA FTE students

<sup>1</sup> Source: HESA, Full Person Equivalent, First Degree. Figures rounded to nearest 5.



**Scotland-domiciled students studying for a first degree at English institutions 2016-17, selected disciplines**

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>FTE Students</b>
Creative Arts & Design	885
Business & Administration	405
Engineering & Technology	365
Languages	340
Biological Sciences	315
Medicine & Dentistry	305
Subjects Allied to Medicine	280
Physical Sciences	235

Source: HESA FTE students

Further, these student choices, which operate within an UK system with applicants using the UCAS system to apply for courses informed by Unistats data, contribute to the sustainability of courses and institutions. The quality of students' experience encompasses all elements of a sustainable sector: a strong research environment; links with industry; and the quality of the estate and infrastructure.

Echoing our letter to Mr Augar, we would be delighted to engage directly with the Panel to inform how recommendations might affect the UK-wide ecosystem for higher education.

**ENDS**

