

FROM THE MINISTER



Department for  
**Employment  
and Learning**  
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Dear *Phil*

I agreed to write to you to provide you with information on how students who go to Great Britain (GB) to take degree courses fare, compared to those who stay at home, both in terms of completing their degrees and passing them.

In terms of those completing their degrees, the table below shows the non-continuation rates for NI domiciled full-time first degree entrants to NI Higher Education Institutions, compared with rates for NI domiciled full-time first degree entrants to GB Higher Education Institutions.

**NI domiciled full-time first degree entrants failing to continue in HE in 2010/11 following entry in 2009/10**

	<b>Non-continuation rate</b>
NI domiciled full-time first degree entrants to NI Higher Education Institutions	8.4%
NI domiciled full-time first degree entrants to GB Higher Education Institutions	7.2%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Note: Latest available non-continuation rates are for 2009/10 entry.



In relation to attainment of degrees, the table below provides details of the percentages of NI domiciled first degree graduates gaining a first or upper second at NI Higher Education Institutions compared with NI domiciles who graduate from GB Higher Education Institutions.

**NI domiciled first degree graduates in 2011/12**

	<b>Percentage gaining either a first or upper second classification</b>
NI domiciled first degree graduates from NI Higher Education Institutions	65%
NI domiciled first degree graduates from GB Higher Education Institutions	68%

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Note: Latest available qualifications data are for 2011/12

Yours sincerely



**DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA**  
**Minister for Employment and Learning**

cc: The Speaker's Office  
NIA Library