

FROM THE MINISTER



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10 December 2013

AQW 28733/11-15

Mr Allister has asked:

To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2962/11-15, for an update on the data provided.

ANSWER

The Department does not hold information on the religion of applicants to university and this is also not collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The Department does however hold information on the religion of Northern Ireland (NI) domiciled students enrolled at the NI Higher Education Institutions.

The number of NI domiciled students from a Catholic, Protestant and Other/Not Known background enrolled at: Queen's University; the University of Ulster (broken down by each campus); St Mary's University College; and Stranmillis University College in each of the last seven years is detailed in Annex A.



DR STEPHEN FARRY MLA

Minister for Employment and Learning



Annex A

(a) Catholic background

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
The Queen's University of Belfast	8,565	7,920	8,245	8,265	8,710	9,225	9,070
University of Ulster, Belfast	525	495	545	540	660	685	705
University of Ulster, Coleraine	1,950	1,860	1,760	1,570	1,655	1,560	1,610
University of Ulster, Jordanstown	6,900	6,405	6,105	5,995	6,640	6,400	6,270
University of Ulster, Magee	2,395	2,230	2,090	1,905	2,115	2,225	2,245
Stranmillis University College	195	185	160	195	280	355	400
St Mary's University College	950	965	910	905	935	930	975

(b) Protestant background

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
The Queen's University of Belfast	7,360	6,510	6,735	6,600	6,740	7,135	6,840
University of Ulster, Belfast	500	475	450	465	540	520	505
University of Ulster, Coleraine	2,200	2,145	2,110	1,940	2,040	1,975	1,930
University of Ulster, Jordanstown	4,670	4,000	3,685	3,430	3,850	3,770	3,750
University of Ulster, Magee	590	530	530	475	590	615	645
Stranmillis University College	960	915	680	655	645	715	820
St Mary's University College	20	15	10	10	5	5	5

(c)Other/Not Known

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
The Queen's University of Belfast	5,105	6,055	4,645	5,115	4,230	4,495	4,085
University of Ulster, Belfast	185	95	125	240	325	355	335
University of Ulster, Coleraine	365	245	375	480	610	705	810
University of Ulster, Jordanstown	2,280	1,600	2,115	2,145	2,410	1,685	1,725
University of Ulster, Magee	380	130	315	325	365	400	455
Stranmillis University College	140	155	415	395	290	185	70
St Mary's University College	105	75	75	45	25	15	5

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:

- (1) Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- (2) The latest available data are for 2011/12.
- (3) Information on religion is only collected for NI domiciled students studying at NI Higher Education Institutions and therefore the above tables do not include students from outside NI.
- (4) Religious affiliation is not a mandatory question and therefore can have a high non-response rate.
- (5) As well as Catholic and Protestant, the religion of students can also be classified as “Other” or “Not known/available”. Catholic or Protestant students might also use the “other” category if they decide not to specify their religious background. These two categories accounted for between 17-21% of Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled at NI Higher Education Institutions between 2005/06 and 2011/12.