College Key Facts
2014/15
Strength

- Every year colleges educate and train over 3.1 million people

- 834,000 16 to 18-year-olds choose to study in colleges (compared with 438,000 in maintained school and academy sixth forms)

- An additional 70,000 16 to 18-year-olds undertake an apprenticeship through their local college

- 2.2 million adults study or train in colleges

- 33,500 14 to 15-year-olds are enrolled at a college: 2,000 full-time and 31,500 part-time
Colleges provide 30% of the students aged under 19 who enter higher education through UCAS.

Colleges deliver 83% of HNCs, 75% of HNDs and 55% of foundation degrees.

64% of colleges teach foundation degrees.

144,000 students study higher education in a college.

254 colleges provide undergraduate and postgraduate level courses.

Colleges educate 41,500 students from outside the UK: 23,500 from the EU and 18,000 non-EU students.
Apprenticeships in colleges by age and level, 2012/13

*16 to 18-year-olds* includes a small number of students aged under 16
Success

- Education and training success rates in colleges are 86.7%\(^1\)
- Apprenticeship success rates in colleges are 72.6%
- The average A Level or equivalent point score per student in sixth form colleges is 788.7 (compared with 779.6 in all state funded schools)
- 27% of full-time A Level students aged 16 to 18 study at a college
- English is the most popular A Level undertaken at colleges, with 26,000 16 to 18-year-olds entered for the exam
Over **1.2 million** courses in STEM subjects are undertaken by students at colleges.

43% of those achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 do so at a college.

35% of all vocational qualifications are awarded via colleges; 7% are awarded through employers.
Where are 16 to 18-year-olds studying or working?

- FE and sixth form colleges: 38%
- All state funded schools: 22%
- Special schools: 1%
- Independent schools: 5%
- Higher education institutions: 10%
- Apprenticeships: 6%
- Other education and training: 4%
- Employment: 7%
- NEET: 8%
Satisfaction/Standards

- At their most recent Ofsted inspection, 82% of colleges were judged good or outstanding for their overall effectiveness.
- 81% of students are satisfied with the quality of higher education courses taught in colleges.
- Higher education students taught in colleges are more satisfied with assessment and feedback (78% compared with 73%) and academic support (82% compared with 81%) than their peers in universities.
- 54% of large employers who train their staff do so through a college.
Employers are more satisfied with the cost (48% compared with 23%), location (72% compared with 58%) and timetabling (68% compared with 64%) of training provided by colleges compared with universities.

Employers view 17 to 18-year-old college leavers as better prepared for work than school leavers of the same age (74% compared to 66%).
For everyone

- Ethnic minority students make up 20% of students in colleges, compared with 15% of the general population.
- 16% of 16 to 18-year-olds in colleges are eligible for, and claiming, free school meals at age 15, compared with 9% in maintained school and academy sixth forms.
- 120,000 college students are aged over 60.
- 230,000 unemployed people undertake education and training in colleges; 97% of colleges recruit via Jobcentre Plus.
Students in colleges by age

- 14 to 15-year-olds: 1%
- 16 to 18-year-olds: 29%
- 19 to 24-year-olds: 18%
- 25 to 59-year-olds: 48%
- Over 60-year-olds: 4%
73% of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students study at a college

21.7% of young full-time undergraduate entrants registered at colleges were from neighbourhoods with low rates of participation in higher education; this is more than double the rate (10.4%) for all such entrants registered at universities

Colleges provide higher education for local people from non-traditional backgrounds - 70% of college higher education students live within 25 miles (compared with less than 40% in universities)
College income analysis 2012/13

- DfE income (via Education Funding Agency) 49%
- BIS income (via Skills Funding) 31%
- HEFCE income 3%
- Local authorities, schools and other funding bodies 2%
- Tuition fees & education contracts 8%
- Research grants and contracts 1%
- Other income 7%
Sound Investment

- The total college income in England is £7.6 billion
- Colleges employ 137,000 full-time equivalent people, 72,000 of whom are teaching staff
- Staff costs (excluding restructuring) total £4.6 billion, accounting for 61% of total college spending
- Colleges run 1,300 businesses which are open to the public (this includes 350 hair & beauty salons, 240 restaurants, 140 sports venues, 130 nurseries, 50 theatres, 30 travel agents and 20 florists)
Colleges run 1,300 businesses open to the public, of which:

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Students aged 19+ in further education generate an additional **£75 billion** for the economy over their lifetimes²

The economic returns to adult apprenticeships are around **£18** per **£1** of Government funding³

37 colleges are either lead or co-sponsors of academies⁴

29 out of the 50 university technical colleges (UTCs) that are open or in pre-opening stage involve colleges as a sponsor or lead partner⁵
Economic impact of Government spending on students aged 19+ in FE

BUDGET

£3 billion

FE

£75 billion
This document refers to further education and sixth form colleges established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.

Footnotes

1 Success rate is a measure of retention and achievement

2 All Government funded post-19 further education provision

3 All Government funded post-19 apprenticeship provision

4 Open academies as well as those in development

5 Open and approved UTCs