



Association
of Colleges

Promoting. Representing. Supporting.



COLLEGE

Key Facts

2015/16

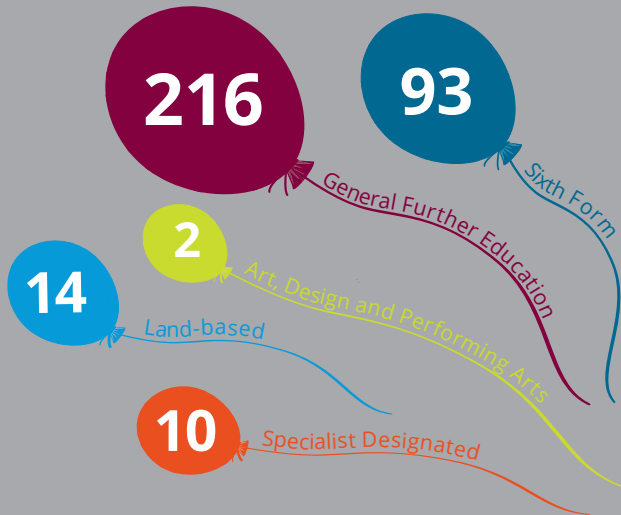


ABOUT COLLEGES

Further education colleges provide high-quality technical and professional education and training for young people, adults and employers. They prepare almost three million students with valuable employability skills, helping to develop their career opportunities.

Sixth form colleges provide high-quality academic education to 16 to 18-year-olds enabling them to progress to university or higher level vocational education.

As of August 2015 there are **335 colleges**
in England:



STUDENTS

Colleges educate and train **2.9 million** people.

773,000 16 to 18-year-olds choose to study in colleges (compared with **442,000** in schools).¹

An additional **71,000** 16 to 18-year-olds undertake an apprenticeship through colleges.

2 million adults study or train in colleges.

24,000 14 to 15-year-olds are enrolled in colleges: **2,000** full-time and **22,000** part-time.

APPRENTICESHIPS

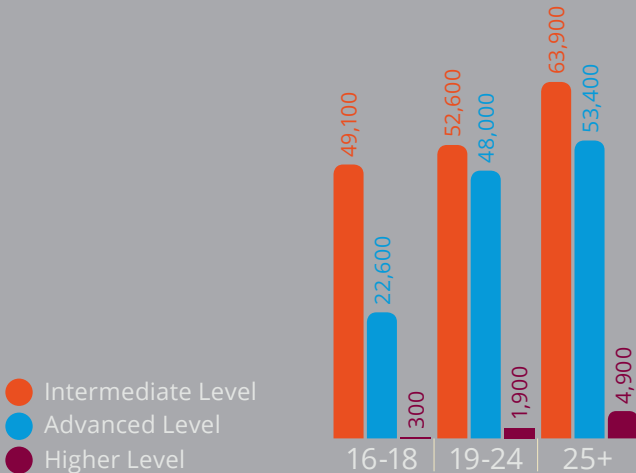
Every further education college offers apprenticeships.

There are **297,000** people on apprenticeship provision in colleges.

The average college trains **1,200** apprentices.

Colleges train **half** of all construction, engineering and manufacturing apprentices.

Number of apprenticeships in colleges by age and highest level, 2013/14



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

HIGHER EDUCATION

159,000 people study higher education in a college.²

Colleges deliver **85%** of HNCs, **82%** of HNDs and **58%** of foundation degrees.

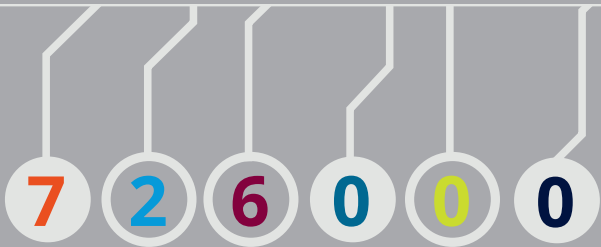
244 colleges provide undergraduate and postgraduate level courses; **86%** teach foundation degrees.

COURSES AND QUALIFICATIONS

27% of full-time A Level students aged 16 to 18 study at a college.

33% of all vocational qualifications are awarded via colleges; **7%** are awarded through employers.

31% of the students aged under 19 who enter higher education through UCAS studied at a college.



students in **colleges**

are taking

STEM

subjects

* STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics

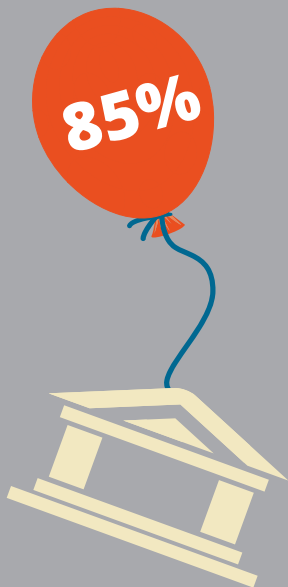
Education

and

training

success rates in

colleges



Apprenticeship

success rates

COLLEGES

70%

PRIVATE
TRAINING
PROVIDERS

67%

* Success rate is a measure of retention and achievement

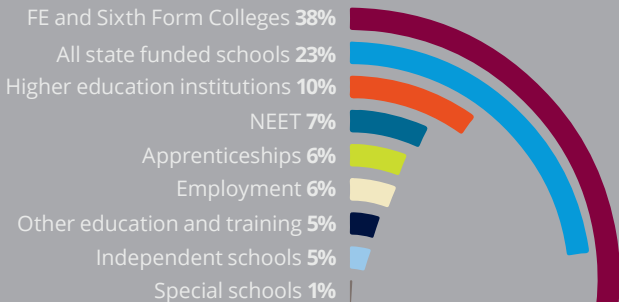
QUALITY

At their most recent Ofsted inspection, **82%** of colleges were judged good or outstanding for their overall effectiveness.

80% 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 **74%**) than their peers in universities.

Where 16 to 18-year-olds are studying or working



*Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding

*NEET: not in education, employment or training

DIVERSITY

22% of 16 to 18-year-olds and **29%** of adults in colleges are from an ethnic minority background.⁴

111,000 college students are aged 60 and over.

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).

15% of students in colleges have a learning difficulty and/or disability.

230,000 unemployed people undertake education and training in colleges; **97%** of colleges recruit via Jobcentre Plus.

17% of 16 to 18-year-olds in colleges were eligible for and claiming free school meals at age 15, compared with **10%** in maintained school and academy sixth forms in 2013/14.

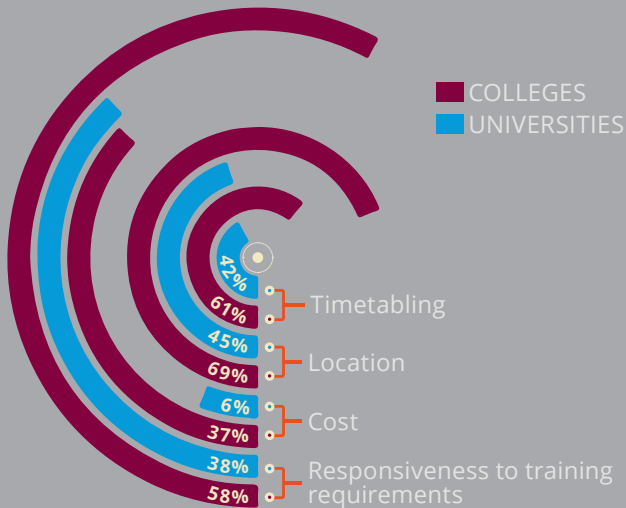
EMPLOYERS

35% of large employers who train their staff do so through a college, compared with **32%** who do so through a university.

The average FE college works with **597** businesses to provide training for their staff.

Employers view 17 to 18-year-old college leavers as better prepared for work than school leavers of the same age (**71%** compared to **60%**).

Employer satisfaction with college training compared with universities





Sports venues

140



Hair & beauty salons

350



Travel agents

30



Florists

20



Theatres

50



Nurseries

130



Restaurants

240

COLLEGES RUN
BUSINESSES

1,300

STAFF

Colleges employ **133,000** full-time equivalent people, **68,000** of whom are teaching staff.

42% of college principals are female, this compares **37%** of head teachers in maintained secondary schools and academies and **19%** of vice-chancellors in universities.

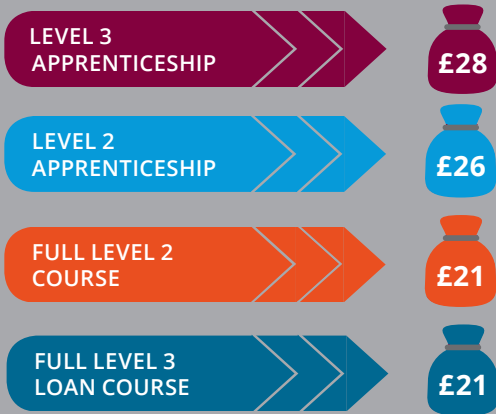
There are **6,000** governors in colleges in England; **40%** are female and **14%** are from an ethnic minority background.

INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND RETURNS TO EDUCATION

Staff costs (excluding restructuring) total **£4.6 billion**, accounting for **60%** of total college spending.

Students aged 19+ in further education generate an additional **£70 billion** for the economy over their lifetimes.³

Economic returns per £1 of Government funding



* All Government funded post-19 provision

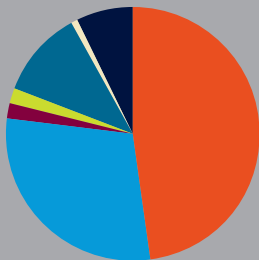


The **total** college **income** in
England:

£7.5 billion

in 2013/14

College income analysis, 2013/14



DfE income (via Education Funding Agency) **48%**

BIS income (via Skills Funding Agency) **29%**

HEFCE income **2%**

Local authorities, schools and other funding bodies **2%**

Tuition fees & education contracts **11%**

Research grants and contracts **1%**

Other income **7%**

*BIS income (via Skills Funding Agency) includes: 'European Union co-financed' and 'release of capital grants'





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

Footnotes

1. 'Schools' refers to maintained school and academy sixth forms
2. Includes non-prescribed higher education
3. All Government funded post-19 provision
4. Ethnic minority groups are classified as any group that are not white British

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