COLLEGE
KEY FACTS
2018/19
ABOUT COLLEGES

Further education (FE) colleges provide high-quality technical and professional education and training for young people, adults and employers.

They prepare

2.2 MILLION

students with valuable employability skills, helping to develop their career opportunities.

Sixth form colleges (SFC) provide high-quality academic education to 16 to 18-year-olds enabling them to progress to university or higher level vocational education.
There are 257 colleges in England (as at February 2019)

- 174 further education
- 57 sixth form colleges
- 14 land-based
- 10 specialist designated
- 2 art, design & performing arts
students
Colleges educate and train 2.2 million people

- 1.4 million adults study or train in colleges
- 685,000 16 to 18-year-olds study in colleges
- The average age of a college student is 29
- An additional 76,000 16 to 18-year-olds undertake an Apprenticeship through colleges
Number of students in colleges by age (2016/17)¹

- under 16: 17,000
- 16 - 18: 761,000
- 19 - 24: 378,000
- 25+: 1,022,000
higher education
149,000 people study higher education in a college

One-third of English students aged under 19 who enter higher education through UCAS studied at a college

204 colleges provide undergraduate and postgraduate level courses

86% teach foundation degrees
Colleges deliver

- 82% Higher National Certificates
- 82% Higher National Diplomas
- 59% Foundation Degrees
apprenticeships
There are 314,000 people on apprenticeship provision in colleges of which 76,000 are aged under 19.
Colleges train nearly half of all construction and engineering and manufacturing apprentices.

The average general FE college trains 1,400 apprentices.
Number of apprenticeships in colleges by age and highest level (2016/17)

Intermediate
- 16-18: 49,900
- 19-24: 47,600
- 25+: 65,000

Advanced
- 16-18: 26,500
- 19-24: 54,300
- 25+: 51,600

Higher
- 16-18: 500
- 19-24: 3,900
- 25+: 14,900
courses and qualifications
163,000
16 to 18-year-olds
students in colleges
are doing A Level
courses

668,000
students in
colleges are taking
STEM subjects

204,000
students in colleges retake
GCSE English and/or maths
Ofsted inspection

79% of colleges judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection
Achievement rates

Education and training:
- Sixth form colleges: 87.0%
- General FE college: 84.4%

Apprenticeships:
- General FE colleges: 69.1%
- Private training providers: 66.2%
Higher education - excellence in teaching and student outcomes

Seven colleges have foundation degree awarding powers (FDAP)

Two colleges have taught degree awarding powers (TDAP)
Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) Gradings, July 2018

- 52% Silver
- 30% Bronze
- 14% Gold
- 4% Provisional
Where 16 to 18-year-olds are studying or working

- 35% FE and sixth form colleges
- 23% All state funded schools
- 11% Higher education institutions
- 8% Employment
- 6% Apprenticeships
- 6% NEET
- 5% Independent schools
- 5% Other education and training
- 1% Special schools
equality and diversity
Students from ethnic minority backgrounds

- 16 to 18-year-olds: 25%
- Adults: 32%

Female students

- 16 to 18-year-olds: 46%
- Adults: 53%

Students with learning difficulties and/or disability

- 16 to 18-year-olds: 23%
- Adults: 14%
Average distance between home postcode and learning location for undergraduate students attending a college is **15 miles** compared to **53 miles** for those at a university.

92,000 college students are aged **60+**.
18% of students in colleges have a learning difficulty and/or disability.

16 to 18-year-olds in colleges and schools that claimed free school meals at age 15.

- College: 16%
- Maintained schools and academy sixth forms: 8%
health, well-being and sport
82% of FE students agree sport improves mental wellbeing

Over 80% of colleges are AoC Sport members
1,200 disabled students competed in AoC Sport events

52,000 16 to 18-year-olds study sport in a college
Over 8,000 students participated in AoC Sport regional tournaments

1,700 represented their region at AoC Sport National Championships
In 2017/18 colleges played in over 11,000 AoC Sport league and cup fixtures, with between 15,000 and 18,000 students competing every week.
Our 93 member FA College Grassroots hubs have engaged over 45,000 individuals with football during 2017/18.

- 12% BAME
- 24% female
international
Over 100 UK colleges have benefited from Erasmus+ funding in the current funding cycle (2014-2018)

UK’s vocational sector has received over €59m in Erasmus+ funding in the current funding cycle (2014-2020)
China is the biggest market for college international activity, three times more significant than any other country.

There are eight EU27 countries in the list of top 20 international partner markets for colleges.
Average college income from non-EU international activity in 2017/18

£723,000

(excluding income from major overseas campus operations)
Average number of non-UK students in colleges that have international provision

- 288 non-EU international
- 384 EU27

Level 3 is the most popular level of study for international students at colleges.
Colleges are involved in over 20 different types of international activity, from student recruitment to professional training and operating campuses overseas.
destinations
More students progress from Level 3 to sustained employment from colleges

A higher proportion of Level 3 disadvantaged students progress to sustained employment from colleges
employment
Proportion of large employers training their staff through colleges compared with universities

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<th>Colleges</th>
<th>University</th>
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<td>36%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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Proportion of employers that view 17 to 18-year-old education leavers to be well prepared for work

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<th>Colleges</th>
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<td>68%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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staff
Colleges employ 116,000 full-time equivalent staff.

57,000 are teaching staff.
Female leaders

43% College principals
38% School head teachers
23% University vice-chancellors
7% of chief executives, principals and vice principals are from ethnic minority backgrounds.
61% of staff are female

5% of college staff have a learning difficulty and/or disability

16% of staff are from an ethnic minority background
income, expenditure and returns to education
The total college income in England is £7 billion (2016/17)
Total college spending is £6.5 billion

£4.4 billion on staff costs
College income analysis 2016/17

- 14-18 education: 48%
- Other private: 21%
- Adult education: 12%
- Other public: 9%
- Apprenticeships: 8%
- Higher education funding and grants: 2%
Endnotes

1. Excludes higher education students taught at colleges that are franchised from a HEI

2. Includes non-prescribed higher education

3. 16 to 18-year-olds includes a small number of students aged under 16

4. STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics

5. Excludes colleges that have merged and not been inspected as a ‘new’ provider

6. NEET: not in education, employment or training

7. Ethnic minority groups are classified as any group that are not white British

8. 14 to 18 education excludes apprenticeships

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