

Higher Horizons Impact Report (2024)

Higher Horizons tracks all learners it works with to their HE destinations via the EMWPREP tracking service. When learners become 'HE Ready' at 18, we attempt to match them into the HESA Student Record. If they are not found in the HESA Record at 18, we attempt to match them again in the following year when they are 19 years old.

This report discusses the progression rates of learners in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire who engaged with the Higher Horizons programme between 2016/17 and 2019/20, and progressed to higher education between 2017/18 and 2020/21 at age 18 or 19.

It should be noted that **all** data contained in this reports are subject to Jisc Services Standard Rounding Methodology, which have been applied as follows:

- All numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.
- Any number lower than 2.5 must be rounded to 0.
- Halves are always rounded upwards (eg. 2.5 is rounded to 5).
- Percentages based on fewer than 22.5 individuals are suppressed.
- Averages based on 7 or fewer individuals are suppressed.

The above requirements relate to headcounts, FPE and FTE data. Total figures are also subject to this rounding methodology, and as such the sum of numbers in each row or column will rarely match the total shown precisely. All tables and figures have originated from the following source:

Source: HESA Student record 2010/11 - 2021/22 Copyright Jisc 2023

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Overall Progression Rates of Higher Horizons Learners

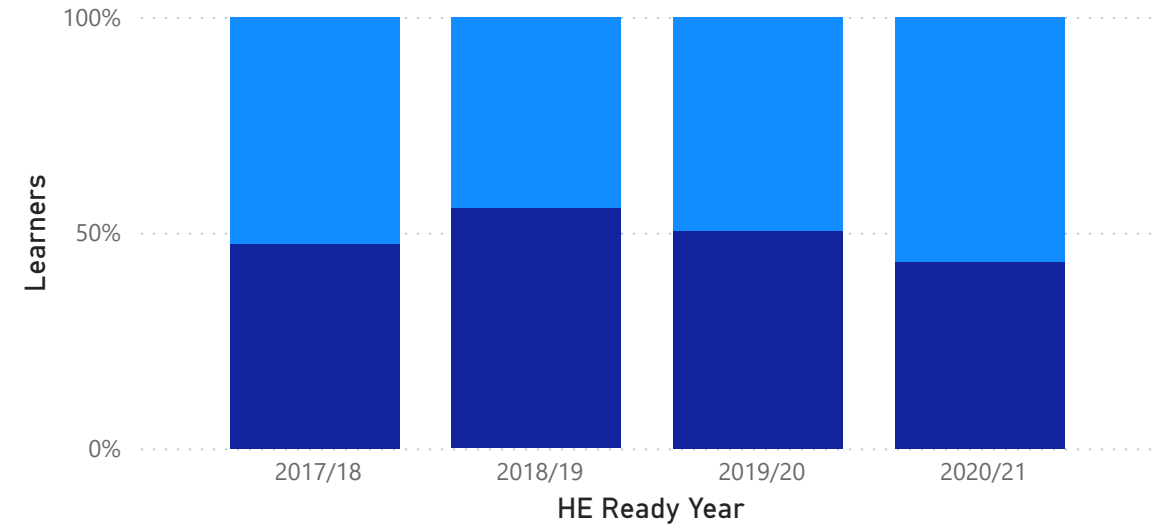
Higher Horizons has now tracked 4 cohorts of learners to their HE destinations. For those who were 'HE Ready' between 2017/18 and 2020/21 we have tracked them into the HESA record for two years. This page shows the headline progression rate for each cohort. Note: that each cohort is comprised of a different number of learners.

In total, **48.31%** of the learners we have tracked for **two years have progressed to HE**. Nationally, the average HE progression rate by 19 for pupils in state-funded secondary schools at 15 was **43.8%**. The average progression rate by 19 for pupils in state-funded secondary schools at 15 across the Higher Horizons region for this time period is **41.3%**. The Higher Horizons cohort therefore has a progression rate **6.7pp (percentage points)** higher than the regional average.

This page also shows progression rates by gender, free school meal eligibility, and age. The regional average progression rate for FSM eligible learners is **18.3%**. For FSM eligible learners who have engaged in the Higher Horizons programme, the progression rate is **38.2% (20.1pp higher)**. For female learners, the average regional progression rate is **47.2%** while the Higher Horizons cohort has a progression rate of **54.8% (7.6pp higher)**. For male learners, the average regional progression rate is **35.5%** while the Higher Horizons cohort has a progression rate of **41.9% (6.4pp higher)**.

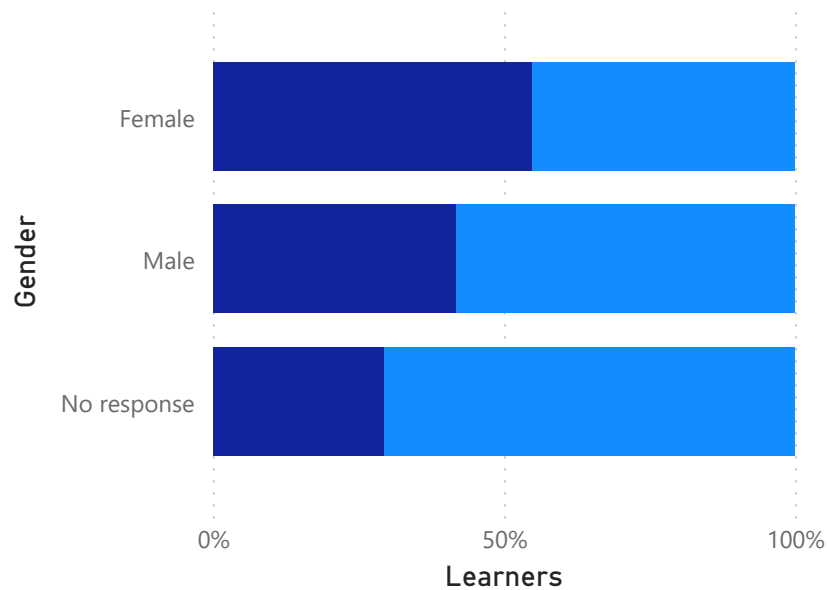
Progression Rate: All learners

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



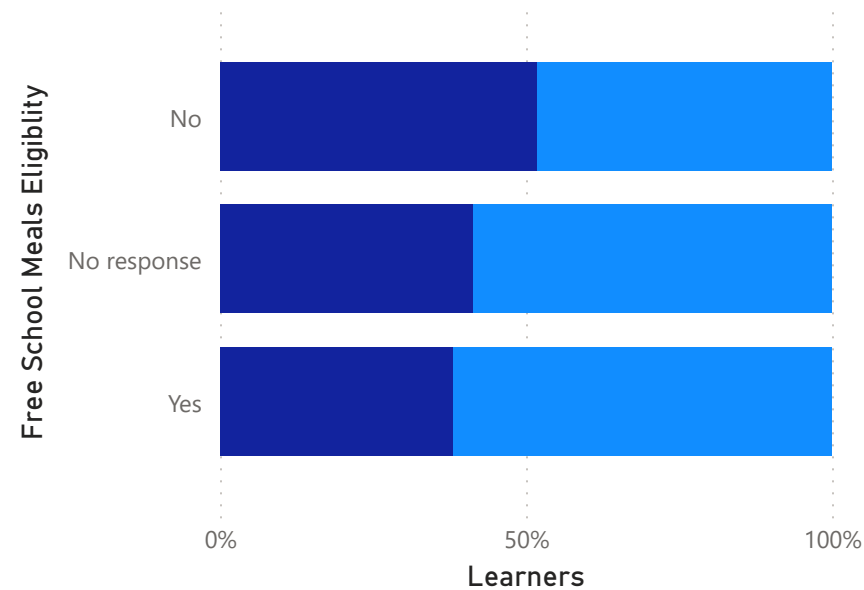
Progression Rate by Gender

Progressed to... ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress

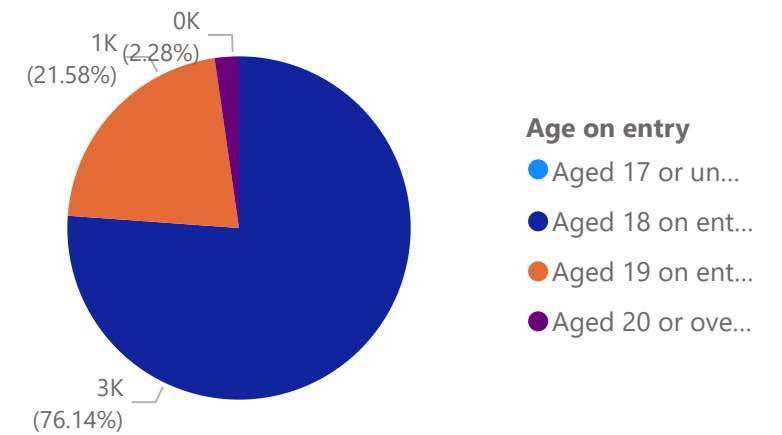


Progression Rate by Free School Meals

Progressed to ... ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



Age on Entry



Learner Characteristics of Each Cohort

Each cohort is comprised of a different number of students, and made up of varying proportions of different demographic groups. This is important to bear in mind when we consider the progression rate of each cohort as it is proven that some groups have a higher or lower chance of progressing to HE. Uni Connect targeted wards and TUNDRA Q1 and Q2 are the geographical areas with the lowest rates of progression to HE.

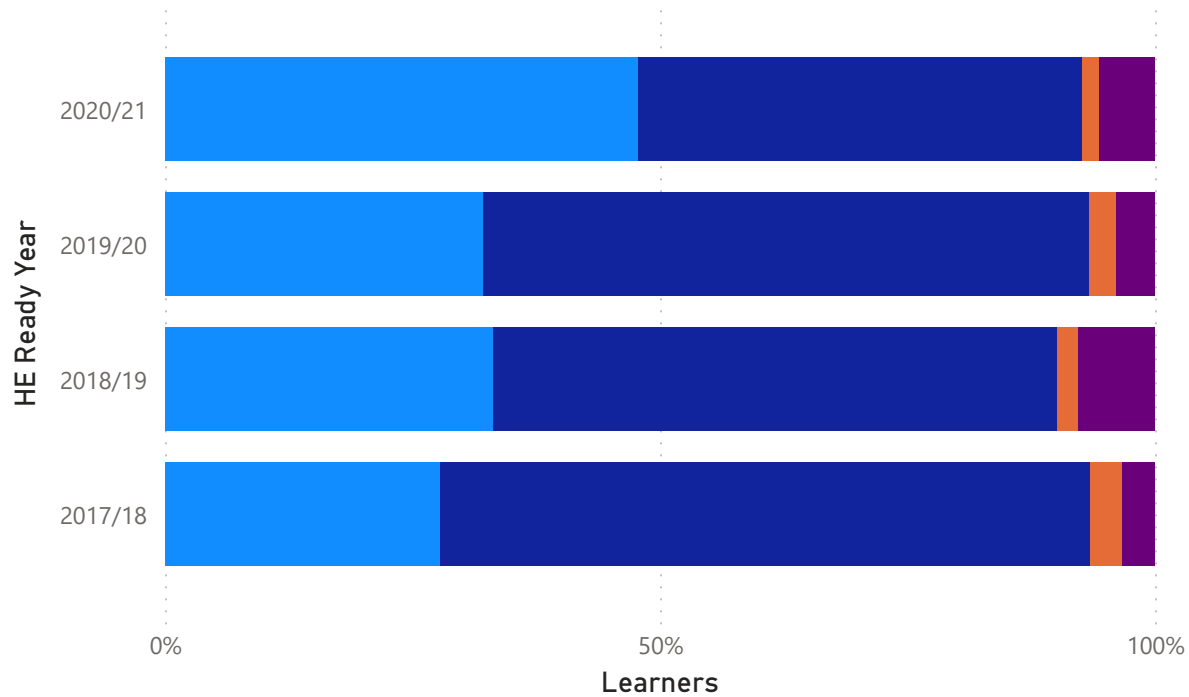
In particular, targeting of Higher Horizons Uni Connect target ward learners has improved each year: in the 2017/18 cohort just 27% were from Higher Horizons target wards, while in the 2020/21 cohort 47% were. This may partly account for the slightly lower progression rate for the 2020/21 cohort.

In each cohort:

- Approx. 20% of learners are eligible for free school meals
- 80 to 85% of learners are White British
- 42 to 44% of the cohort identify as male
- Approx. 12% of learners have a disability

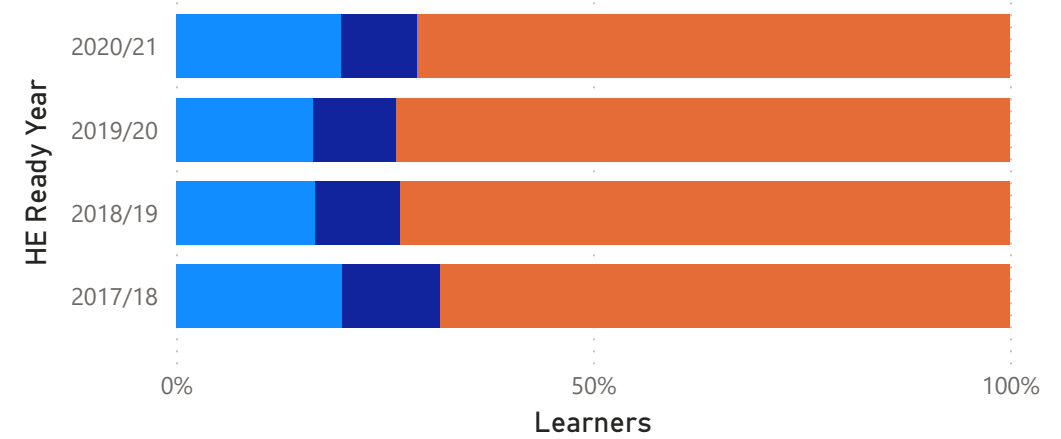
Proportion of Uni Connect learners

UCP Higher Horizons+ Not Uni Connect Other Uni Connect Unknown



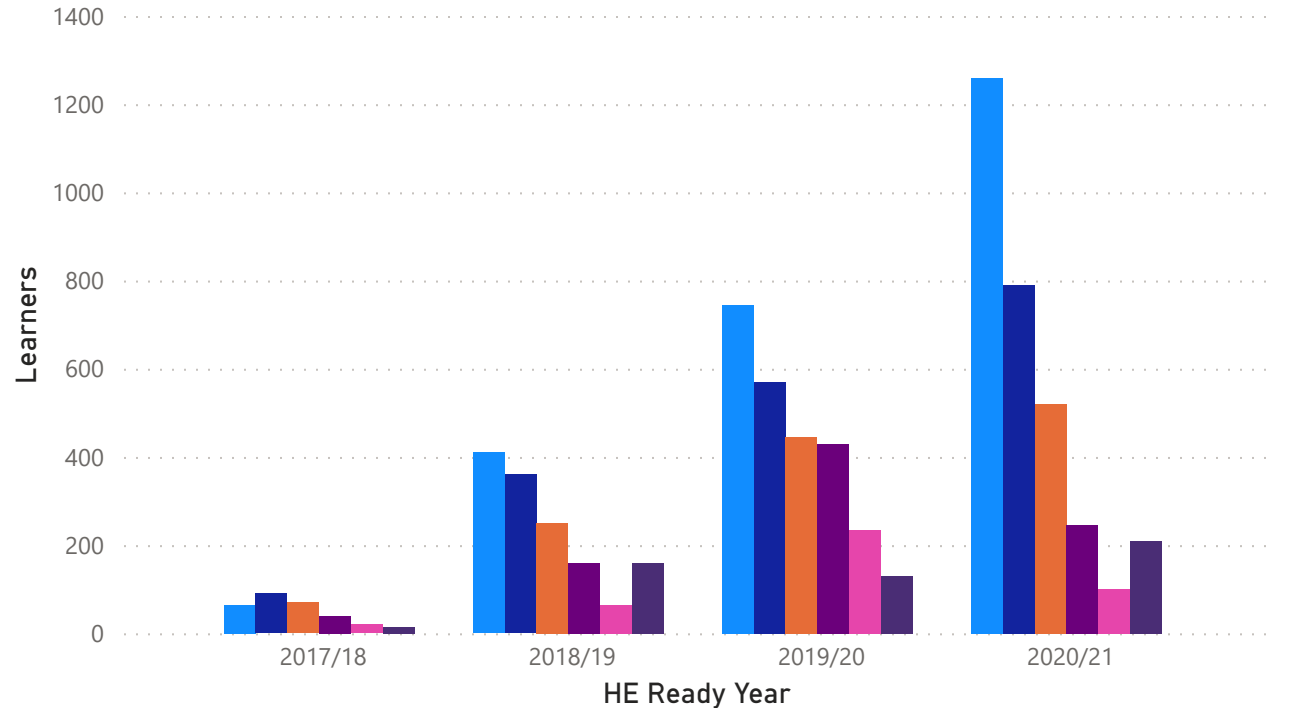
Free School Meal Eligibility

Free School Meal El... Yes No response No



TUNDRA Quintiles of Learners

TUNDRA MSOA 2021 1 2 3 4 5 Unknown



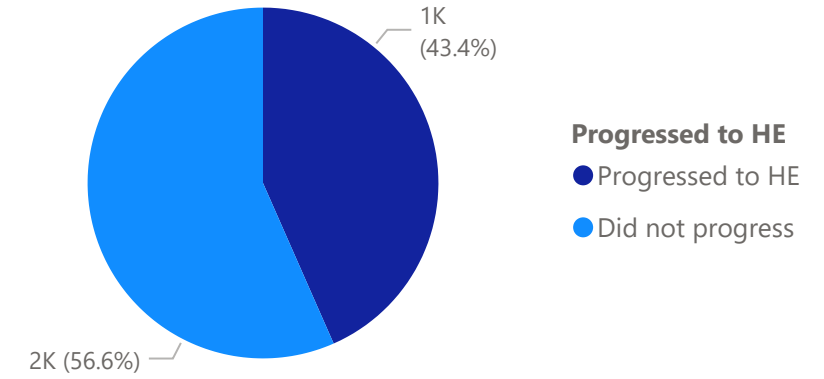
Progression by Uni Connect Eligibility and TUNDRA

This dashboard shows the numbers of learners who progress based on whether they live in a Higher Horizons target ward and which TUNDRA quintile they live in. These postcode measures represent the areas where the fewest young people progress to university. For TUNDRA, Q1 areas have the lowest absolute rates of progression, while Q5 have the highest.

Key Findings

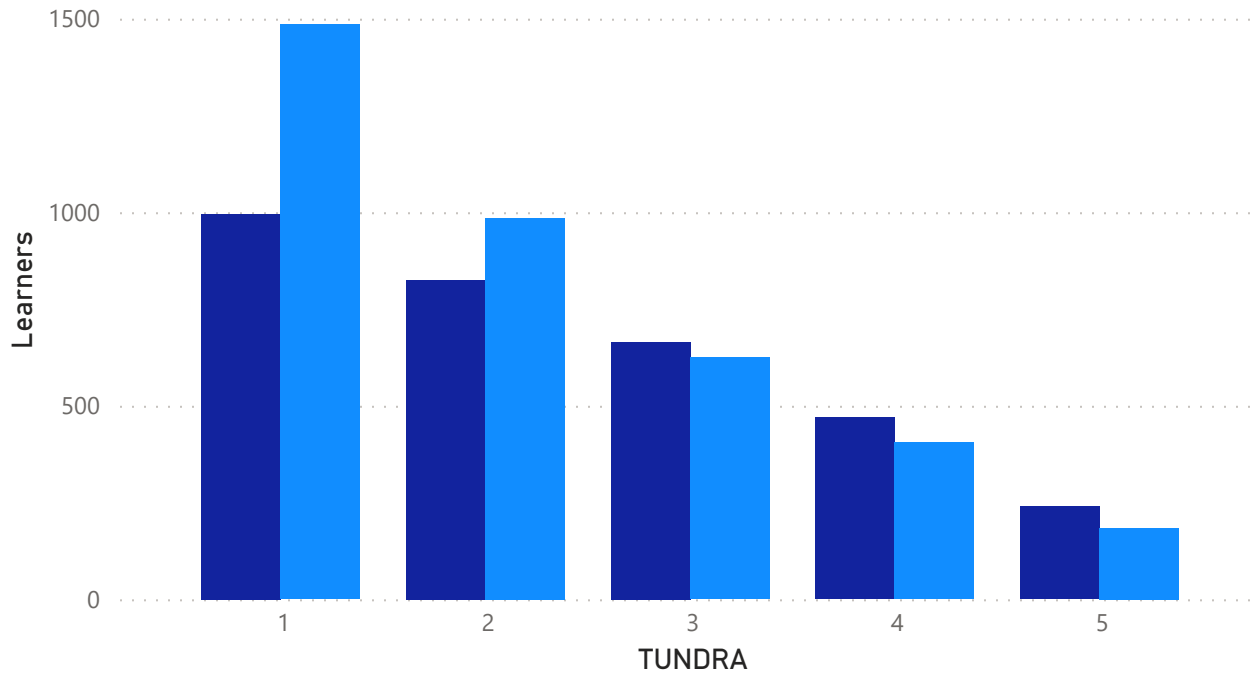
- 40.2% of learners from TUNDRA Q1 progress to HE
- 45.6% of learners from TUNDRA Q2 progress to HE
- 41.7% of learners from Higher Horizons target wards progress to HE
- 43.4% of learners from Uni Connect target wards progress to HE (including learners from DANCOP, AimhigherWM, and Aspire to HE wards).
- There is a 9.9pp gap between the progression rate of Higher Horizons target ward learners and non-target ward learners

Overall Progression Rate: Uni Connect Target Ward



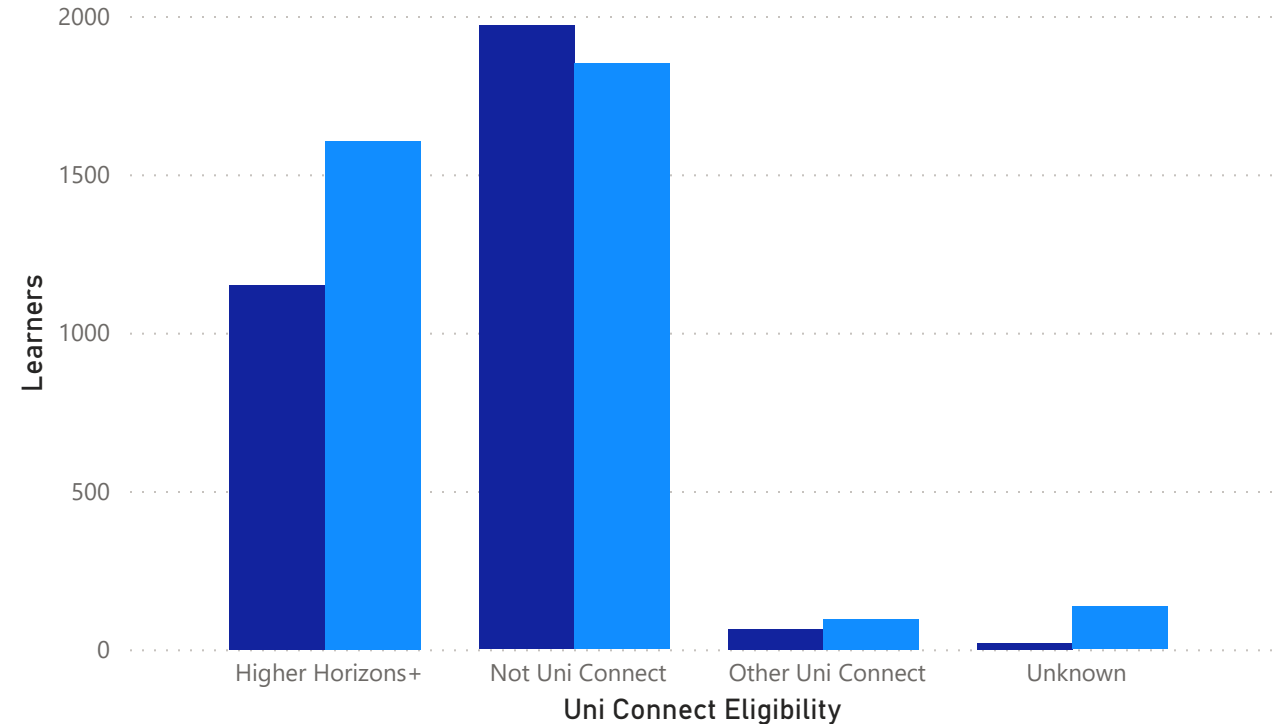
Progression Rate by TUNDRA

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



Progression Rate By Uni Connect Eligibility

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



Progression Rate (by 19) by Activity Types

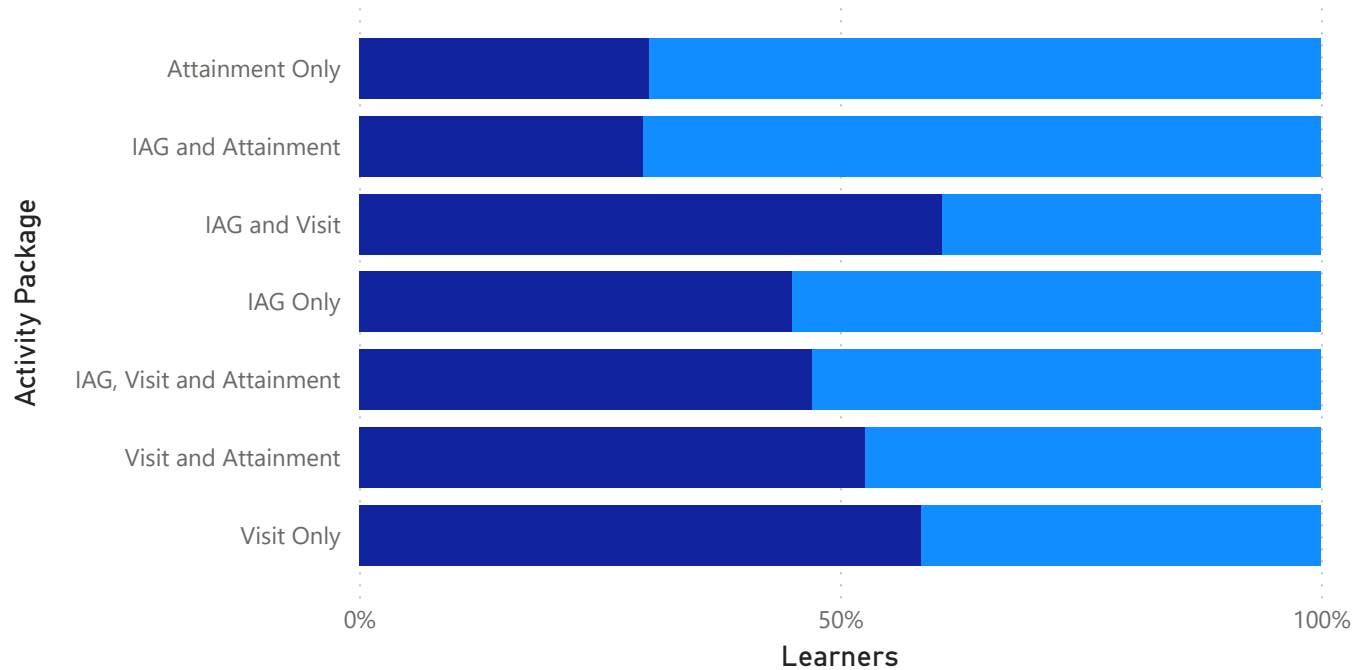
By linking the HESA Progression Dataset to our own Activity Records, we can examine progression rates by the types of activity that learners took part in during their engagement with Higher Horizons. Sample sizes vary between groups so caution should be used when making comparisons. This dataset only includes those learners we have tracked for two years.

Key Findings

- Learners who engaged with Higher Horizons for 5+ hours had a higher progression rate (52.0%) than those who engaged in under 5 hours activity (39.8%)
- Learners who visited a campus had higher rates of progression (57.5%) compared to those who didn't visit a campus (39.7%)
- Learners who engaged with IAG and at least one campus visit had the highest rate of progression out of any activity package (60.4%)
- Attainment raising activities delivered on their own did not seem to have any impact on progression and learners who took part in this activity package had the lowest progression rate (29.9%).

Progression Rate by Activity Package

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress

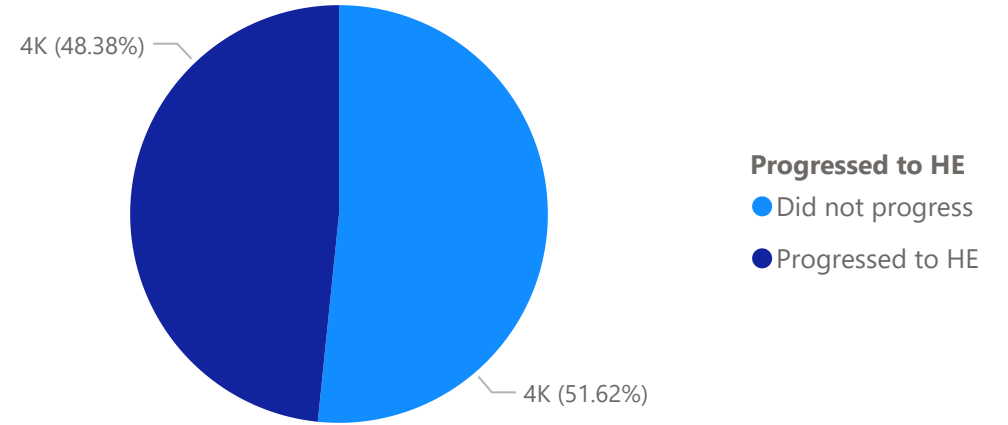


Sample Size

7395

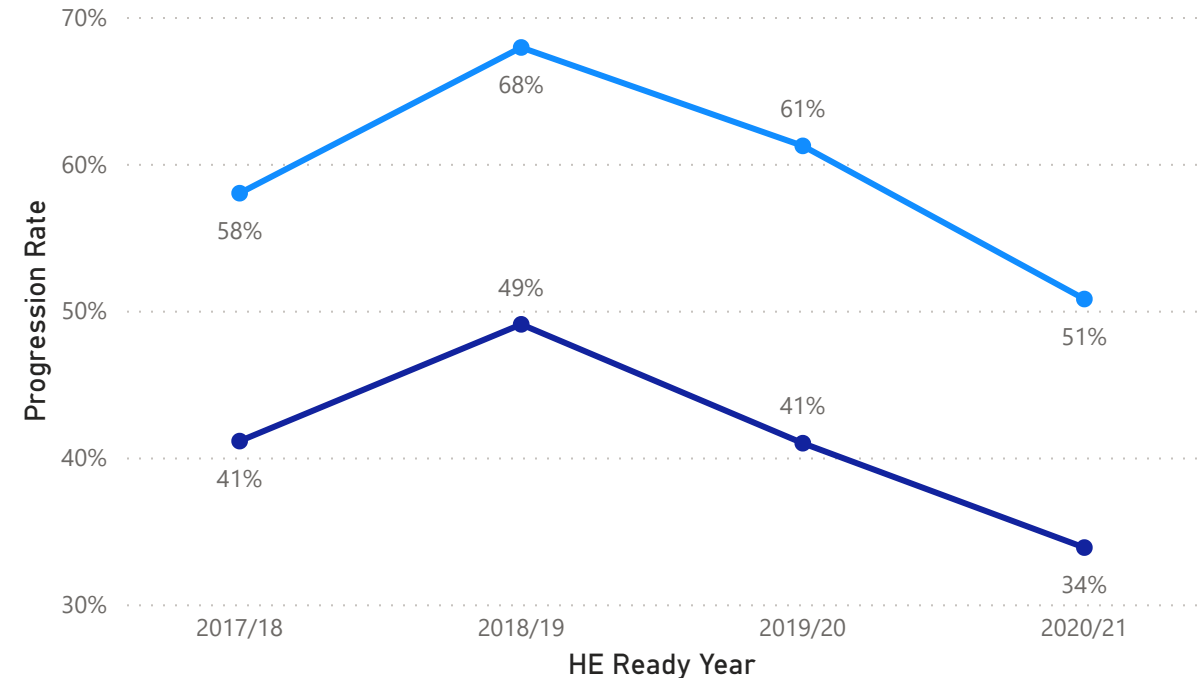
Learners

Progression Rate



Progression Rate - Campus Visits vs No Visits

● Participants who had a campus visit ● Participants who did not have a campus visit



Progression Rate (by 19) by Higher Horizons Local Authority

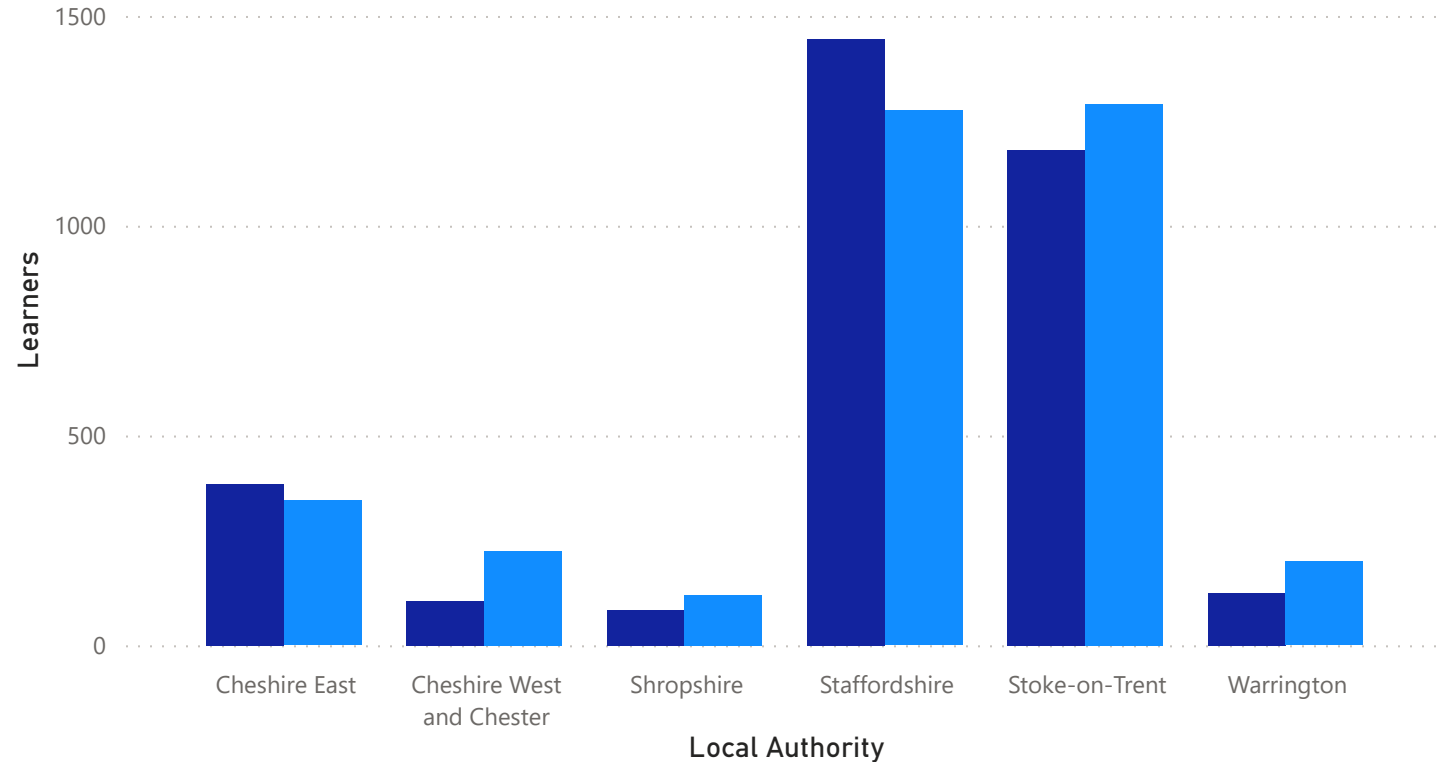
This dashboard shows the progression rates of Higher Horizons learners by local authority. Higher Horizons works across three counties, and six local authority areas. Broadly speaking, Higher Horizons hubs are linked to different geographic regions:

- Keele - Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and Cheshire East
- Staffs - Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire
- Harper Adams - Staffordshire and Shropshire
- Chester - Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warrington

This dashboard shows the total number of learners engaged in each local authority, as well as the number of contact hours. It also shows the progression rate from each local authority, and whether they progressed to a HH partner university or not.

Learners by Local Authority and Progressed to HE

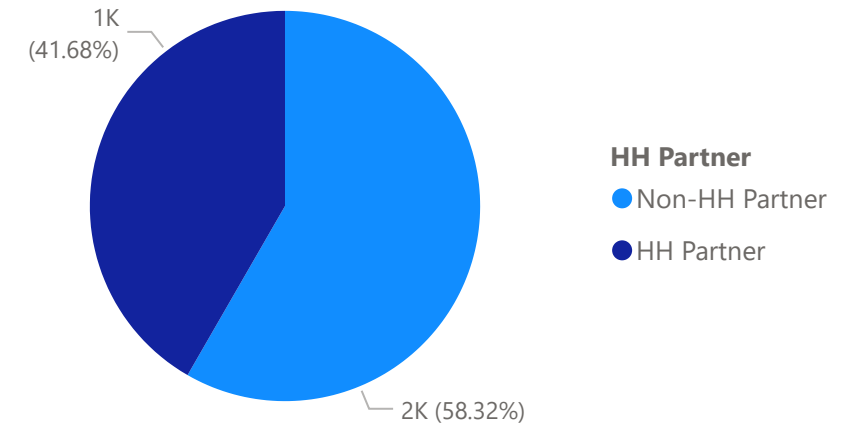
Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



Local Authority	Contact Hours	Learners
Cheshire East	4,054.70	730
Cheshire West and Chester	1,913.50	330
Shropshire	975.50	205
Staffordshire	16,804.65	2720
Stoke-on-Trent	18,143.90	2475
Warrington	2,326.50	325
Total	44,218.75	6780

Local Authority	Did not progress Learners	Did not progress % Learners	Progressed to HE Learners	Progressed to HE % Learners
Cheshire East	345	47.26%	385	52.74%
Cheshire West and Chester	225	68.18%	105	31.82%
Shropshire	120	58.54%	85	41.46%
Staffordshire	1275	46.88%	1445	53.13%
Stoke-on-Trent	1290	52.12%	1180	47.68%
Warrington	200	61.54%	125	38.46%
Total	3455	50.96%	3325	49.04%

Learners by Progression to HH Partner



Progression Rates (by 19) by Intensity of Engagement

This dashboard shows the progression rates of learners according to how many contact hours they have had with Higher Horizons (under 5 or over 5), and by how many years they engaged with Higher Horizons during their secondary and post-16 education.

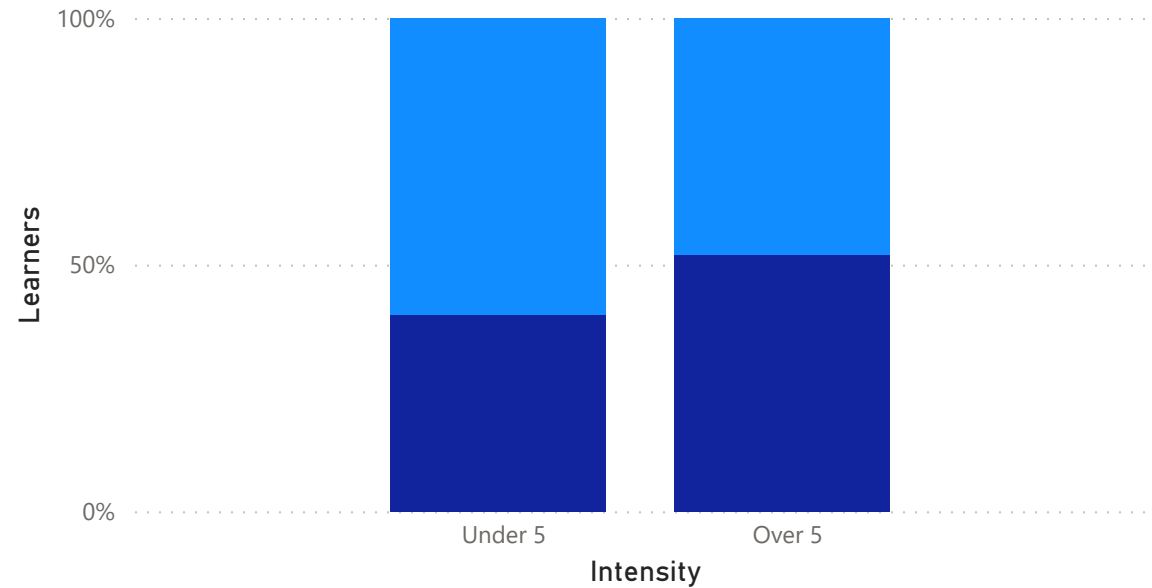
Key Findings

- There is a noticeable rise in the progression rate after learners had engaged with Higher Horizons for 5 hours or more (12pp)
- Those who engaged in the programme for 2 or more years had a slightly higher progression rate than those who only engaged for 1 year (50.5% compared to 48.7%).
- Those who has engaged in the programme across two years and engaged in more than 5 hours activity had a progression rate 15pp higher than those who had engaged in under 5 hours activity across two years.
- Those who had engaged in more than 1 activity had a higher progression rate than those who had only engaged in 1.

Based on this analysis, we believe hours engaged is the best measure of intensity.

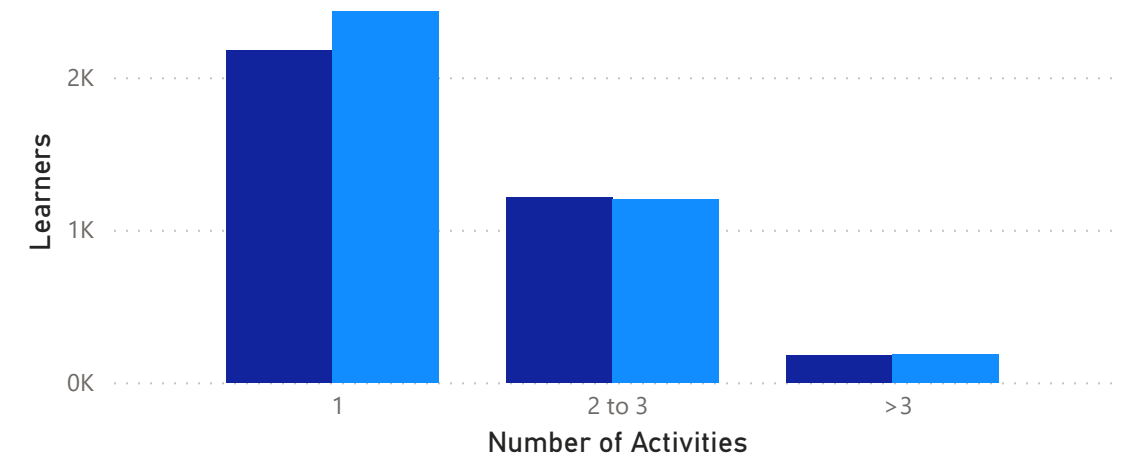
Learners by Intensity and Progressed to HE

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



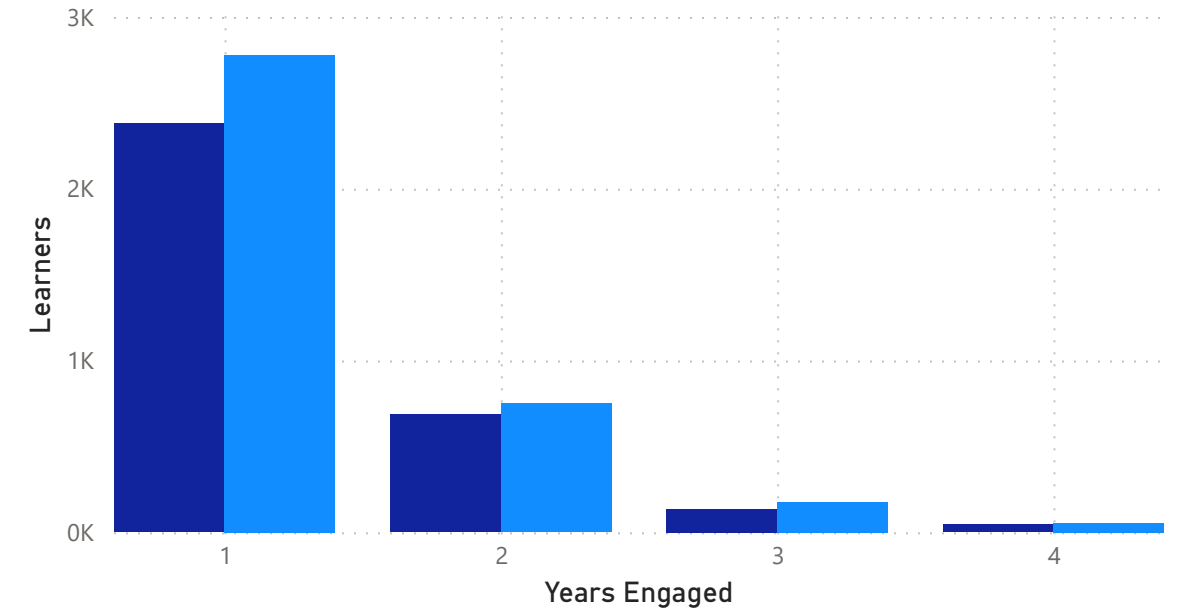
Learners by Number of Activities and Progressed to HE

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



Learners by Years Engaged and Progressed to HE

Progressed to HE ● Progressed to HE ● Did not progress



TUNDRA Q1 and Q2 Learners Progression - High vs Low Intensity

This dashboard offers a comparison between learners from TUNDRA Q1 and Q2 postcode areas who engaged in a high intensity package of Higher Horizons activity compared to learners from TUNDRA Q1 and Q2 postcode areas who engaged in a low intensity package of Higher Horizons activity. High intensity is defined as 5+ hours engagement including at least one campus visit. Low intensity is defined as under 3 hours engagement.

Key Findings

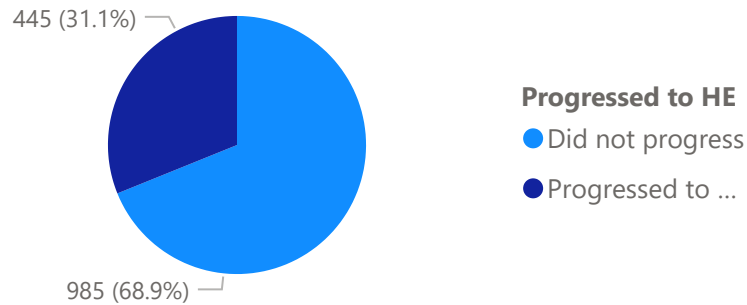
- The progression rate of the **high intensity group was 58.2%** while the progression rate of the **low intensity group was 31.1%** (a **gap of 27.1pp**)
- These gaps are maintained across four years of data: 10pp progression gap in 17/18; 31.1pp progression gap in 18/19; 37.7pp progression gap in 19/20 and a 24.7pp progression gap in 20/21.
- For learners eligible for free school meals, there is a progression gap of **26.7pp** between the high and low intensity groups.
- For White British students, there is a progression gap of **24.8pp** between the high and low intensity groups.
- For White British students who have been eligible for free school meals, there is a progression gap of **22.2pp** between the high and low intensity groups.

Low Intensity Participants

1540

Participants

Learners by Progressed to HE

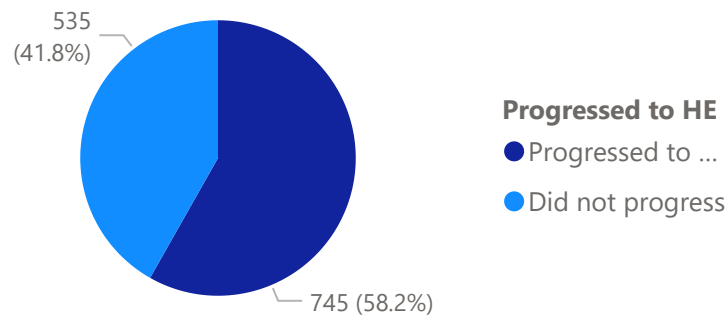


High Intensity Participants

1280

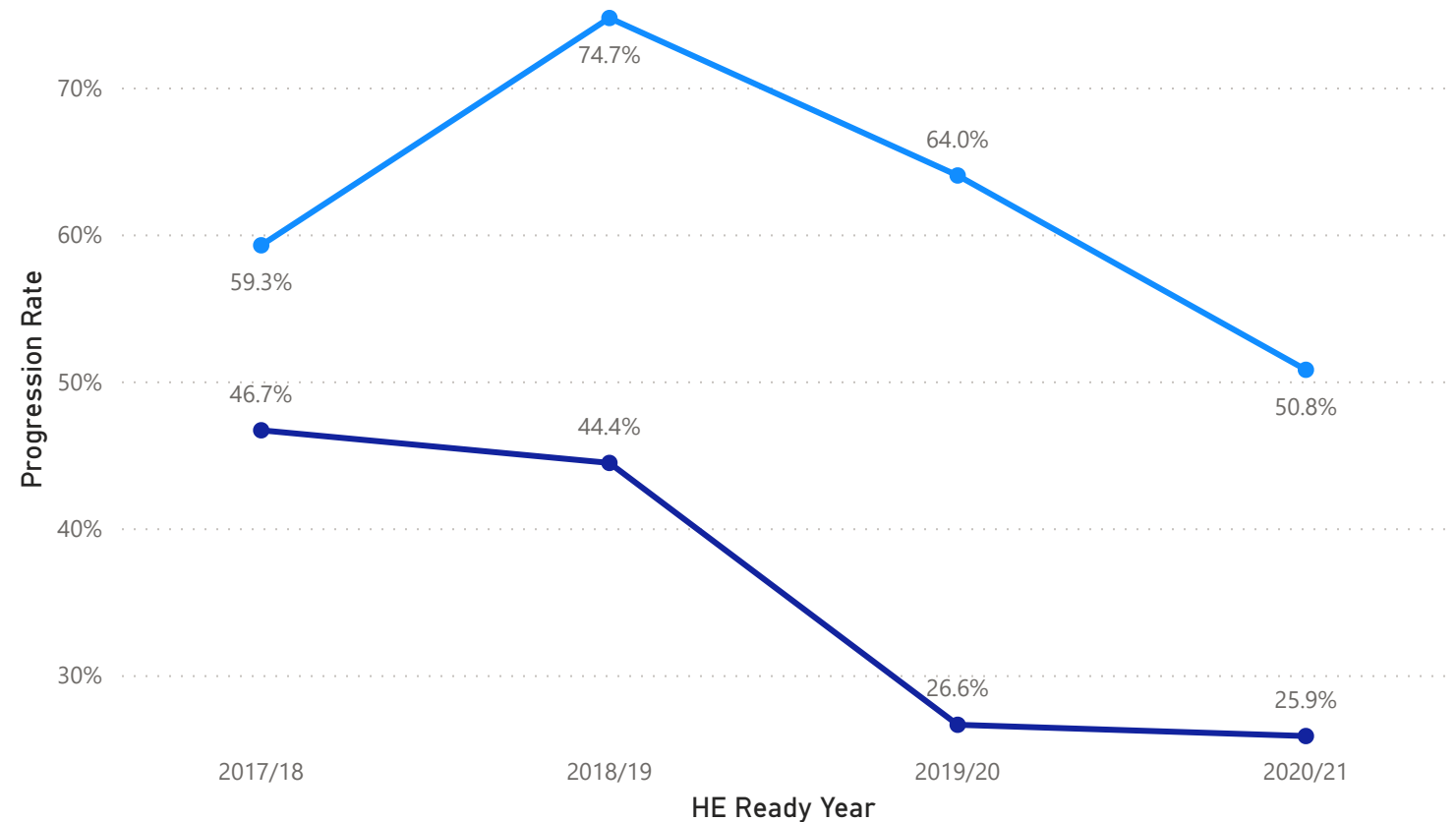
Participants

Learners by Progressed to HE



Progression Rate of TUNDRA Q1 and Q2 High Intensity vs Low Intensity Participants

● High Intensity Participants ● Low Intensity Participants



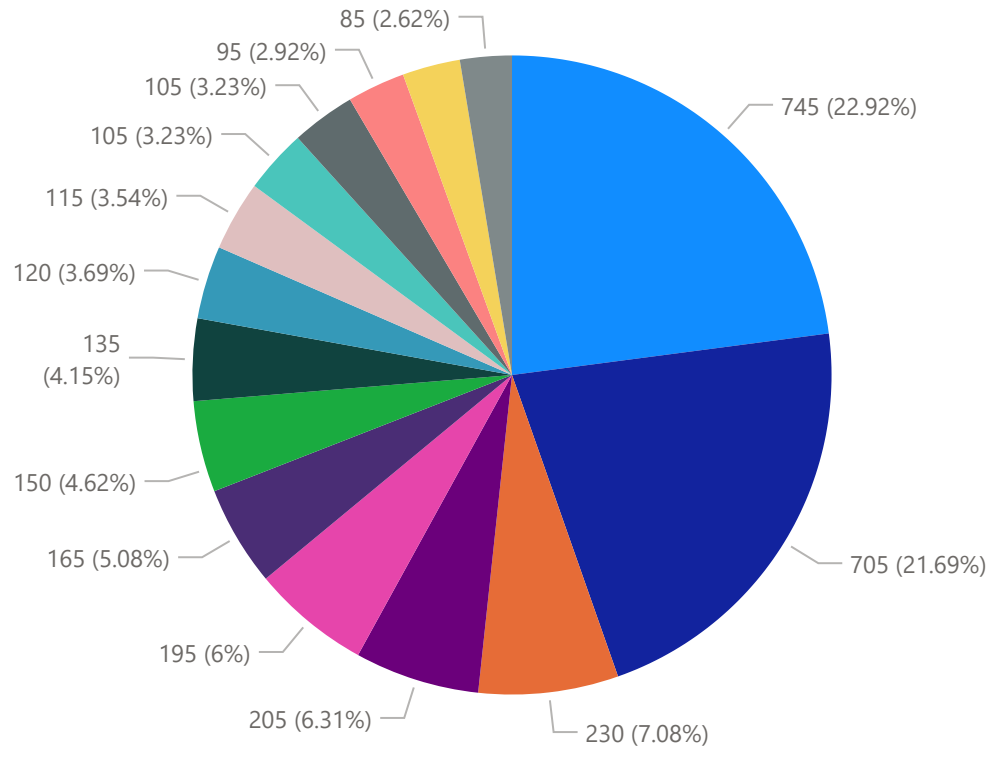
Destinations of the Higher Horizons Cohort

This dashboard shows information on the HE providers Higher Horizons learners chose, the regions they studied in, and the Mission Group of their HE providers. Local universities were a popular choice among the Higher Horizons cohort, with the majority of learners opting for an institution within the Midlands or North West.

Key Findings

- 64% of learners chose a university in the West Midlands or North West
- 45% of learners chose Keele or Staffordshire Universities
- 15.8% of learners attended a Russell Group institution

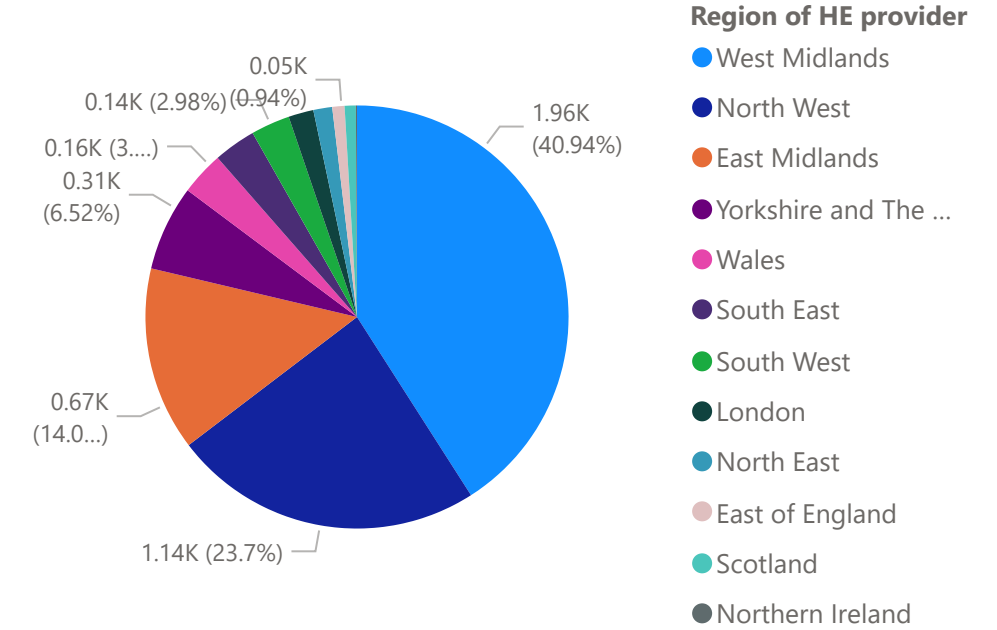
Top 15 HE Providers



Uni Name

- Keele University
- Staffordshire University
- University of Derby
- The Manchester Metropolitan Uni...
- Liverpool John Moores University
- University of Chester
- The Nottingham Trent University
- Birmingham City University
- The University of Birmingham
- The University of Liverpool
- The University of Manchester
- The University of Salford
- Edge Hill University
- The University of Wolverhampton
- Sheffield Hallam University

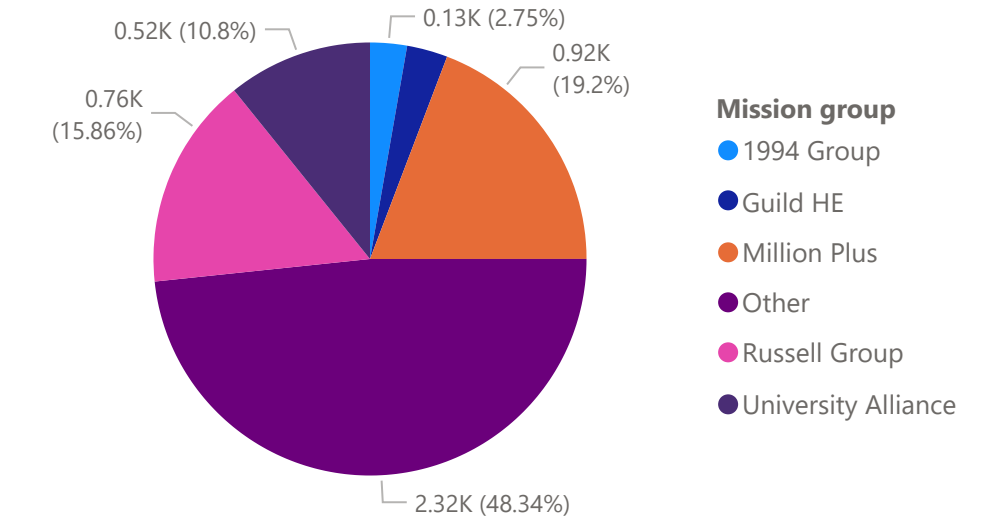
Learners by Region of HE provider



Region of HE provider

- West Midlands
- North West
- East Midlands
- Yorkshire and The ...
- Wales
- South East
- South West
- London
- North East
- East of England
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland

Learners by Mission group



Mission group

- 1994 Group
- Guild HE
- Million Plus
- Other
- Russell Group
- University Alliance