

# University of South Wales - Student Equalities Data

The Specific Duties in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 require public authorities to publish relevant equalities information within the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report. This report details the diversity of the student population for the academic year 2016 to 2017. The statistical information is based upon the information provided by 19,231 undergraduate students and 3,982 postgraduate students during enrolment in September 2016. It covers all protected characteristics. Where possible, comparisons are made with data from UK and Welsh HEIs from the Equality Challenge Unit's [Equality in Higher Education: statistical reports 2017: part 2: students](#).

Numbers and percentages have been provided for most categories but where data contains low student numbers only percentages have been referred to.

## **Glossary**

BME: Black & Minority Ethnic

ECU: Equality Challenge Unit

FBS: Faculty of Business and Society

FCI: Faculty of Creative Industries

FCES: Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science

FLSE: Faculty of Life Sciences and Education

HEI: Higher Educational Institute

LGBT+: Lesbian, Gay Bisexual Transgender +

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## Age

### Undergraduates

- The largest population of undergraduate students are aged under 21 (37.4%); with high proportions of students aged 21 to 24 (31.2%). This broadly compares to last year but a slight increase in students aged under 21 can be noted (35.6% of undergraduate students were aged under 21 and 30.6% of students were aged 21 to 24 last year). Since 2013, there has been a 3.6% increase in the proportion of students aged under 21.
- There appears to be a declining proportion of students aged over 30. For 2016, 19.6% of staff were over 30, compared with 21.8% in 2015, 25.6% in 2014 and 26.2% in 2013. Since 2013, there has been a 6.6% decline in students aged over 30.
- The proportion of 25 to 29 year olds has remained relatively static over recent years: 11.8% in 2016, 12% in 2015, 11.8% in 2014 and 11.7% in 2013.
- ECU data shows that the overall under 21 UK wide population in HE is 57.5%, a significantly higher population than that at USW. For Welsh HEIs, 55% of students are aged under 21.
- 27.2% of all UK students are aged over 25 compared with 29.8% of Welsh students. For USW, 31.4% of USW students are aged 25 and over. This suggests that, although USW numbers of students aged over 30 declining, the proportion of students aged over 25 is higher than the both the UK and the Welsh average.

Figure 1 –Undergraduate Population by Age and Faculty 2016 to 2017

Faculty Description	< 21		21-24		25-29		30+		Total
	Nos eligible	%	Nos eligible	%	Nos eligible	%	Total eligible	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	1232	33.6%	1317	35.9%	503	13.7%	616	16.8%	<b>3668</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	1690	38.6%	1589	36.3%	522	11.9%	578	13.2%	<b>4379</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	1836	51.2%	1376	38.3%	199	5.5%	178	5.0%	<b>3589</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	2439	32.1%	1716	22.6%	1052	13.9%	2388	31.4%	<b>7595</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7197</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>5998</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>2276</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>3760</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>19231</b>

## Postgraduates

- The largest group of postgraduates are aged 30+ (62.8%); this is a marginal increase from 62.2% last year. Like last year, the highest proportion of postgraduates aged over 30 are in FLSE (Faculty of Life Sciences & Education) (76.7%, compared with 76.3% last year).
- The smallest proportion of postgraduates are aged under 21 (0.1%), with all of these students being based in FBS.
- There have been only marginal changes to the ages of postgraduate students over recent years.
- ECU postgraduate student data shows that, for research postgraduates: 2.8% are under 21, 36.3% are 22 to 25, 38.3% are 26 to 35 and 22.6% are over 36. For taught postgraduates: 7.3% are under 21, 37.3% are aged 22 to 25, 31.3% are 26 to 35 and 24.1% are over 36.
- It is difficult to make a direct comparison as the ECU age groupings are different to those used at USW, however, ECU data shows that 60.9% of research postgraduates are aged over 25, compared with 55.4% of taught postgraduates. For USW, 84.7% of all postgraduates are aged over 25, suggesting that the age demographic of postgraduate students at USW is higher than that of the UK average.

Figure 2 – Postgraduate Population by Age and Faculty 2016 to 2017

	< 21	21-24	25-29	30+	Total
Faculty Description	%	%	%	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	0.3%	21.1%	24.0%	54.6%	<b>1257</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	0.0%	24.0%	37.3%	38.7%	<b>550</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	0.0%	30.5%	25.3%	44.2%	<b>190</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	0.0%	7.3%	15.9%	76.7%	<b>1935</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>3932</b>

## Disability

### Undergraduates

- 13% of undergraduates are disabled; this is an increase from 12.1% last year. The proportion of disabled undergraduate students has increased since 2013 by 1.7%, from 11.3% (2013) to 13% (2016).
- The highest proportion of disabled undergraduate students are in the Faculty of Creative Industries (20.2%). This is an increase from 19.3% last year.
- The highest proportion of disabled students have a 'specific learning difficulty' - 5.5% (this compared to 5.3% last year, followed by mental health conditions 3% (compared with 2.5% last year).
- There are low proportions of students with a hearing impairment: 0.3% (compared with 0.2% last year), long standing illnesses: 1.2% (compared with 1.3% last year), multiple disabilities: 0.7% (remains static from 0.7% last year), other disabilities: 0.8% (slight increase from 0.7% last year), physical/mobility impairments: 0.5% (slight increase from 0.4% last year), social/communication impairments: 0.9% (an increase from 0.7% last year) and visual impairments: 0.1% (remains static).
- ECU data shows the UK HEI average of all disabled students is 11.3% (11.6% for Wales). For first degree undergraduates, 12.8% are disabled and for other undergraduates 9.4% are disabled. This compares with 13% disabled undergraduate student population at USW.

Figure 3 – Undergraduate Population by Disability and Faculty 2016 to 2017

Faculty Description	Student With Disability		No Disability		Information Refused		Total
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	446	12.2%	3222	87.8%	0	0.0%	<b>3668</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	534	12.2%	3845	87.8%	0	0.0%	<b>4379</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	724	20.2%	2865	79.8%	0	0.0%	<b>3589</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	799	10.5%	6796	89.5%	0	0.0%	<b>7595</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2503</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>16728</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>19231</b>

## Postgraduates

- 9.2% of postgraduates are disabled (compared with 9.3% last year), with the largest proportion of disabled postgraduate students being in the Faculty of Creative Industries: 18.4%, a notable increase from 16.1% last year.
- The proportion of disabled postgraduate students has increased from 7.3% in 2013 to 9.2% in 2016, a 1.9% increase.
- The highest proportion of disabled students have a 'specific learning difficulty' – 3.9% (an increase from 3.5% last year), followed by mental health conditions – 1.3% (slight decrease from 1.5% last year) and long standing illnesses – 1.7% (an increase from 1.4% last year).
- There are low proportions of postgraduate students with a hearing impairment – 0.3% (compared with 0.2% last year), multiple disabilities – 0.4% (decrease from 0.7% last year), other disabilities – 0.9% (decrease from 1.1% last year), physical / mobility impairments – 0.4% (slight decrease from 0.5% last year), social / communication impairments – 0.2% (remains static from last year) and visual impairments – 0.1% (decrease from 0.2% last year).
- ECU data shows that 7.6% of research postgraduates are disabled and 7.3% of taught postgraduates are disabled. USW therefore has more disabled postgraduate students than the UK HEI average.

Figure 4 – Postgraduate Population by Disability and Faculty 2016 to 2017

Faculty Description	Student With Disability		No Disability		Information Refused		Total
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	92	7.3%	1165	92.7%	0	0.0%	<b>1257</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	44	8.0%	506	92.0%	0	0.0%	<b>550</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	35	18.4%	155	81.6%	0	0.0%	<b>190</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	192	9.9%	1743	90.1%	0	0.0%	<b>1935</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>3569</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>3932</b>

## Gender Identity

### Undergraduates

- Over 16,000 (84%) undergraduate students have the same gender identity as they were assigned at birth. 12.4% of students chose not to provide this information, this is a reduction from the 13.2% of students chose not to provide this information last year.
- Almost 700 (3.6%) undergraduate students have a different gender identity to the one assigned at birth. This is an increase from 3% last year, 1.8% in 2014 and 0.6% in 2013.
- ECU data is not available for undergraduate and postgraduate students separately. All student data shows that 2.3% of students have a gender identity that is different from that assigned at birth, suggesting that USW has a higher proportion of trans students than the student average. 52.2% of all students did not provide this information (either because they left the field blank or their institution does not collect this information).

Figure 5 - Undergraduate Population by Gender Identity 2014 to 2016

	Gender ID as Assigned at Birth	Gender ID Not as Assigned at Birth	Gender ID Information Refused
	%	%	%
2014	84.3%	1.8%	13.8%
2015	83.8%	3.0%	13.2%
2016	84.0%	3.6%	12.4%

### Postgraduates

- Over 3,000 (81.3%) postgraduate students have the same gender identity as they were assigned at birth (compared to 83% for the previous two years). 15.8% chose not to provide this information (an increase from 14.4% last year).
- Over 100 (2.9%) postgraduate students have changed their gender identity. This is a 0.3% increase from 2015 (2.6%) and a 2.5% increase from 2013 (0.4%).



**Figure 6 - Postgraduate Population by Gender Identity and Faculty 2014 to 2016**

	<b>Gender ID as Assigned at Birth</b>	<b>Gender ID Not as Assigned at Birth</b>	<b>Gender ID Information Refused</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>81.3%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

## **Race**

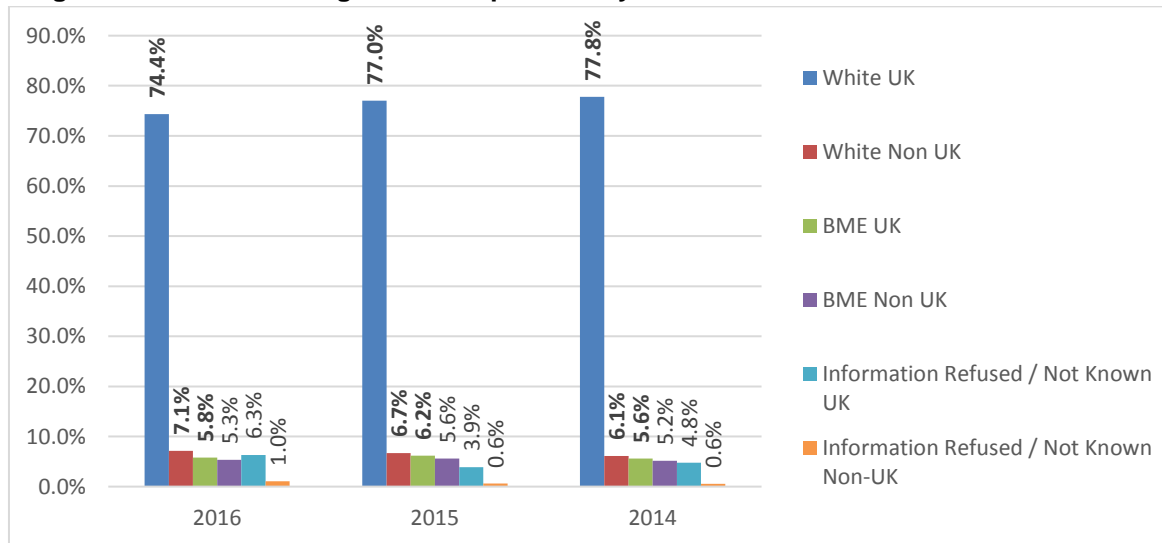
### **Undergraduates**

- 5.8% of USW UK undergraduate students are from a Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) background. This is a reduction from 6.2% in 2015.
- 12.4% of undergraduate students are non-UK students, comparable to 12.3% last year.
- The largest proportions of undergraduate BME students are Black or Black British - African (1.7%); second are Arab (1.3%) and Chinese (1.3%). There are small percentages of all other ethnicities, as detailed in the below graph.
- ECU data on all UK HEIs shows that 21.8% of all UK domiciled students are BME, an increase from 21% in 2015. In Wales, 9.3% of all UK domiciled students are BME. For first degree undergraduates, 23% are BME, with 15.9% of all other undergraduates being BME. The proportion of BME students at USW is lower than the UK and Welsh averages.

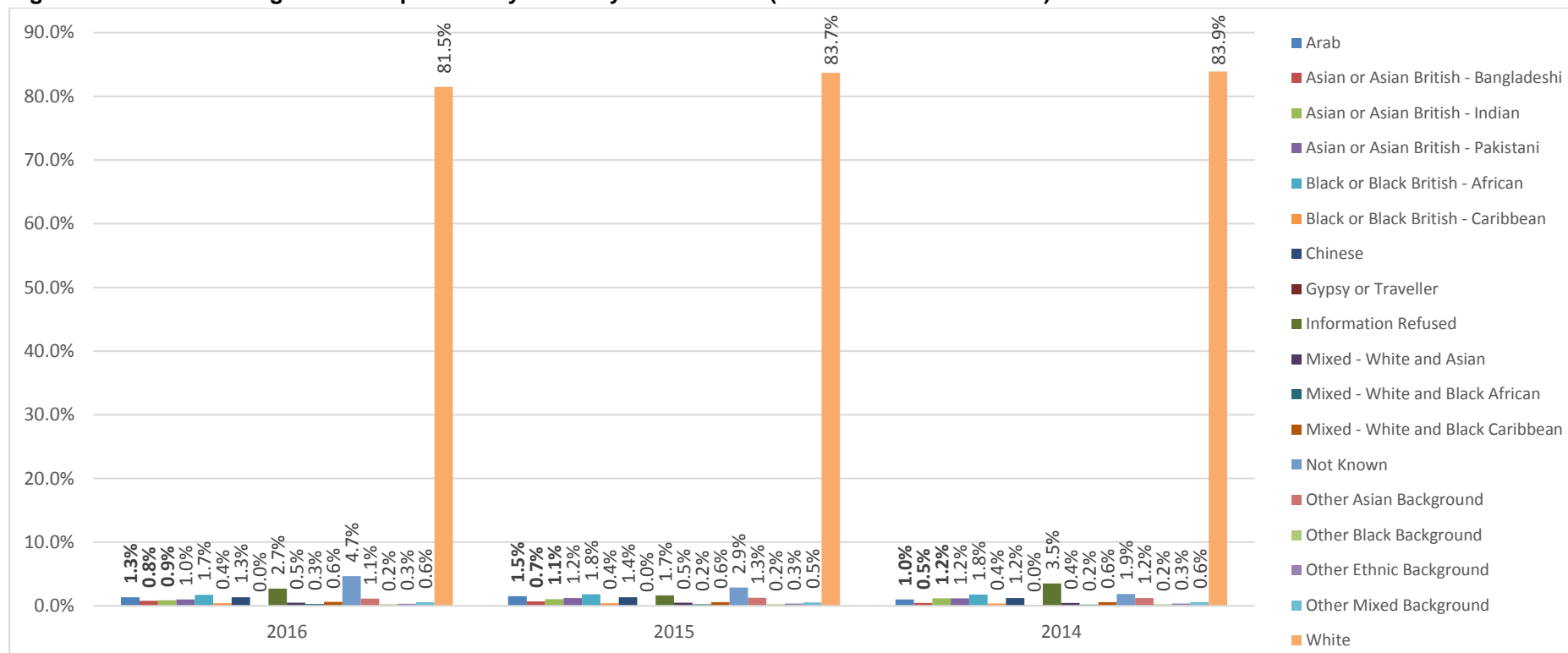
Figure 7 – Undergraduate Population by Race and Faculty 2016 to 2017

Faculty	White UK		White Non UK		BME UK		BME Non UK		Information Refused / Not Known UK		Information Refused / Not Known Non-UK		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total No.
<b>FBS</b>	2412	65.8%	448	12.2%	322	8.8%	403	11.0%	50	1.4%	33	0.9%	3668
<b>FCES</b>	2704	61.7%	262	6.0%	246	5.6%	373	8.5%	674	15.4%	120	2.7%	4379
<b>FCI</b>	2843	79.2%	387	10.8%	192	5.3%	88	2.5%	48	1.3%	31	0.9%	3589
<b>FLSE</b>	6340	83.5%	276	3.6%	358	4.7%	163	2.1%	441	5.8%	17	0.2%	7595
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14299</b>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>1213</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>19231</b>

Figure 8 – Overall Undergraduate Population by Race and Academic Year



**Figure 9 – Overall Undergraduate Population by Ethnicity 2014 to 2016 (UK and non-UK students)**



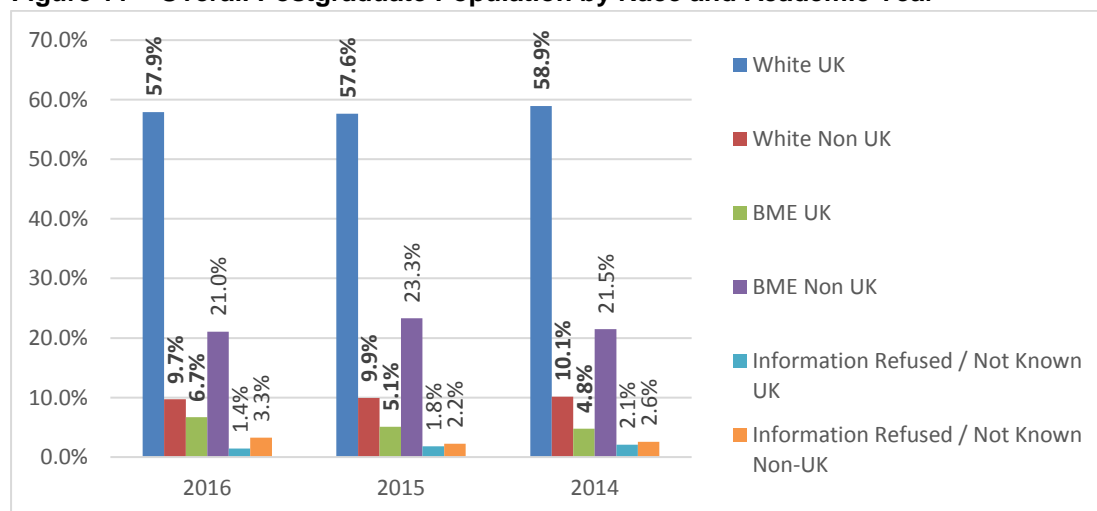
### Postgraduates

- 57.9% of all postgraduate students are White British, 6.7% are BME British (an increase from 5.1% last year) and 4.7% either do not know / refused information.
- The proportion of UK BME postgraduate students has increased from 4.1% in 2013 to 6.7% in 2016, an increase of 2.6%.
- ECU data shows that 16.9% of all UK domiciled research postgraduates and 20.56% of all UK domiciled taught postgraduates are BME. USW has a lower proportion of UK BME students compared to the national average.

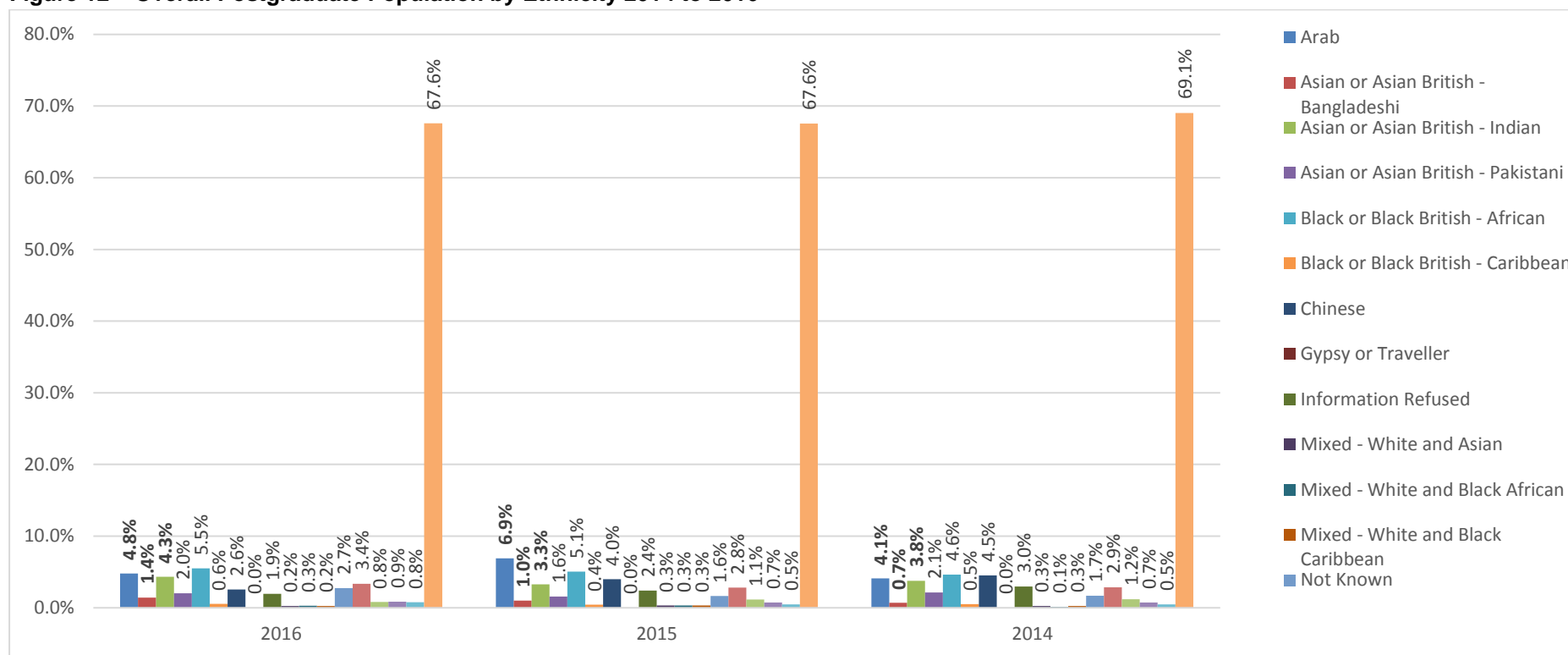
**Figure 10 – Postgraduate Population by Race and Faculty 2016 to 2017**

Faculty	White UK		White Non UK		BME UK		BME Non UK		Information Refused / Not Known UK		Information Refused / Not Known Non-UK		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total No.
<b>FBS</b>	730	58.1%	124	9.9%	85	6.8%	282	22.4%	15	1.2%	21	1.7%	1257
<b>FCES</b>	177	32.2%	103	18.7%	18	3.3%	161	29.3%	15	2.7%	76	13.8%	550
<b>FCI</b>	127	66.8%	27	14.2%	13	6.8%	10	5.3%	6	3.2%	7	3.7%	190
<b>FLSE</b>	1243	64.2%	127	6.6%	147	7.6%	374	19.3%	20	1.0%	24	1.2%	1935
<b>Totals</b>	2277	57.9%	381	9.7%	263	6.7%	827	21.0%	56	1.4%	128	3.3%	3932

**Figure 11 – Overall Postgraduate Population by Race and Academic Year**



**Figure 12 – Overall Postgraduate Population by Ethnicity 2014 to 2016**



## Religious Belief

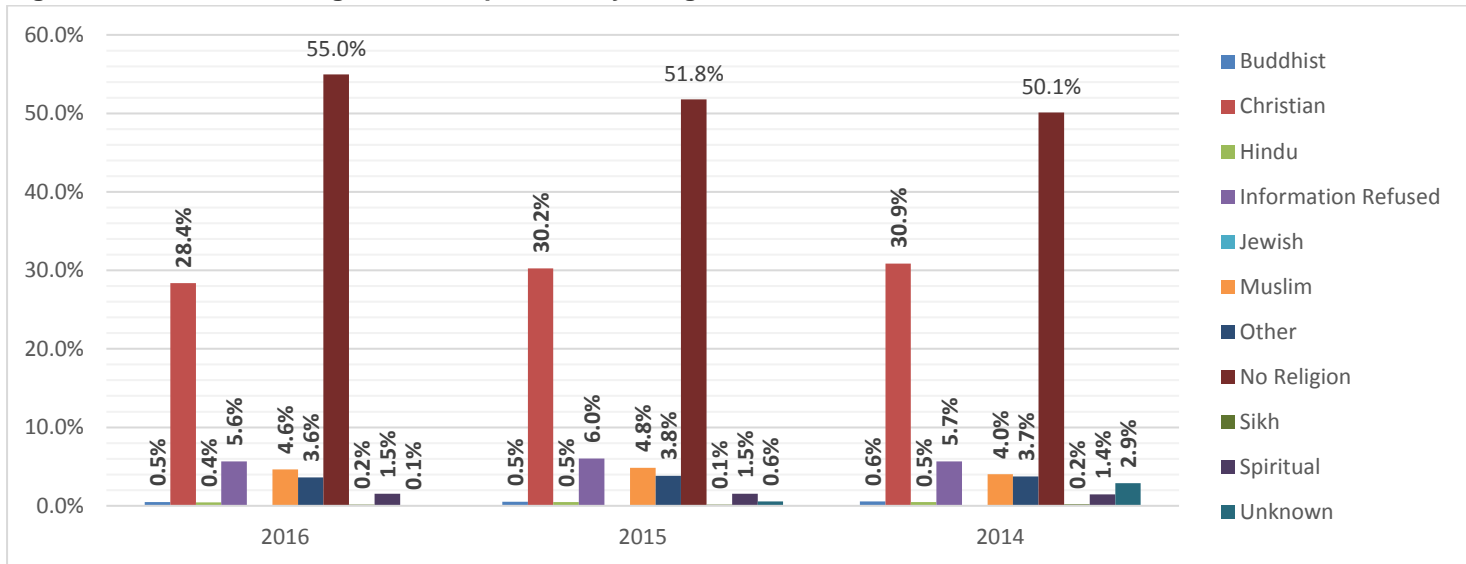
### Undergraduate

- The largest proportion of undergraduate students have no religion/belief (55%, an increase from 51.8% last year) the second largest is Christian (at 28.4% this has decreased from 30.2% last year)
- 4.6% of undergraduate students are Muslim, with small proportions of students from other religions.
- ECU data for all students shows the highest proportion is no religion at 24.1%, second is Christian at 17.8%. 4% of students are Muslim, with low proportions of students with other religions. However, 45.3% of students left this field blank or their institution did not ask this question, which compares favourably to USW low rate of non-disclosures at 5.6%.

**Figure 13- Undergraduate Population by Religious Belief and Faculty 2016**

	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Info Refused	Jewish	Muslim	Other	No Religion	Sikh	Spiritual	Unknown
Faculty	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FBS	0.5%	29.1%	0.5%	4.6%	0.1%	10.0%	3.3%	50.4%	0.2%	1.4%	0.0%
FCES	0.7%	24.4%	0.8%	4.0%	0.2%	8.1%	3.1%	57.5%	0.2%	0.9%	0.1%
FCI	0.6%	21.9%	0.1%	4.9%	0.1%	1.1%	4.0%	64.8%	0.2%	2.3%	0.0%
FLSE	0.4%	33.3%	0.3%	7.4%	0.1%	1.8%	3.9%	51.1%	0.1%	1.6%	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	0.5%	28.4%	0.4%	5.6%	0.1%	4.6%	3.6%	55.0%	0.2%	1.5%	0.1%

**Figure 14 – Overall Undergraduate Population by Religious Belief and Academic Year**



## Postgraduates

- The largest proportion of postgraduate students are Christian (33.5%), followed by no religion (33.5%). 11.9% of postgraduates are Muslim (a decrease by 1% compared with 12.9% last year), followed by low proportions of students from other religions.
- 4.6% of postgraduates chose not to provide information on their religion and belief, a decrease from 5.2% last year.

**Figure 15 – Postgraduate Population by Religious Belief and Faculty 2016 to 2017**

	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Info Refused	Jewish	Muslim	Other	No Religion	Sikh	Spiritual	Unknown
Faculty	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FBS	4.1%	37.5%	1.6%	4.6%	0.2%	11.1%	2.9%	35.4%	0.3%	2.1%	0.1%
FCES	0.0%	37.8%	1.6%	6.4%	0.0%	21.8%	2.2%	29.3%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%
FCI	1.1%	16.8%	0.5%	9.5%	0.0%	0.5%	4.7%	61.6%	0.5%	4.7%	0.0%
FLSE	2.0%	41.4%	5.2%	3.6%	0.3%	10.6%	3.3%	30.6%	0.3%	2.6%	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	2.3%	38.5%	3.3%	4.6%	0.2%	11.9%	3.1%	33.5%	0.3%	2.3%	0.1%

## Sex

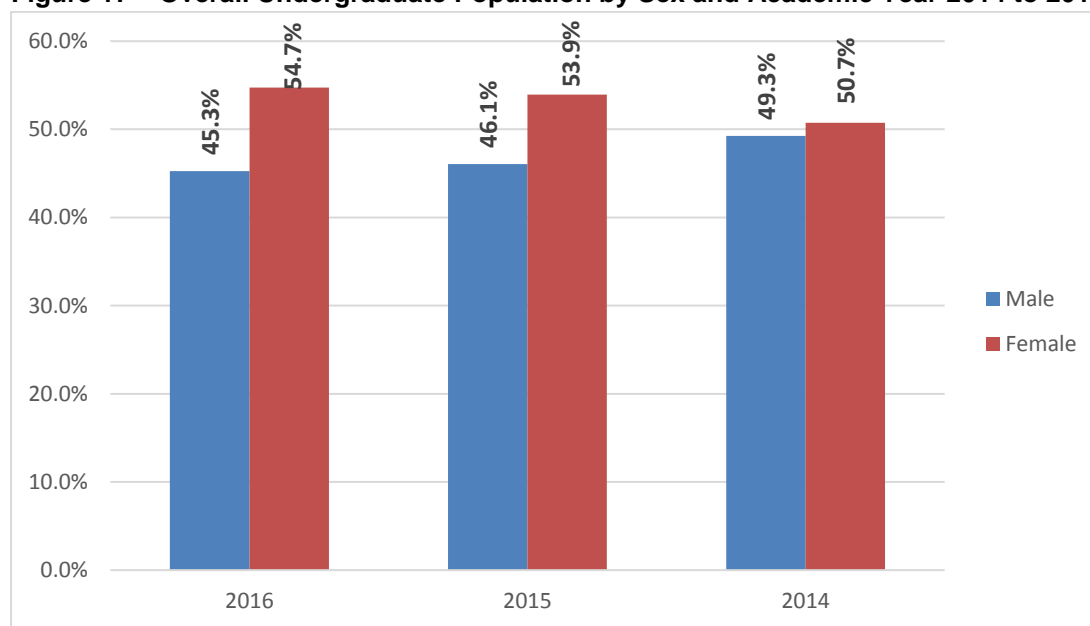
### Undergraduates

- 45.3% of undergraduate students are male, compared with 54.7% female. This is a slight change from last year when 46.1% of undergraduate students were male, compared with 53.9% female. The gender imbalance of students shows an increase in female students and a decrease in male students over the last three years.
- ECU data shows that the gender balance of all students is 56.5% female and 43.5% male. For Wales, it is 54.1% female and 45.9% male (very similar to the USW undergraduate population). For first degree undergraduates, 56% are female, 44% are male. For other undergraduates, 63.9% are female, 36.1% are male. The gender imbalance at USW is therefore less than the average undergraduate UK student population.

**Figure 16 – Undergraduate Population by Sex and Faculty 2016 to 2017**

Faculty Description	Male		Female		Total
	Nos	%	Nos	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	1479	40.3%	2189	59.7%	<b>3668</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	3340	76.3%	1039	23.7%	<b>4379</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	1598	44.5%	1991	55.5%	<b>3589</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	2287	30.1%	5308	69.9%	<b>7595</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8704</b>	<b>45.3%</b>	<b>10527</b>	<b>54.7%</b>	<b>19231</b>

**Figure 17 – Overall Undergraduate Population by Sex and Academic Year 2014 to 2016**





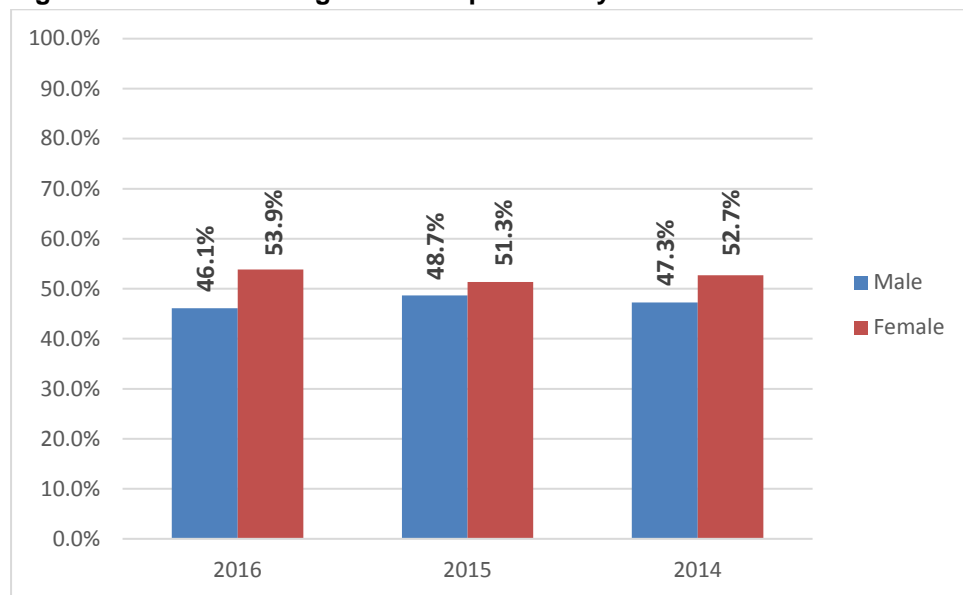
## Postgraduates

- 46.1% are male; 53.9% are female (a slightly higher gender imbalance than the 48.7% male and 51.3% are female postgraduate population the previous year).
- ECU data highlights that for research postgraduates 47.8% are female; 52.2% are male. For taught postgraduates, 59.5% are female and 40.5% are male.

**Figure 18– Postgraduate Population by Sex and Faculty 2016 to 2017**

Faculty Description	Male		Female		Total
	Nos	%	Nos	%	Total Population
Faculty of Business and Society	655	52.1%	602	47.9%	<b>1257</b>
Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Science	432	78.5%	118	21.5%	<b>550</b>
Faculty of Creative Industries	101	53.2%	89	46.8%	<b>190</b>
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education	626	32.4%	1309	67.6%	<b>1935</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1814</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>2118</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>3932</b>

**Figure 19 – Overall Postgraduate Population by Sex and Academic Year 2014 to 2016**



## Sexual Orientation

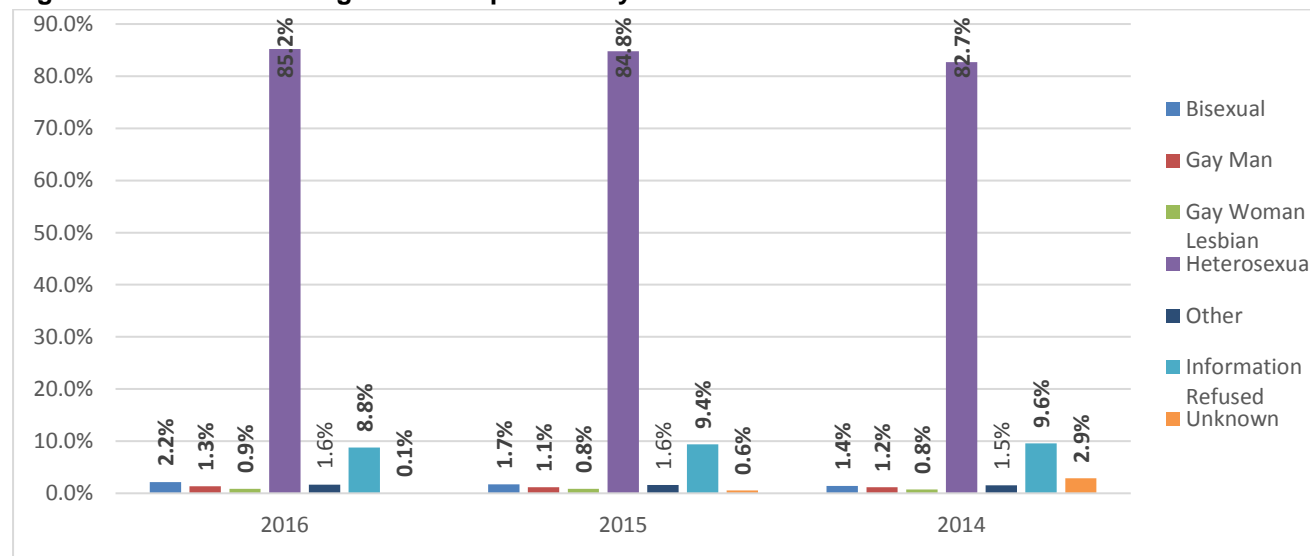
### Undergraduates

- 85.2% (compared with 84.8% last year) of students are heterosexual, with small proportions of undergraduates being other sexual orientations and 8.8% of students choosing not to provide any information (this is a reduction from 9.4% last year).
- LGBT+ students make up 6% of the overall undergraduate population (an increase from 5.2% the previous year).
- ECU data does not differentiate between undergraduate and postgraduate students in relation to gender identity data. For all student data, 47% are heterosexual (compared with 85.2% at USW), 1.2% are bisexual (compared with 2.2% at USW), 0.4% are gay women/lesbian (compared with 0.9% at USW), 0.8% are gay men (compared with 1.3% at USW), 0.9% are other (compared with 1.6% at UISW) and 6.1% chose not to provide information (compared with 8.8% at USW). However, ECU data reveals that 43.7% of students left the sexual orientation field blank, or their institutions do not collect this information, compared with a high disclosure rate at USW where just 8.8% of undergraduates do not provide this information.

Figure 20 – Undergraduate Population by Sexual Orientation and Faculty 2016 to 2017

	Bisexual	Gay Man	Gay Woman / Lesbian	Heterosexual	Other	Information Refused	Unknown
Faculty	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FBS	1.5%	1.1%	0.9%	85.9%	1.6%	9.1%	0.0%
FCES	1.8%	1.1%	0.4%	87.2%	1.6%	7.9%	0.1%
FCI	5.0%	2.6%	1.2%	80.2%	2.3%	8.6%	0.0%
FLSE	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%	86.1%	1.3%	9.2%	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>85.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

Figure 21 – Overall Undergraduate Population by Sexual Orientation



### Postgraduates

- 81.1% of postgraduate students are heterosexual (comparable to 81.4% last year), with small proportions of other sexual orientations and 12.3% of students choosing not to provide any information.
- LGBT+ students are 6.2% of the overall postgraduate population (a marginal increase from 6.1% last year).
- Comparison of data from the last three years shows minimal changes to the sexual orientation of the USW postgraduate population.

Figure 22 – Postgraduate Population by Sexual Orientation and Faculty 2016

	Bisexual	Gay Man	Gay Woman / Lesbian	Heterosexual	Other	Information Refused	Unknown
Faculty	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
FBS	1.0%	2.0%	1.4%	78.2%	2.9%	14.5%	0.1%
FCES	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	75.3%	2.4%	21.3%	0.0%
FCI	2.1%	4.7%	1.6%	75.8%	0.0%	15.8%	0.0%
FLSE	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	85.2%	2.0%	8.7%	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	1.2%	1.6%	1.2%	81.1%	2.2%	12.6%	0.1%

**Figure 23 – Overall Postgraduate Population by Sexual Orientation and Academic Year 2014 to 2016**

