Annex C – OFFA commissioned analysis from HEFCE on Trends in Young Participation by selectivity of institution

Trends in young participation by selectivity of institution

Key points

- This report analyses young participation trends by both background and selectivity of the institution attended.
- There are much greater participation differences by background for the most selective third of institutions than there are for HE as a whole.
- The participation of disadvantaged young people in the most selective institutions is low and has not increased since the mid-1990s.
- The most advantaged 20 per cent of young people are seven times more likely to enter the most selective institutions than the most disadvantaged 40 per cent.
- This ratio has risen from six times more likely in the mid-1990s but has not increased further since the mid-2000s.
- The participation of disadvantaged young people in the less selective two-thirds of institutions has increased, especially so in recent years.
- Young people from all backgrounds now have broadly equal participation rates in the least selective third of institutions.

Summary

Measuring participation trends by selectivity of institution

1. Young participation in higher education as a whole is known to have widened in recent years but how access to different types of institutions has changed has been unclear. This new analysis answers that question by reporting participation trends for young people in England split by both background and the selectivity of institution attended. The analysis looks at entry to English higher education institutions for which trends through time can be reliably measured. These institutions account for the large majority of young entrants and are representative of the key trends for young participation in higher education as a whole.

2. Selectivity – what level of educational attainment is typically required to gain admission – is an important characteristic of institutions in discussions of fair access to higher education. The UCAS tariff system gives a summary measure of educational attainment that covers a wide range of qualifications used in entry to higher education. We classify institutions according to whether their young entrants have, on average, higher tariff, medium tariff or lower tariff scores from their entry qualifications (relative to other institutions). For this analysis, the higher tariff group is taken as the most selective third of institutions and the lower tariff group as the least selective third. These groups are shown to differ in other ways,

for example the bursaries they offer to lower income entrants and the representative bodies they join.

3. The relative participation of advantaged and disadvantaged young people in individual institutions varies widely and is associated with the tariff group that the institution is in. In lower tariff institutions disadvantaged young people typically have only slightly lower participation rates than advantaged young people. For some lower tariff institutions the participation rates of disadvantaged young people are higher than for advantaged young people, up to twice as high for a few institutions. Disadvantaged young people are much less likely to enter higher tariff institutions than advantaged young people, in some cases as much as 15 times less likely.

Large differences by background in entry to selective institutions remain intact

4. There are much greater differences by background for participation in higher tariff institutions than for participation in HE as a whole. The most advantaged 20 per cent have substantially higher participation rates at higher tariff institutions than any other group, including other advantaged groups. Their participation rate in these institutions has increased from the mid-1990s but has been largely unchanged in recent years. The participation rate of the most disadvantaged 40 per cent in these higher tariff institutions is low and has not increased since either the mid-1990s or in more recent years.

5. The relative participation differences between advantaged and disadvantaged young people at higher tariff institutions are large and – unlike participation in HE as a whole – are not reducing. The most advantaged 20 per cent of young people were six times more likely than the most disadvantaged 40 per cent to enter these institutions in the mid-1990s. This ratio has risen to seven times more likely by the mid-2000s but has not increased further in recent years.

At less selective institutions participation by background now broadly equal

6. The participation of the most disadvantaged 40 per cent of young people in medium and lower entry tariff institutions is greater than it is for higher tariff institutions. The participation rate of the most disadvantaged young people in both medium and lower tariff institutions has been increasing, particularly so since the mid-2000s.

7. The differences by background for participation in lower tariff institutions are much smaller than for participation in HE as a whole. These differences have been reducing through time as the participation rates of young people from different backgrounds in lower tariff institutions have converged. In the mid-1990s the most advantaged 20 per cent were around twice as likely to enter these institutions as the most disadvantaged 40 per cent. Today that ratio has fallen to be almost one: young people from advantaged and disadvantage backgrounds have near equal participation rates in lower tariff institutions.

Introduction and outline of analysis

8. The recent study[1] by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) uses a method of measuring young participation rates that can report consistently on trends from the mid-1990s to the present day. It shows that the proportion of young people who enter higher education at ages 18 or 19 ('young participation') differs substantially between advantaged and disadvantaged areas. In the late 2000s, fewer than one in five young people from the most disadvantaged areas entered higher education compared to more than one in two for the most advantaged areas. But these differences would have been larger if it were not for 'substantial and sustained' increases in the participation rate of young people living in the most disadvantaged areas in recent years. Over five cohorts from the mid-2000s the chances of the most disadvantaged young people entering higher education increased (proportionally) by around +30 per cent.

9. The HEFCE analysis uses a single participation measure that covers entrants to all types of higher education. It does not report on participation trends for different types of institution – a particular concern for 'fair access' discussions – and whether they differ from the picture for participation in HE as a whole. The institutional-level Performance Indicator statistics[2] show that there is differential access by background across institutions but, being based only on entrants, they cannot report on trends in participation rates.

10. The new analysis[3] reported here answers the 'fair access' question of how trends in participation for different types of institutions have changed. It extends the methods of young participation measurement used in the HEFCE report to analyse young participation rates in different types of institutions. The modifications to the young participation method required for this, and the effect they have, are described in paragraphs 11 to 15. To reflect the dominant issues in 'fair access' we classify institutions by their 'selectivity'. We measure this through the average tariff points from all the entry qualifications of their young entrants. How institutions are classified into higher, medium and lower average entry tariff groups, and the nature of those groups, is set out in paragraphs 16 to 21. The patterns of participation by young people from different backgrounds in each of these selectivity groupings are described in paragraphs 22 to 26. Detailed participation trends for both advantaged and disadvantaged young people by the selectivity groups are reported in paragraphs 27 to 34.

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[1] HEFCE 2010, 'Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England', HEFCE 2010/03, Higher Education Funding Council for England. Report available at www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03.

[2] Reported by HESA (www.hesa.ac.uk).

[3] This analysis was undertaken at the request of OFFA by Dr Mark Corver at HEFCE. OFFA is responsible for the scope and content of this work.

Measuring young participation trends by institutional groups

11. The key to a secure analysis of participation trends by institutional groups is to ensure that the calculated trends reflect real changes in the proportion of young people who attend these institutions, and not the many other changes in institutional-level data and structures that occur over long periods. To achieve this consistency, and to match the remit of OFFA for English institutions, the young participation measure used in the HEFCE report is modified in a number of ways for this analysis[4], listed below.

i. Include HE at English HEIs only. We remove participation in HE provided outside of England (to reflect OFFA's remit) or at Further Education Colleges (to help consistency over the period).

ii. Include full-time HE only. This aids the institutional-level estimates using UCAS[5] data.

iii. Exclude indirectly funded HE ('franchised provision') and certain types of nursing students. This aids the institutional-level estimates using UCAS data and avoids the distortion of trends by changes in the extent of indirectly funded activity.

iv. Exclude those institutions that are not fully present and identifiable in both the HESA and the UCAS data over the analysis time period. This can be a consequence of institutions not being present in the HESA student record for the whole period, certain types of mergers or de-mergers, not using UCAS as the primary admission route or not consenting to the use of their UCAS data for this type of analysis.

v. Exclude the first cohort (94:95). This cohort draws on the first year, 1994-95, of the HESA student record which has some institutional-specific data coverage issues. These can be reliably overcome for national-level reporting but would risk introducing excessive uncertainly at the institutional level.

12. Applying these restrictions means that we can be sure that we are looking at the same 'institutional entities' (that is, allowing for any mergers, etc or different representations in different data sets) through time. They also allow us to reliably draw upon UCAS HE

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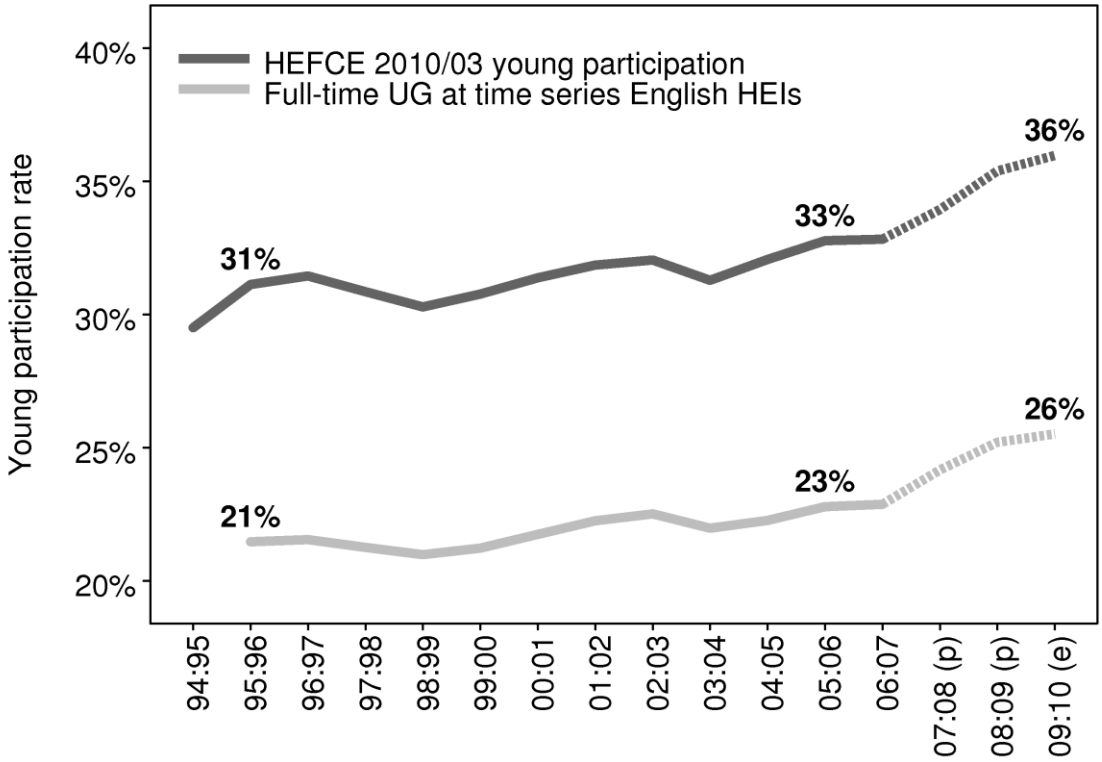
[4] This modified analysis draws upon data sets provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency and UCAS. Additional data resources used are the Office for National Statistics National Statistics Postcode Directory and 2001 Census: Standard Area Statistics (England and Wales). Census output is Crown copyright and is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO and the Queen's Printer for Scotland.

[5] UCAS is the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK and – under an agreement for collaboration for research and analysis purposes – provides HEFCE with data on higher education applications and acceptances. For more information on UCAS see **www.ucas.com**. OFFA is grateful to UCAS for their assistance in this work.

admissions data, extending the participation sequence where the student record data is not yet fully available[6].

13. These restrictions mean that the time series HEI young participation measure includes fewer entrants, making it around 10 percentage points lower (for England as a whole) that the HEFCE 2010/03 full young participation measure. However, the time series HEI measure does represent the large majority of overall young participation and, importantly, shows the same key trends as the full measure. In particular, it faithfully reflects the profile of increases in participation for England as whole (Figure 1), disadvantaged areas (Figure 2) and advantaged areas (Figure 3). This encapsulation of the key full measure trends within the time series HEI subset gives confidence that the findings in this analysis can be taken as reflecting key features of young participation as a whole.

Figure 1 Young participation for England, comparison of HEFCE 2010/03 measure and the time series English HEIs measure



[6] UCAS data is used in part or full to help estimate the participation rates for the 07:08, 08:09 and 09:10 cohorts, see paragraph 40 in HEFCE 2010/03. All parts of the participation trend that rely on UCAS-based estimates are shown with dashed lines.

Figure 2 Young participation for areas with the lowest proportions of children with graduate parents, comparison of HEFCE 2010/03 measure with the time series English HEIs measure

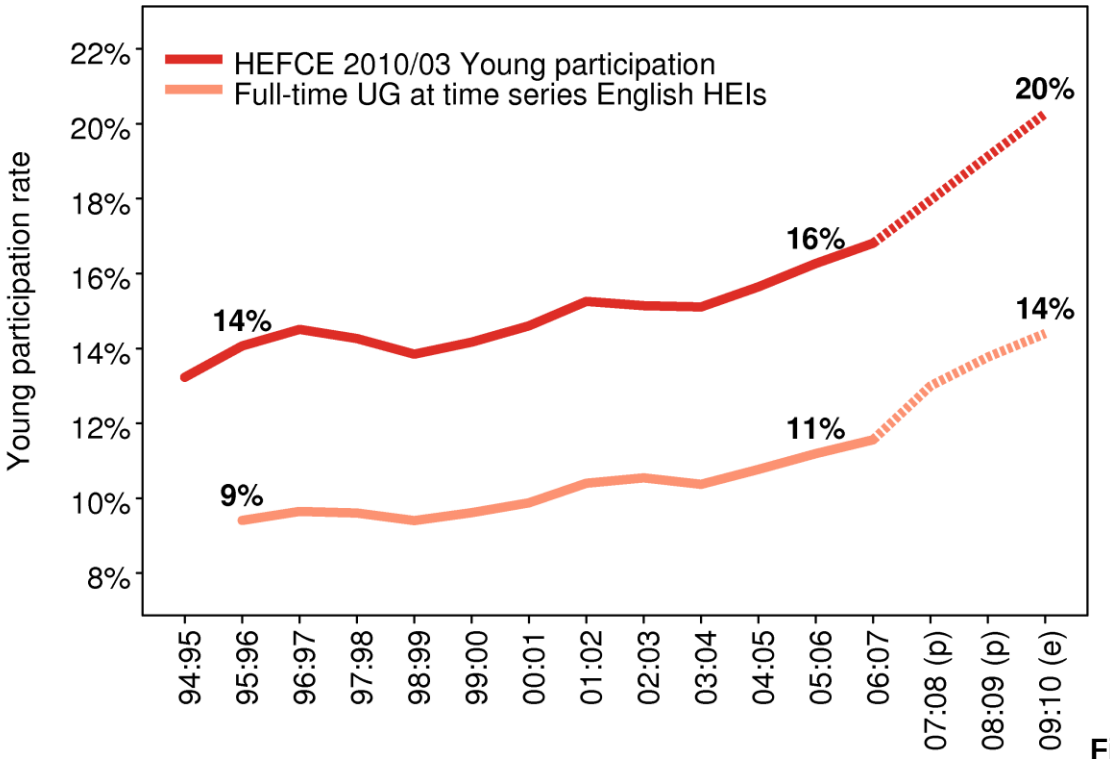
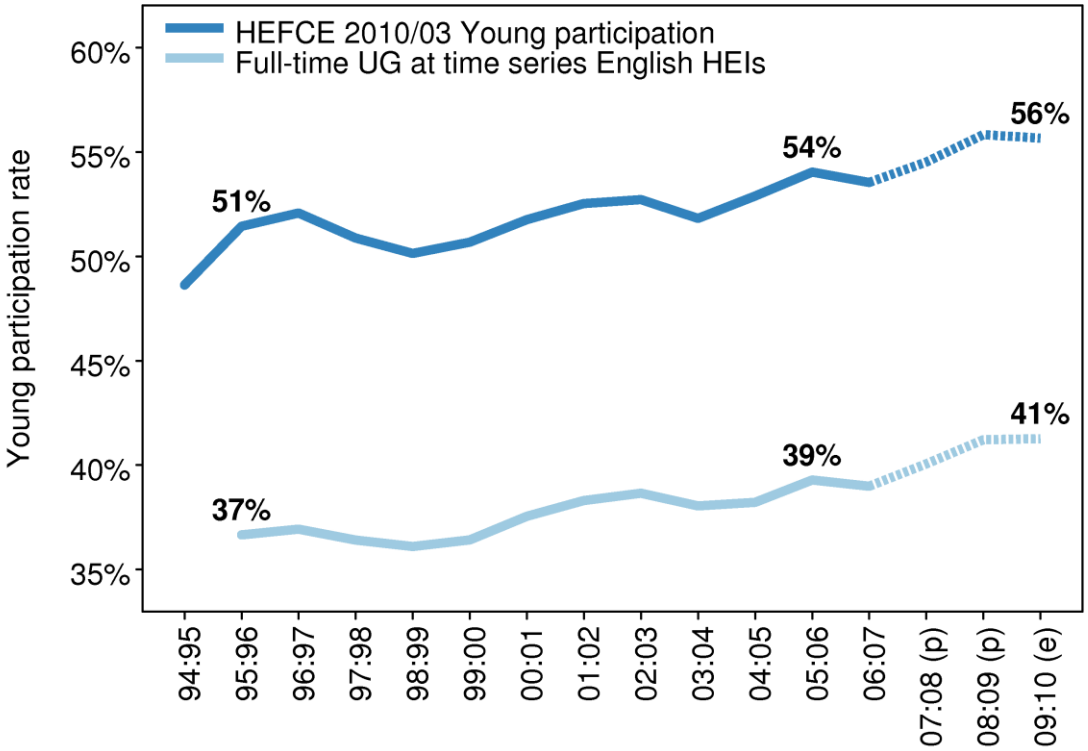


Figure 3 Young participation for areas with the highest proportions of children with graduate parents, comparison of HEFCE 2010/03 measure with the time series English HEIs measure



Defining advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds

14. We identify the different backgrounds of young people by using area-based groups. The reasons for this approach are set out in HEFCE 2010/03 (paragraphs 46 to 49). The HEFCE report used a number of different area-based classifications and found that the key participation trends by background were common across these different classifications. In this analysis we use the area classification based on the level of parental education (HEFCE 2010/03, paragraphs 58 to 60) to identify advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds. We use this classification because it is almost as strongly discriminating of young participation rates as using participation rates themselves but avoids the difficulty of making institutional-level adjustments to the measured rates (HEFCE 2010/03, paragraph 51).

15. There are five (equal population) levels of this parental education classification. The most disadvantaged 20 per cent, those areas where children are least likely to have a HE qualified parent, are identified as quintile one ('Q1') and the most advantaged 20 per cent (where children are most likely to have graduate parents) are identified as quintile five ('Q5'). The 2001 Census records that 10 per cent of children in Q1 areas had a HE-qualified parent, compared to 48 per cent in Q5 areas.

Grouping institutions by selectivity

16. One way of grouping institutions that is relevant to fair access discussions is by the typical level of entry qualifications that their young entrants have. The UCAS tariff system[7] gives a summary measure of attainment relevant to entry to HE that covers a wide range of entry qualifications. We calculate the average tariff score for each institution based on English domiciled 18 year old acceptances from the 2007 and 2008 UCAS entry cycles where a tariff point total is recorded[8].

17. We use the institutional-level averages to rank institutions into three broad entry tariff groups. These are, Figure 4, lower entry tariff institutions (average less than 260 points), medium entry tariff institutions (average 260 or more but less than 375 points) and higher entry tariff institutions (375 tariff points or more). The groups are defined to be roughly equal in terms of young entrants (50,000 to 60,000 by the end of the period) – so that the total time series HEI young participation rate in each group is comparable – but represent different

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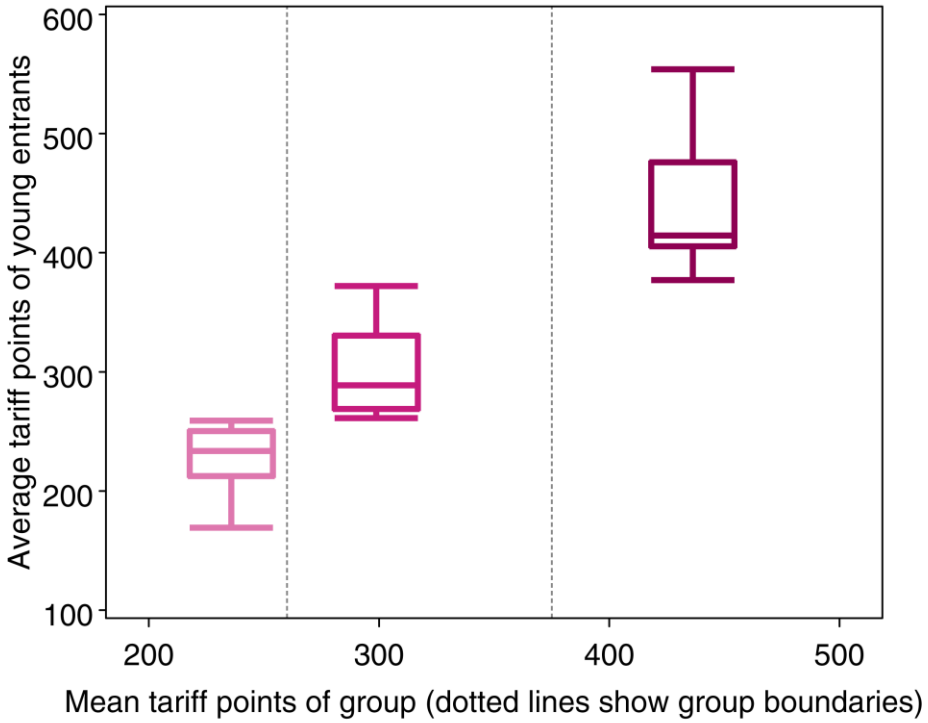
[7] The tariff system is described at www.ucas.ac.uk/students/ucas_tariff. The range of qualifications covered by the tariff system has changed through time and not all qualifications are covered. Most of the young entrants covered by this analysis will be presenting with GCE A levels where an 'A' grade contributes 120 tariff points to the overall tariff score.

[8] 18 year old acceptances are used to reduce complications from qualifications being combined that have been taken at different times. The large majority (93 per cent) of this group of acceptances have tariff points recorded, though this can fall to around two-thirds for some institutions (this only affects the calculation of the average tariff points, not the participation rates). There is a strong relationship between the proportion of 'missing' tariff acceptances and the mean tariff points of non-missing acceptances. Accepted applicants holding qualifications that are not assigned a tariff point value are unlikely to be materially affecting the relative ordering of institutions by entry qualifications.

numbers of institutions[9]. The tariff point thresholds used are arbitrary in that they are those dictated by wanting equal sized institutional groups; they are not based on any judgement of a significant tariff point threshold. There will be variations in average entry tariff within institutions, and the relationship between offer level (which may be a truer measure of selectivity but, due to their diverse specification, are difficult to analyse) and the observed entry qualifications may differ across institutions (or courses). Nevertheless, the institutional groups formed do represent real differences in the attainment levels required to gain admission, and they differentiate institutions in a way that reflects many 'fair access' discussions.

Figure 4 Distribution of entry tariff averages for institutions by entry tariff group

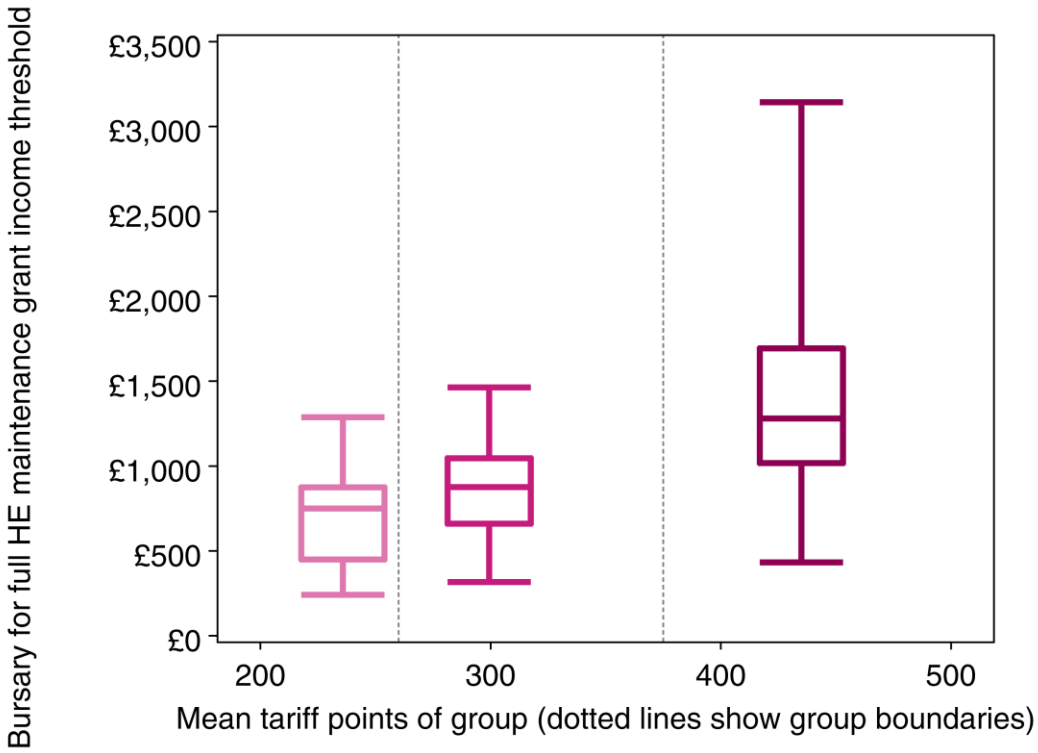


Note: The box encompasses the central 50 per cent of institutions (the middle line locates the median). The tails extend to the minimum and maximum values. The distribution shown is defined by the number of institutions (rather than the number of entrants).

[9] There are 23 institutions in the higher tariff group, 30 in the medium tariff group and 34 in the lower tariff group. These counts represent the institution entities for academic year 2009-10 (mergers can result in the counts varying for other years).

18. Figure 5 shows the distribution of average bursary levels for institutions within each entry tariff group. Institutions set their bursary schemes to meet their own objectives, leading to a range of support and threshold systems across institutions. For this analysis we use the level of bursary support that a student at the upper income threshold for the full HE maintenance grant would receive. This is averaged over schemes covering the academic years 2006-07 to 2009-10[10]. There is a range of bursary levels within each group but, in general, bursary levels increase with institutional entry tariff averages. In particular, three quarters of the higher entry tariff institutions offered average bursaries of over £1,000 compared to less than a quarter of the lower entry tariff institutions.

Figure 5 Distribution of average bursary levels (at the full HE maintenance grant threshold) for institutions by entry tariff group



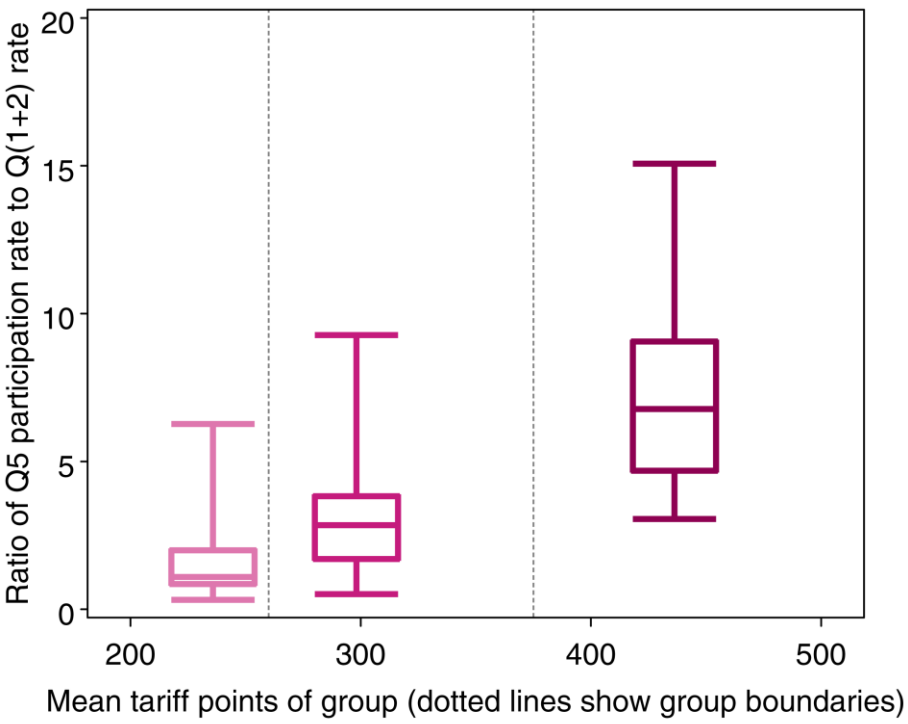
Note: The box encompasses the central 50 per cent of institutions (the middle line locates the median). The tails extend to the minimum and maximum values. The distribution shown is defined by the number of institutions (rather than the number of entrants). Bursary information is an average over any schemes for 2006-07 to 2009-10.

[10] The average is calculated over years where the institution reported a bursary scheme. This includes any guaranteed bursary at this income threshold where there is not a statutory obligation to do so but excludes any bursary conditional on, for example, academic merit. These data are obtained from OFFA's statistical databases.

19. A simple measure of the pattern of young participation in an institution is the ratio of the participation rate of young people from the most advantaged 20 per cent to that of young people from the most disadvantaged 40 per cent of neighbourhoods. For participation in the time-series HEIs overall this ratio has averaged 2.6 in recent years (combined 06:07 to 09:10 cohorts) but there is a wide variation across institutions.

20. Figure 6 reports the distribution of this ratio for institutions within the three tariff groups. There is a strong differentiation of this ratio across the groups. Three-quarters of the institutions in the lower entry tariff group have a ratio below two, with a substantial minority having a ratio below one, and the lowest ratios at 0.5 or less. This means that although young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have substantially lower participation rates overall they are actually more likely than those from advantaged backgrounds to enter particular lower tariff institutions, sometimes twice as likely. This does not happen at higher tariff institutions where the ratio is always above 3.0. Three-quarters of the higher entry tariff institutions have a ratio of five or above, with a substantial minority recording much higher ratios, ranging up to institutions where the most advantaged young people are 15 times more likely to enter than disadvantaged young people.

Figure 6 Distribution of the ratio of the participation rate of Q5 against that of the combined Q1 and Q2 quintiles for institutions by entry tariff group

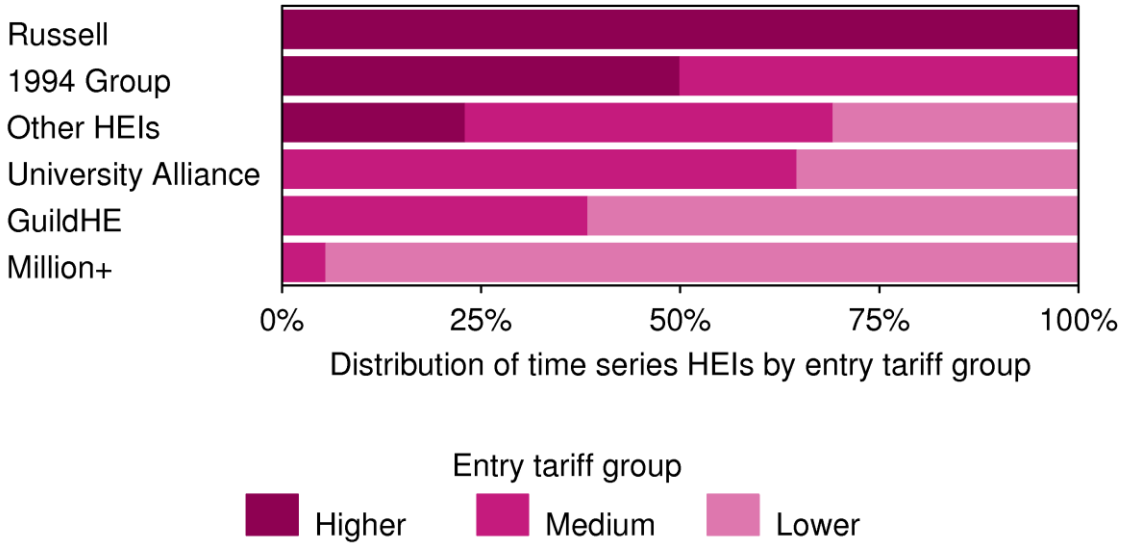


Note: The box covers the first and third quartiles (the line locates the median). The tails extend to the minimum and maximum values. The distribution is by number of institutions. The participation ratio is calculated from the combined 06:07, 07:08, 08:09 and 09:10 cohorts.

21. The different nature of HEIs across the three entry tariff groupings is also reflected in the representative bodies that they are members of. Figure 7 shows the distribution of time series HEIs that are also members of selected representative bodies across the three entry

tariff groups. There is a strong pattern across the representative bodies: for example, those time-series HEIs in the Russell Group are all in the higher entry tariff grouping.

Figure 7 Distribution of representative body membership across entry tariff groups (for time series HEIs).

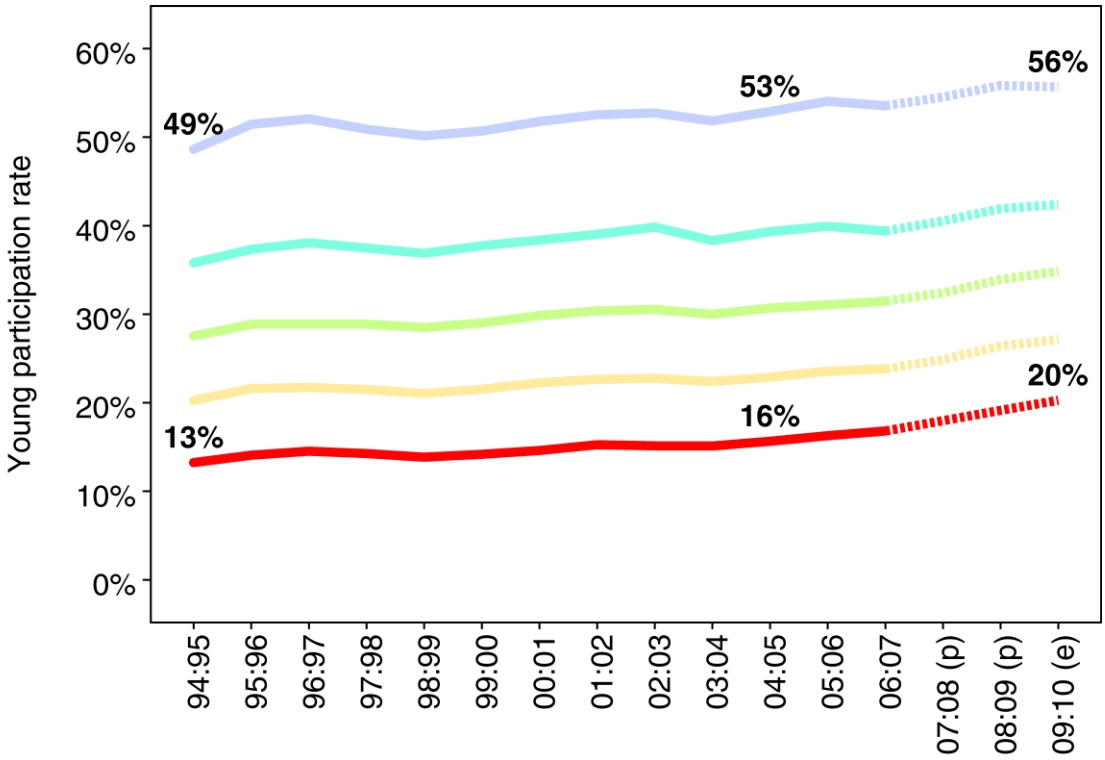


Note: Distribution of institutions. Institutions may belong to more than one representative bodies. 'Other HEIs' covers institutions not in any of listed representative bodies.

Young participation by background and selectivity

22. The full measure of young participation used in the HEFCE 2010/03 report demonstrated large differences in participation rates across the parental-education defined area backgrounds (reproduced in Figure 8). For the 09:10 cohort 56 per cent of young people from the most advantaged areas entered HE compared to 20 per cent in the most disadvantaged areas.

Figure 8 Trends in young participation for areas grouped by the proportion of children with graduate parents (from HEFCE 2010/03, Figure 19)



23. The following figures also report the participation rates by the same parental-education based classification of areas. But, instead of reporting the overall young participation rate, they consider – in turn– just young participation at higher tariff (Figure 9), medium tariff (Figure 10) and lower tariff (Figure 11) time series HEI groups[11].

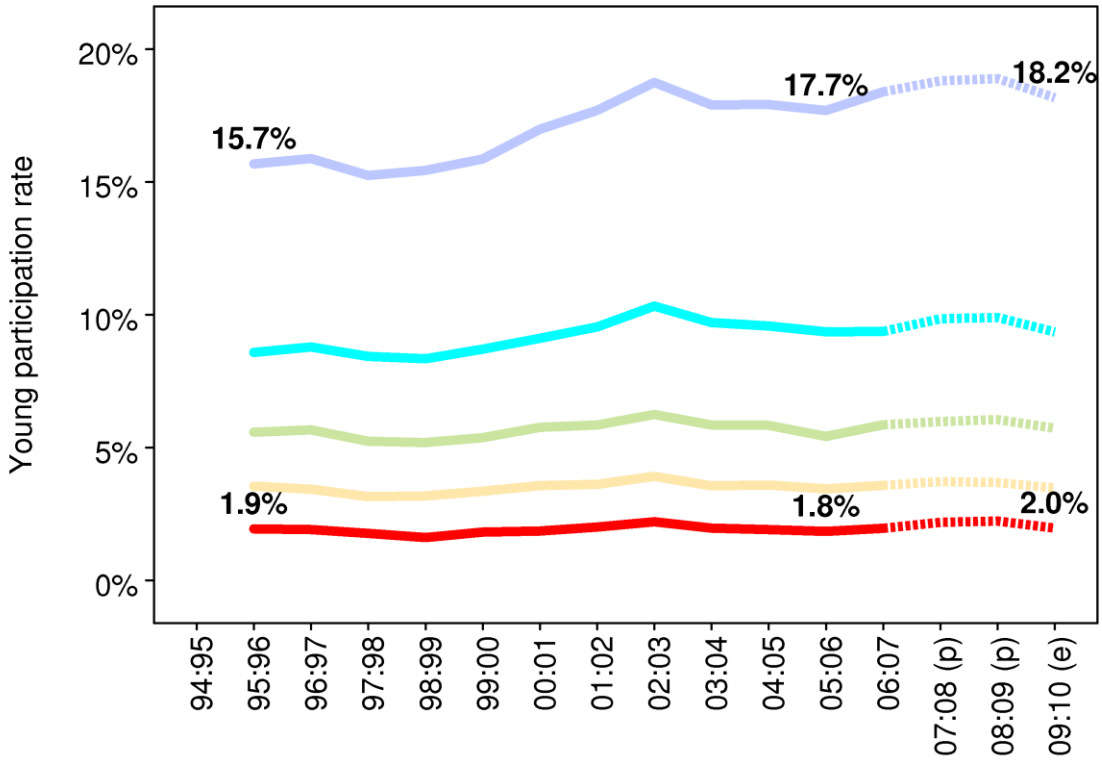
24. In these figures the participation rates are reported to the nearest 0.1 percentage point: with some rates being very small (for example, less than two per cent of most disadvantaged enter higher tariff institutions) rounding to the nearest percentage point risks concealing important detail. Reporting participation rates for institutional groups, rather than individual institutions, helps reduce the random year to year variability in the rates (resulting from the small numbers of entrants from particular backgrounds to particular institutions). However the expected random year to year variation is still appreciable. As a guide, where the participation rate propensity for young people from a background quintile is low, less than 4 per cent for example, then the observed participation rate can fluctuate by at least +/- 0.1

[11] The time series measure does not extend to the 94:95 cohort for the reasons given in paragraph 11. The 94:95 marker on the cohort axis is retained as a reminder of this for comparison against the trends in the HEFCE report (which do include this cohort).

percentage points around that value through random variation alone[12]. Where the rate for a quintile is higher, around 20 per cent say, this range becomes at least +/- 0.2 percentage points.

25. Young participation in higher tariff institutions (Figure 9) shows much larger proportional differences across area backgrounds than was found for young participation in all HE. In the most disadvantaged areas only around 2 per cent, 1 in 50, of young people enter HE in this higher tariff third of English HEIs, and that participation rate has not changed materially over the period. Young people living in the most advantaged areas have much higher participation rates, around 18 per cent, just under 1 in 5, and this has risen slightly since the mid-1990s (though mostly prior to the 03:04 cohort). There is a notably large gap in the higher tariff institution participation rate between the most advantaged quintile of young people and the rest of the population: young people living in Q5 areas are around twice as likely to enter higher tariff institutions as those from even the second most advantaged – Q4 – quintile of areas.

Figure 9 Trends in young participation in higher tariff time series HEIs for areas grouped by the proportion of children with graduate parents



26. The trend, and relative participation rates, in medium tariff institutions (Figure 10) are closer to that of participation in HE as a whole, but with young people from all backgrounds showing a clearer increasing participation trend in the 2000s. The pattern and trend of participation in lower tariff institutions (Figure 11) is very different from that for HE as a whole. In the mid-1990s differences in participation rates in lower tariff institutions by background were much lower than for HE as a whole: young people from the most advantaged

[12] Based on a binomial distribution of entrants and the annual cohort sizes in the analysis period. The range indicated would be expected to cover at least 9 out of 10 observed rates. In practice other factors would act to increase this range.

backgrounds were only twice as likely to enter this type of institution as those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. Over the next decade this difference diminished as the participation rate of advantaged young people in lower tariff institutions decreased and that of the disadvantaged increased. Through the late 2000s the participation rate in lower tariff institutions of young people from all area backgrounds has increased, with the most rapid increase being for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The estimates for the 09:10 cohort indicate that the participation rates in lower tariff institutions by background have almost converged. Young people from very different area backgrounds now have a near equal chance of entering this type of HE. Consequently the composition of entrants to HEIs in this group is very close to that of the young population as a whole.

Figure 10 Trends in young participation in medium tariff time series HEIs for areas grouped by the proportion of children with graduate parents

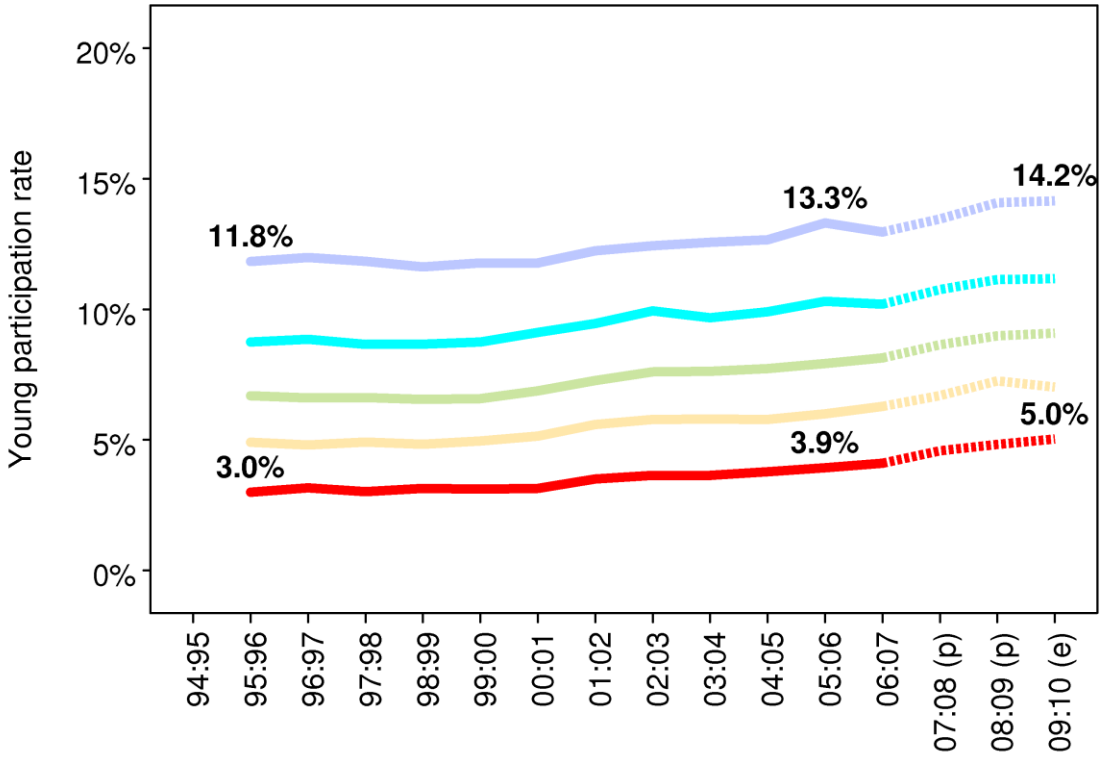
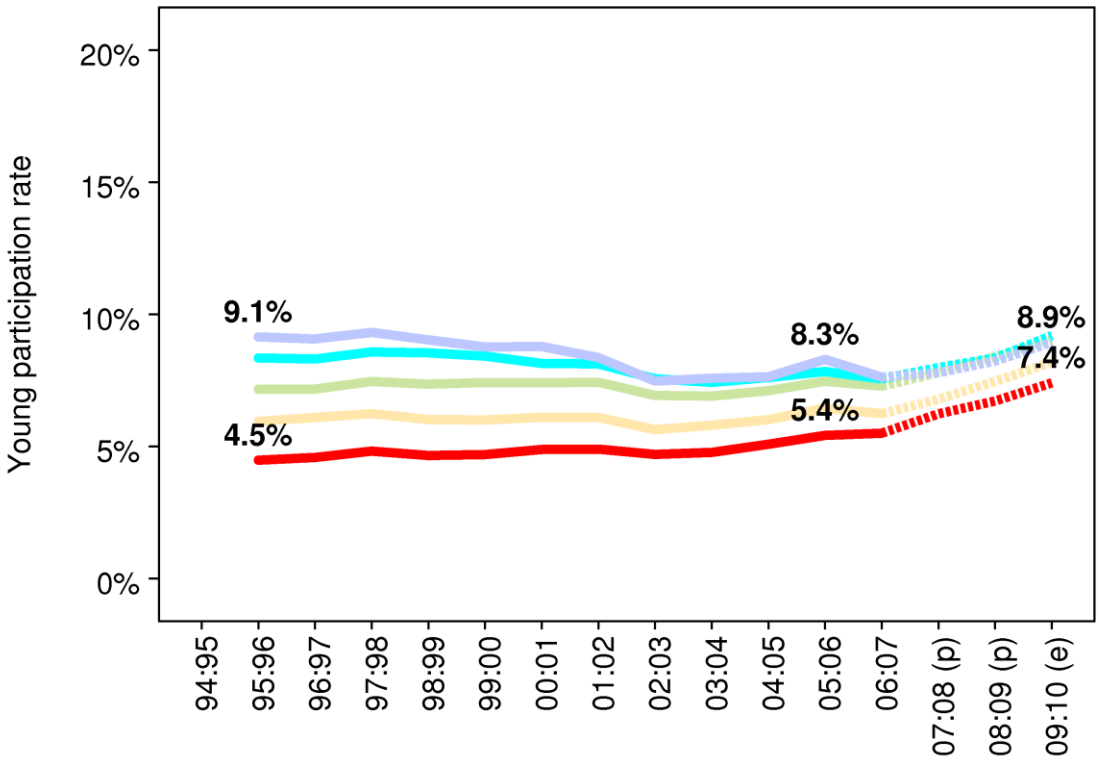


Figure 11 Trends in young participation in lower tariff time series HEIs for areas grouped by the proportion of children with graduate parents

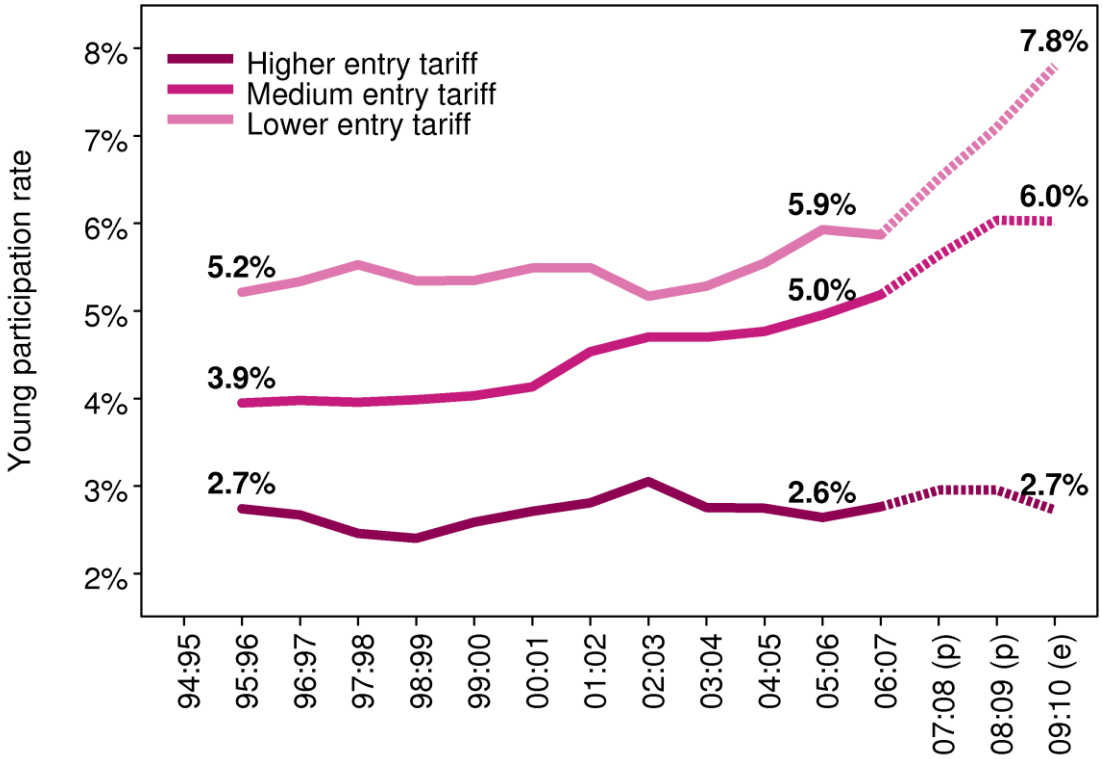


Trends in young participation by background and selectivity

27. The range of participation rates between advantaged and disadvantaged areas is often so large it can be difficult to assess trends when the rates for all backgrounds are shown together. The following figures look more closely at the participation trends of the most disadvantaged and advantaged young people in the entry tariff institutional groups.

28. The analysis by background showed that the participation rate of the most disadvantaged quintile in the higher tariff institutions is low. The resulting small entrant counts lead to proportionally high random variation from cohort to cohort. To limit this when looking at the participation trends in detail, and to reflect the fact that Q2 has similarly low rates and typically the same trend at higher tariff institutions, we aggregate the Q1 and Q2 background groups. This aggregation creates a broader disadvantaged group, (similar in size to the group used in HEFCE widening participation funding calculations) that represents around 40 per cent of young people in England. We retain the Q5 group as the most advantaged 20 per cent of young people as this group shows some distinctly different patterns.

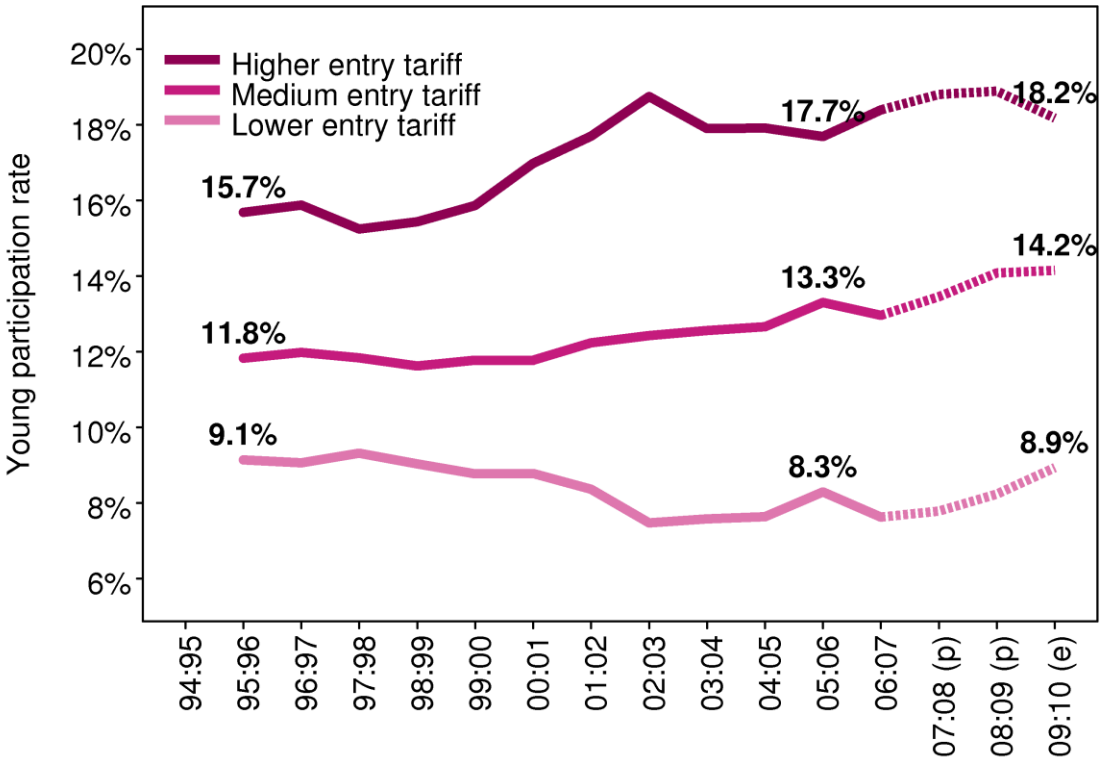
Figure 12 Participation rates of disadvantaged young people (Q1 and Q2) in entry tariff institution groups



29. Figure 12 shows the young participation rate of the most disadvantaged 40 per cent (the aggregated Q1 and Q2 area groups) of young people in each of the three entry tariff groupings of institutions. The participation rate in higher tariff institutions is low at 2.7 per cent and no higher at the end of the 2000s than it was in the mid-1990s. Young people in these disadvantaged areas are much more likely to enter medium or lower tariff institutions than higher tariff institutions. The participation rates in these lower and middle tariff institutions have increased over the period from 5.2 per cent to 7.8 per cent and 3.9 per cent to 6.0 per

cent respectively. Participation rates in lower tariff institutions have risen especially strongly, from 5.9 per cent to 7.8 per cent, across the five cohorts from the mid-2000s.

Figure 13 Participation rates of advantaged young people (Q5) in entry tariff institution groups



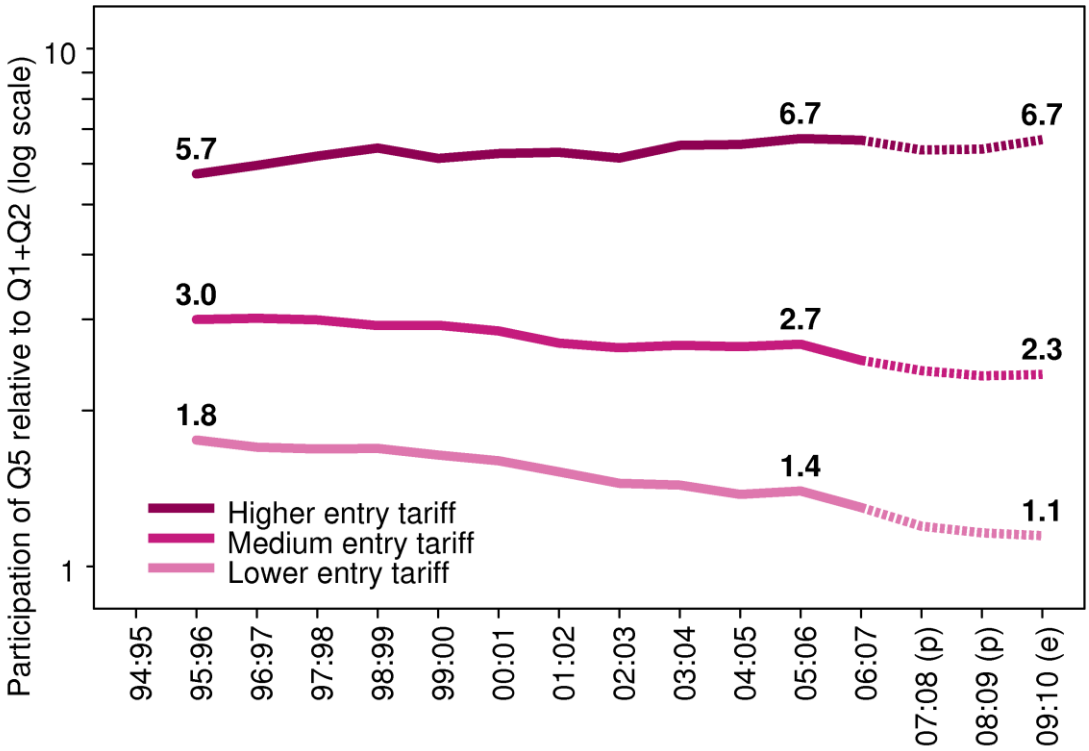
30. The participation patterns for young people living in the most educationally advantaged 20 per cent of areas (Figure 13) are different in several respects. Firstly, the participation rates in all the institutional groups are higher than is the case for the disadvantaged areas. Within this pattern of higher participation rates overall, the relative participation importance of the three entry tariff groups is reversed compared to that seen for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The participation rate of young people living in the most advantaged areas is highest in higher tariff institutions (around 18 per cent), then medium tariff institutions (around 14 per cent) followed by the lower tariff institutions (around 9 per cent). The combination of higher overall participation and the inversion of the relative importance of the entry tariff groups leads to the difference in participation rates by background being most pronounced for the higher tariff institutions. Around 18 per cent of young people from the most advantaged areas enter one of these higher tariff institutions compared to less than 3 per cent of young people from the disadvantaged Q1 and Q2 groups.

31. The trends in participation for advantaged young people also differ from their disadvantaged peers. Young people from the most advantaged areas are more likely to participate in a higher tariff institution now than in the mid-1990s, compared to no change for young people from the disadvantaged areas. Participation rates in medium tariff institutions have also been increasing, but the concentration of increases in the later part of the period that was seen for disadvantaged young people is less evident. In clear contrast to the rapid increases in participation in lower tariff institutions seen for disadvantaged areas, the trend

for the most advantaged young people is flat overall, with recent small rises offsetting small declines that occurred between the mid-1990s and the mid-2000s.

32. Figure 14 plots the relative participation rate in each tariff group of young people from the most advantaged areas compared to those from the disadvantaged Q1 and Q2 areas; that is, for each cohort how much more likely to enter that group of institutions are the most advantaged 20 per cent of young people compared to the most disadvantaged 40 per cent of young people. This relative measure focuses on changes in the composition of entrants to the institutional groups and is not affected by changes in the overall – or institutional group – young participation rate. Figure 14 shows this ratio on a logarithmic scale so that similar proportional falls in this statistic result in similar visual travel along the vertical axis.

Figure 14 Participation rate of Q5 young people relative to that of Q1 and Q2 combined, by entry tariff group



33. Figure 14 summarises the different patterns and trends in participation in the entry tariff groups that this analysis has found. The substantial increases in the participation rate of the most disadvantaged in lower tariff institutions, combined with a near-static pattern for the most advantaged, has caused the relative participation advantage of most advantaged in lower tariff institutions to fall from an already low 1.8 in the mid-1990s to 1.1 for the 09:10 cohort. Participation in lower tariff institutions has always shown smaller differences by background than HE as a whole, and the increases in participation by the disadvantaged in recent years has created a situation of near-equal access by background to lower tariff institutions.

34. The relative participation advantage of the most advantaged has also declined for participation in the medium tariff institutions. It has fallen from 3.0 in the mid-1990s to 2.3 today, a result of the more rapid (proportional) increase in the participation rate in medium

tariff institutions by those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The trends for relative participation in the higher tariff institutions show a different pattern from the other two tariff groups. Relative differences in participation in higher tariff institutions between advantaged and disadvantaged young people are high and, in contrast to the declines for the other institutional groups, show a trend of increasing relative differences. Between the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s the ratio of advantaged to disadvantaged participation at higher tariff institutions increased from 5.7 to 6.7. Since the mid-2000s there has been no further increase in this ratio.