

KEY THEMES 17/18

- **APEL AUDIT**
- **RETENTION**

APEL audit

1. Review of APEL policies
2. Audit of APEL admissions to Foundation Degrees 16/17

Summary

Total no of courses audited	Low tariff/ unapproved APEL	Total missing details	Total EU/International applicants
88	100	128	4

Actions

- Full compliance with Regional Policy
- No admissions without following procedure
- No offers made until SPM has endorsed offer based on full portfolio & documentation
- Process must be completed by start of semester
- No retrospective approval permitted
- All EU/ International applicants to be referred to SPMs

RETENTION

student attrition

- The number of individuals who leave a programme of study before it has finished.
- Attrition, or non-continuation, is measured by the [Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\)](#). They use attrition rates as a performance indicator of higher education providers.

student retention

- The proportion of students who complete their programme of study and achieve their qualification.

First year retention rates: top 20 UK institutions

Data
from
15/16:
top 20

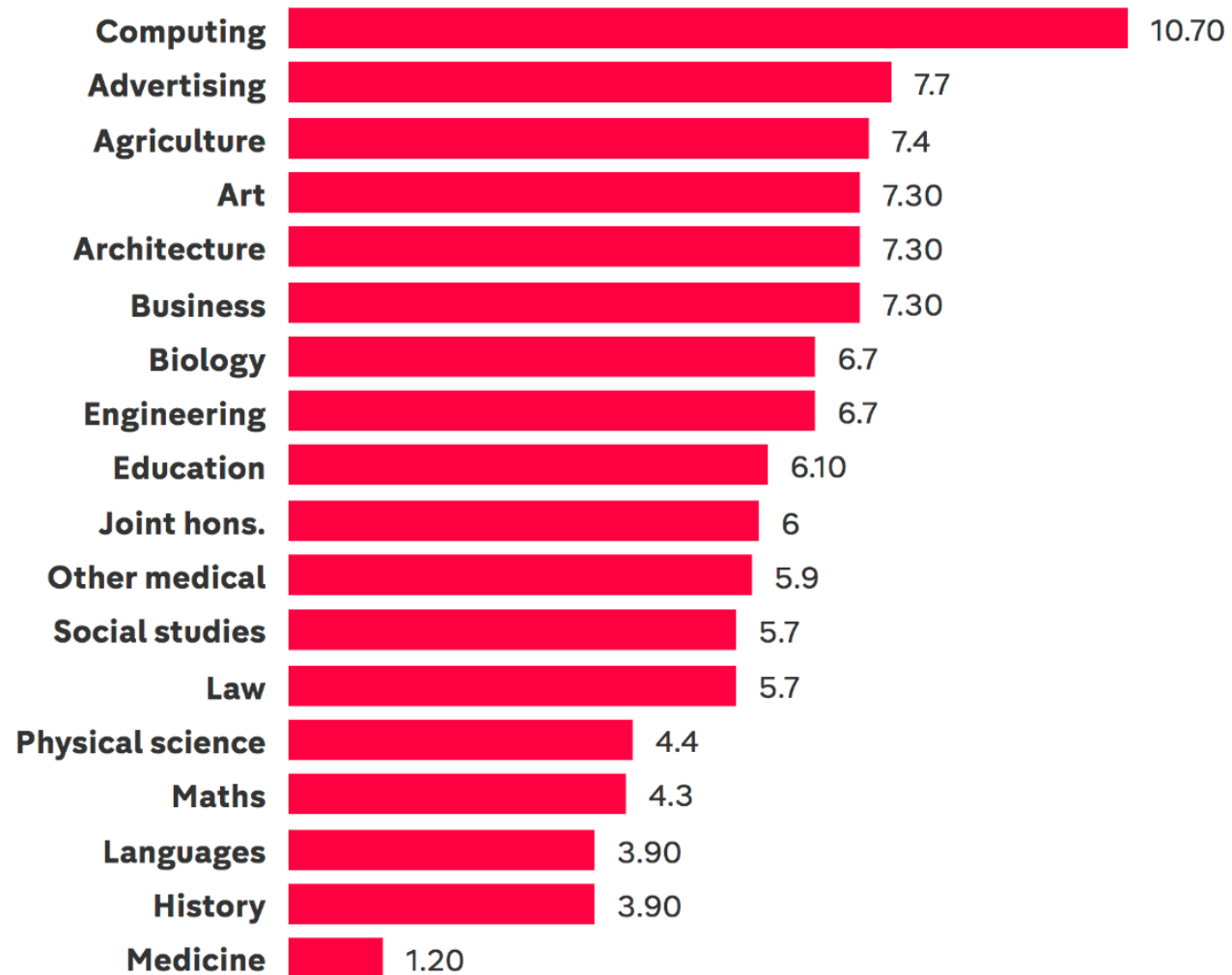
First year retention ranking	Institution	Percentage who continue at same university	Percentage who transfer to other universities	Percentage who leave higher education
1	The University of Cambridge	98.3	0.7	1
2	Royal Academy of Music	98.2	0	1.8
3	The University of Oxford	98.1	0.6	1.3
4	Royal College of Music	97.4	0	2.6
5	Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	97.1	0.5	2.4
6	St George's, University of London	96.9	1	2.1
7	The Royal Veterinary College	96.4	0.7	2.9
8	The University of St Andrews	96.3	1.1	2.6
9	University of Durham	96.1	1	2.8
10	The University of Bath	95.9	1.4	2.7
11	The University of Bristol	95.8	1.5	2.8
12	Glasgow School of Art	95.8	0.7	3.5
13	The University of Exeter	95.7	1.6	2.7
14	The University of Southampton	95.5	1.5	3
15	The University of Sheffield	95.4	2	2.6
16	The University of Birmingham	95.2	1.5	3.3
17	London School of Economics and Political Science	95.2	1.9	2.9
18	Royal Agricultural University	95.2	1.6	3.2
19	Loughborough University	95.1	2	2.9
20	University of Nottingham	95.1	1.5	3.4

Bottom 20

First year retention ranking	Institution	Percentage who continue at same university	Percentage who transfer to other universities	Percentage who leave higher education
138	The University of Sunderland	85.1	1.1	13.8
139	The University of Wolverhampton	85.1	2.1	12.8
140	The University of Central Lancashire	84.8	2.9	12.2
141	Leeds Beckett University	84.8	3.1	12.1
142	Plymouth College of Art	84.8	2.1	13.1
143	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	84.4	1.9	13.7
144	University of Suffolk	84.2	1.9	13.8
145	Middlesex University	83.9	2.9	13.2
146	Glyndŵr University	83.7	1.7	14.6
147	Anglia Ruskin University	83.5	2.9	13.6
148	London South Bank University	83.4	4.1	12.4
149	University of Bedfordshire	83.3	3.5	13.2
150	Staffordshire University	83.2	3.7	13.1
151	The University of the West of Scotland	83	1.6	15.4
152	Writtle University College	82.6	3.6	13.8
153	SRUC	82.3	3	14.7
154	Heythrop College	82.1	6.3	11.6
155	City, University of London	81.6	7.1	11.3
156	Birkbeck College	78.4	3.1	18.5
157	The University of Bolton	77.4	6.8	15.8
158	London Metropolitan University	74.7	7	18.3

What
about
the
course?

Percentage of first year dropouts by subject



SOURCE: HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS AGENCY

- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to drop out of university
- Mature students are more likely to drop out before their second year

Why it matters...

- Students who drop out are costly in terms of funding
- TEF: non-continuation rates as metric
- Non-continuation wastes resources and public money
- Non-continuation may be avoidable
- Non-continuation may be reflection of overall quality of student experience
- Non-continuation may be a damaging experience for the student
- Funding regimes and league tables take it into account

Agreed benchmarks: Attrition

- Attrition:
 - Foundation degrees:
10%
 - Access to HE diplomas:
20%
 - Review June & August
 - 2Y3S
 - % attrition= (Early Leavers + Non Returners + Fails)/ Total

Agreed benchmarks: Success

- 2 measures, reviewed twice, all about engagement
 - Success 1:
 - All students who engaged with the course
 - Success 2:
 - All students who enrolled, irrespective of whether they engaged
- Success 1:
 - All students who engaged with the course
 - Remove Early Leavers, those on LOA, Non-returners
 - Agreed: 75% of year 1 successful at June Boards, 80% of year 2 successful at June Boards