

Subjects of study - demand, provision and distribution of subject areas across higher education in Wales

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Principals of directly-funded further education institutions in Wales

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Summary

This report provides an overview of the demand, provision and distribution of subject areas across higher education (HE) in Wales.

Introduction

1. This piece of work has been carried out in response to a request from Vikki Howells, Minister for Further and Higher Education, at the beginning of 2025, for Medr to provide an overview of the demand, provision and distribution of subject areas across higher education (HE) in Wales. The analysis summarises HE subject provision in Wales and includes an analysis of the current enrolments by subject group at Welsh higher education providers (HEPs), the trend in enrolments, a comparison with the UK, a regional analysis, an analysis of study through the medium of Welsh, an analysis of the A level pipeline to HE, UCAS applications and acceptances to HE in Wales and Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 results.

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Executive summary

- Overall, the subject distribution of HE enrolments in Wales for 2023/24 is similar to that of the UK as a whole, with the high level subject groups with the most enrolments being Business and Management, Subjects allied to medicine and Social sciences for both Wales and the UK.
- There are different subject distributions for different modes and levels of study. Popular full-time (FT) undergraduate (UG) subjects include Business and management, Law, Computing, Engineering, Nursing and midwifery and Biosciences, while Combined and general studies, Education and teaching, Health and social care, Psychology and Engineering are popular for part-time (PT) UG study. For FT postgraduate (PG) study, Business and management is by far the most popular subject group. For PT PG study, Business and management, Education and teaching, Nursing and midwifery and Allied health have the most enrolments.
- There are much higher proportions of domiciles from overseas for postgraduate provision, than for undergraduate provision. For subject groups with over 1,000 enrolments in 2023/24, particularly large proportions are seen for FT PG provision in Business and management (94%), Computing (84%), Engineering (79%) and Allied health (72%).
- Some subject groups have high proportions of enrolments from the rest of the UK, such as Languages and area studies, Economics, Geography, earth and environmental studies, Politics, Physics and astronomy and Biosciences, all with over 70% from the rest of the UK for full-time undergraduate provision.
- The Open University in Wales dominates PT UG provision accounting for over half of all PT UG provision in 2023/24. UG non-degree provision was the most likely to be studied on a part-time basis, and some subjects were much more likely to be studied part-time, such as Combined and general studies.
- Overall, the number of enrolments at Welsh HEPs increased by 14% over the past 10 years. This is lower than the UK figure at 25%. However, enrolments in certain subject areas have declined significantly over the past 10 years. Particular areas of concern for FT UG degree provision include Language and area studies, Education and teaching, Design, and creative and performing arts, Physical sciences and

Mathematical sciences, all with decreases of 20% or more. In contrast, FT UG degree enrolments in Medicine and dentistry, Subjects allied to medicine, Computing, Architecture, building and planning, Social sciences and Law have increased by 20% or more.

8. For FT PG taught (PGT) provision, large proportional increases in enrolments were seen in Subjects allied to medicine, Physical sciences, Mathematical sciences and Computing. Decreases were seen in Language and area studies and Historical, philosophical and religious studies.
9. Compared to the UK as a whole, Wales has lower proportions of enrolments from overseas students, and higher proportions than might be expected of PT and UG non-degree provision.
10. Wales' share of FT PG research (PGR) enrolments at UK HEPs has decreased overall between 2019/20 and 2023/24, though PT PGR is up over the same period. For FT PGR provision, the share of enrolments at UK HEPs has been below 4% for the past four years, when overall enrolments at Welsh HEPs have a share of just over 5%. The low share of FT PGR enrolments and small numbers of PGR students in certain subject groups is reflected to some extent in the REF 2021 results for Wales.
11. Wales has a higher than expected proportion of enrolments at UK HEPs in some subjects, including Sport and exercise sciences, Combined and general studies, Health and social care and Biosciences.
12. For most subjects, the number of Welsh domiciles staying in Wales to study outnumbered those studying in the rest of the UK, exceptions include Medicine and dentistry, Veterinary sciences, Music and Other performing arts.
13. There are areas where FT UG demand from Welsh domiciles exceeds the supply in Welsh HEPs of places for home domiciled students. These include Veterinary sciences, Creative arts and design, Music, Other performing arts, General, applied and forensic sciences, and Materials and technology.
14. Provision in Wales is concentrated in the south of the country, and there are certain subjects that are only available in Cardiff University. The population of Wales is also greater in the south, but provision is not evenly distributed according to the local population. Some subjects, such as Engineering and Materials and technology in South West Wales, are concentrated in particular locations. Certain vulnerable subjects are based in small providers such as language and area studies in Aberystwyth University.
15. Most provision is based in the nine universities in Wales, with Cardiff University being the largest HEP. Smaller amounts of provision are available in further education colleges and alternative providers. This provision is available either directly from the college or alternative provider, with a university or other organisation awarding the qualification, or is franchised in from a university. These arrangements provide local opportunities for certain subjects in places that do not have a university and offer progression opportunities for those studying at level 3 in colleges.

16. Welsh medium provision is concentrated in FT UG study, with little provision at PG level. Welsh medium provision is also concentrated in certain subjects such as Celtic studies (as would be expected given this includes Welsh language and literature), Education and teaching, Agriculture, food and related studies and Design, and creative and performing arts. However, numbers are small and proportions of fluent Welsh speakers that take some Welsh medium provision are small in some subject areas.
17. The pipeline to HE from A level completions mirrors some of the decreases seen in enrolments at UG level. Work is being carried out in Medr to explore the drop in progression between AS level and A2 qualifications which may provide some insight into this.
18. For UG entrants that apply through UCAS, Welsh domiciles are more likely to be accepted to Welsh HEPs for most subjects, this is likely due to Welsh domiciles preferring Welsh HEPs in their applications. However, the number of acceptances in some subjects mean that some subjects are dominated by entrants from the rest of the UK. This includes Economics, Languages and area studies, Biosciences, and Geography, earth and environmental studies, with over 70% of acceptances from the rest of the UK.
19. Staff full-time equivalent (FTE) submitted to the REF 2021 exercise for Wales accounted for 3.9% of the UK total, which is lower than might be expected, and in some subject areas staff FTE numbers submitted were very small.

Section 1 - Analysis of student enrolment data

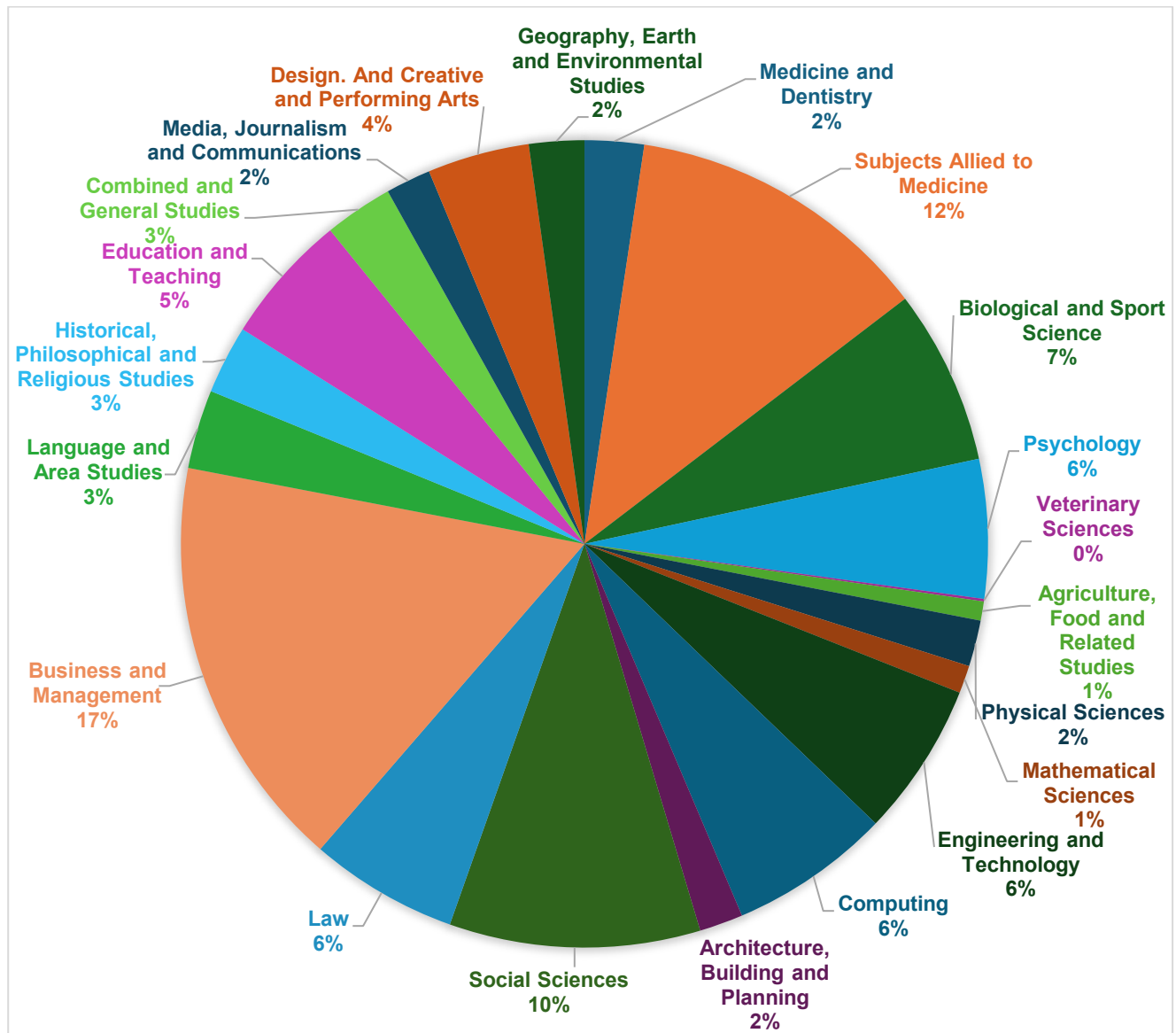
20. The latest student enrolment data for HE provision at HEPs in Wales available in carrying out this analysis is for academic year 2023/24, collected on the [HESA student record](#). For Wales, this includes HE provision at universities, further education (FE) colleges and alternative providers in Wales¹ (collectively referred to as HEPs). The record is collected annually on a UK-wide basis.
21. We have analysed the data by subject group. Where an enrolment is on a course that is recorded against one or more subjects, the enrolment can be split between groups. For example, if a student is studying a joint course in mathematics and French, 0.5 of the enrolment will appear against mathematics and 0.5 against French. From 2019/20, subject of study is coded using Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) codes on the HESA student record. Prior to that, Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) codes were used to classify subjects. Subjects are grouped according to the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) level 1 or 2 depending on the analysis, and at CAH level 3 for Annex G only. More information about CAH and HECoS can be found on the [HESA website](#).
22. It should be noted that providers code their course subjects according to their own criteria and two courses coded with the same subject at two different providers could differ in content and approach.

Latest enrolment data by mode and level of study, subject group and domicile

23. Chart 1 below shows an overall summary of the number of enrolments at Welsh HEPs for 2023/24, by CAH level 1 subject group, as a proportion of total enrolments. Three subject groups account for over 10% of enrolments each, Business and management, Subjects allied to medicine and Social sciences. Other subject groups account for very small proportions (Veterinary sciences, Agriculture, food and related studies and Mathematical sciences) with the rest of the groups accounting for between 2% and 7% of enrolments.

¹ FE colleges directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCW) for HE provision from 2016/17 and FE colleges and alternative providers with specifically designated course provision from 2023/24.

Chart 1 – Enrolments at Welsh HEPs in each CAH level 1 subject group as a proportion of total enrolments, 2023/24

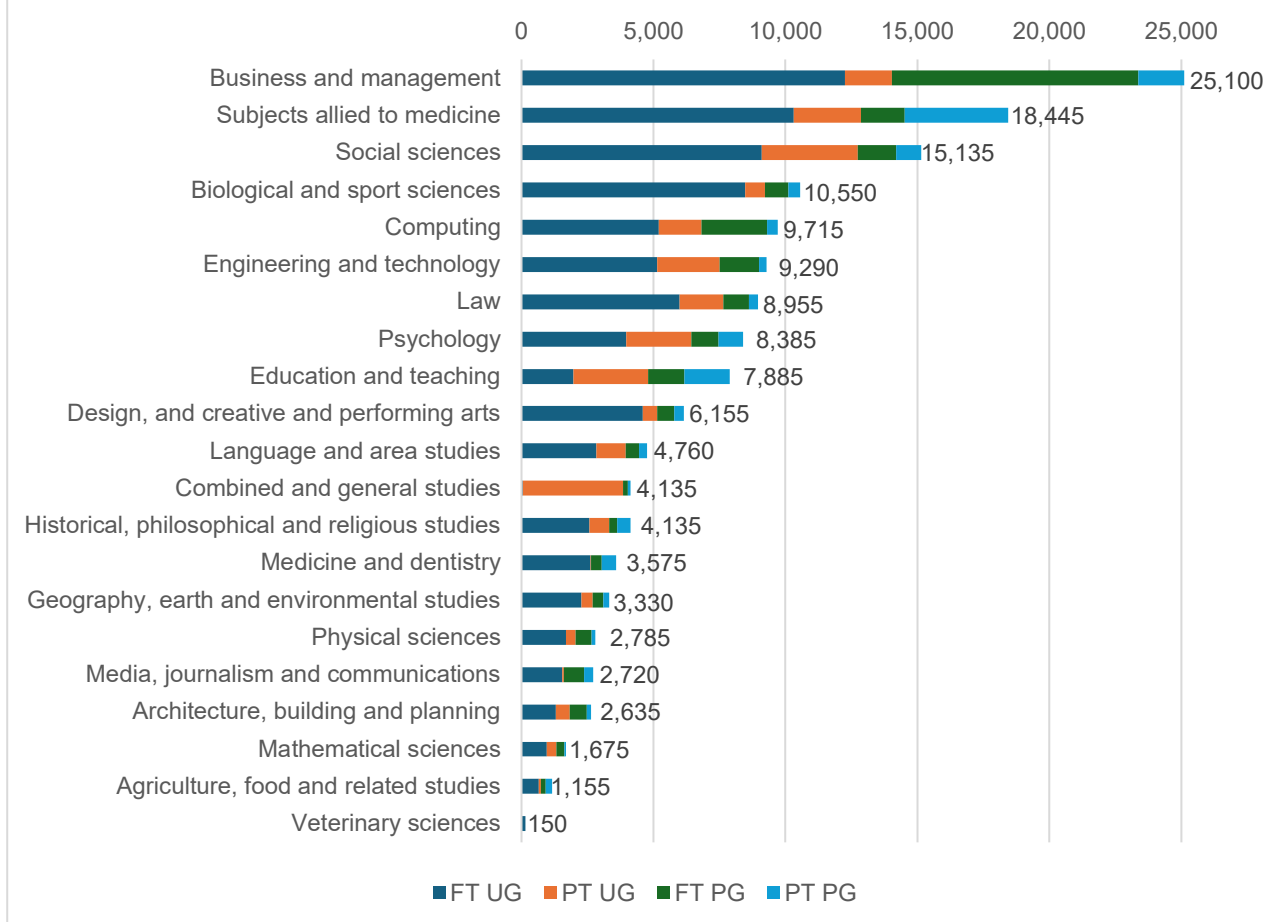


Source: HESA student record

Total enrolments = 150,680

24. Chart 2 below shows the same information but includes the total numbers with a breakdown into mode and level of study. FT UG provision accounts for the largest proportion of enrolments for most CAH level 1 subject groups.

Chart 2 - Enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 1 subject group, mode and level of study, 2023/24



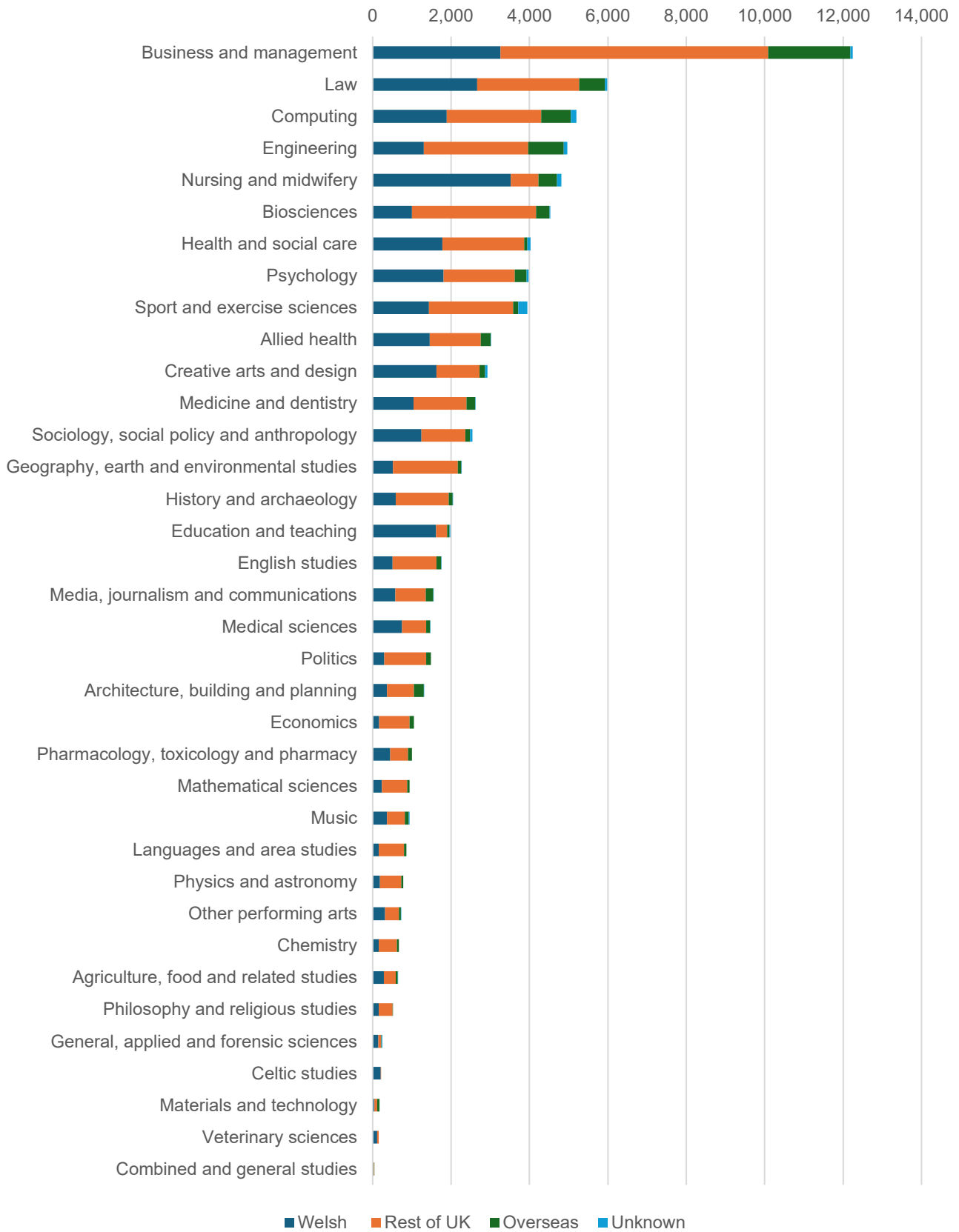
Source: HESA student record

25. Charts 3 to 6 below show the number of enrolments in more detail, by mode, level, CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, for 2023/24. The small number of enrolments with an unknown domicile are included in the total numbers quoted but excluded from the total when calculating percentage by domicile.
26. Chart 3 shows FT UG enrolments. Business and management was the most popular subject group with 12,250 enrolments, with Nursing and midwifery, Biosciences, Engineering, Computing, Health and social care and Law also having over 4,000 enrolments each. The proportion of enrolments that were Welsh domiciled varied by subject, with Nursing and midwifery, Medical sciences, Veterinary sciences, General, applied and forensic sciences, Celtic studies, Education and teaching, Creative arts and design and Sociology, social policy and anthropology having 50% or more enrolments that were Welsh domiciled. The overall proportion of FT UG enrolments that were Welsh domiciled was 39%, with 51% being domiciled in the rest of the UK and 10% domiciled overseas, out of a total population of 83,635 enrolments.
27. Chart 4 shows PT UG enrolments. The most popular subject group is Combined and general studies with 3,810 enrolments, with Psychology, Engineering, Health and social care and Education and teaching also each having over 2,000 enrolments. 88% of enrolments were Welsh domiciled, out of a total of 27,685

enrolments, with all subject groups except Medicine and dentistry, Media, journalism and communications and Other performing arts, all of which had small numbers of enrolments, having over 50% Welsh domiciles.

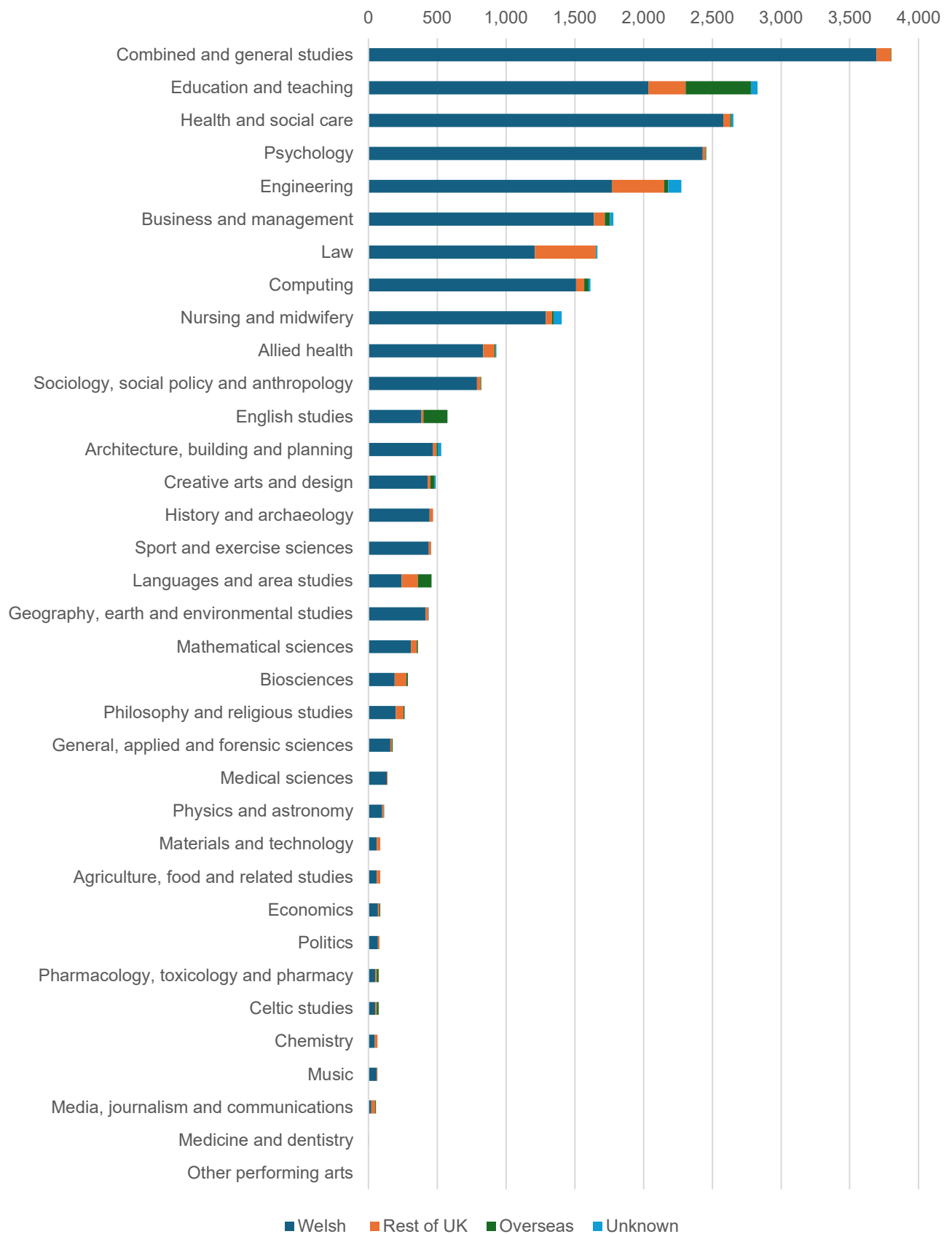
28. Chart 5 shows FT PG enrolments. Business and management has by far the most enrolments at 9,345 (36% of all FT PG enrolments). Computing has the next highest number of enrolments at 2,495 (10%). The majority of FT PG enrolments (25,665 in total) are from overseas (70%) with 19% being Welsh domiciled and 12% being domiciled in the rest of the UK. Business and management had the highest proportion of overseas domiciles at 94%.
29. Chart 6 shows PT PG enrolments. Four subjects had over 1,000 enrolments, Nursing and midwifery, Allied health, Business and management and Education and teaching. 58% of enrolments were Welsh domiciled, 36% were domiciled in the rest of the UK and 6% were from overseas, out of a total of 13,690 enrolments.
30. In summary, FT UG provision made up the majority of the total 150,680 enrolments in 2023/24 at 56%. Welsh domiciled enrolments made up the biggest proportion (46%) with 35% being from the rest of the UK and 19% from overseas. The most popular subject of study is Business and management (17% of enrolments). Other subject groups that made up between 5% and 7% of enrolments each were Nursing and midwifery, Psychology, Engineering, Computing, Health and social care, Law and Education and teaching.

Chart 3 - Full-time undergraduate enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, 2023/24



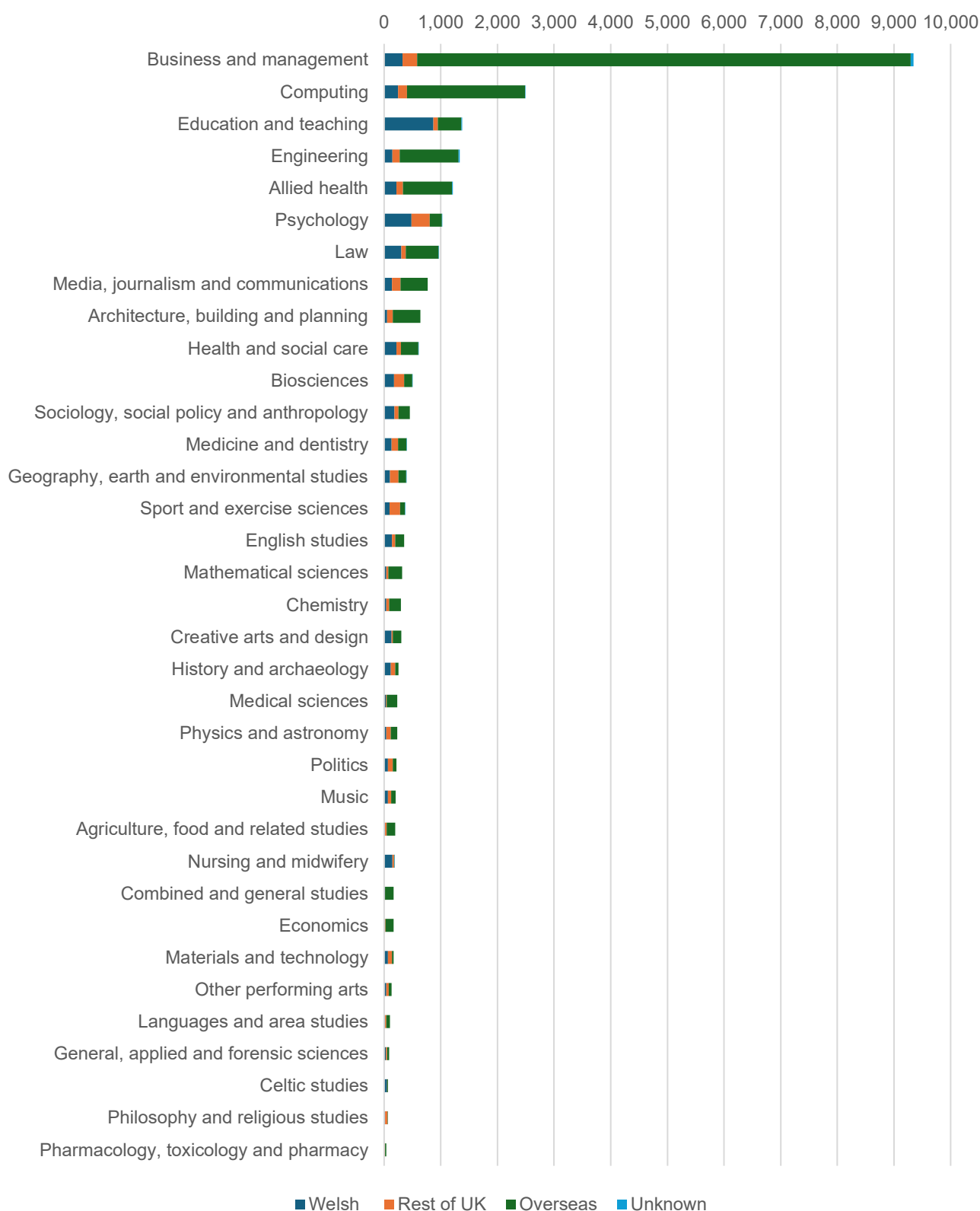
Source: HESA student record

Chart 4 - Part-time undergraduate enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, 2023/24



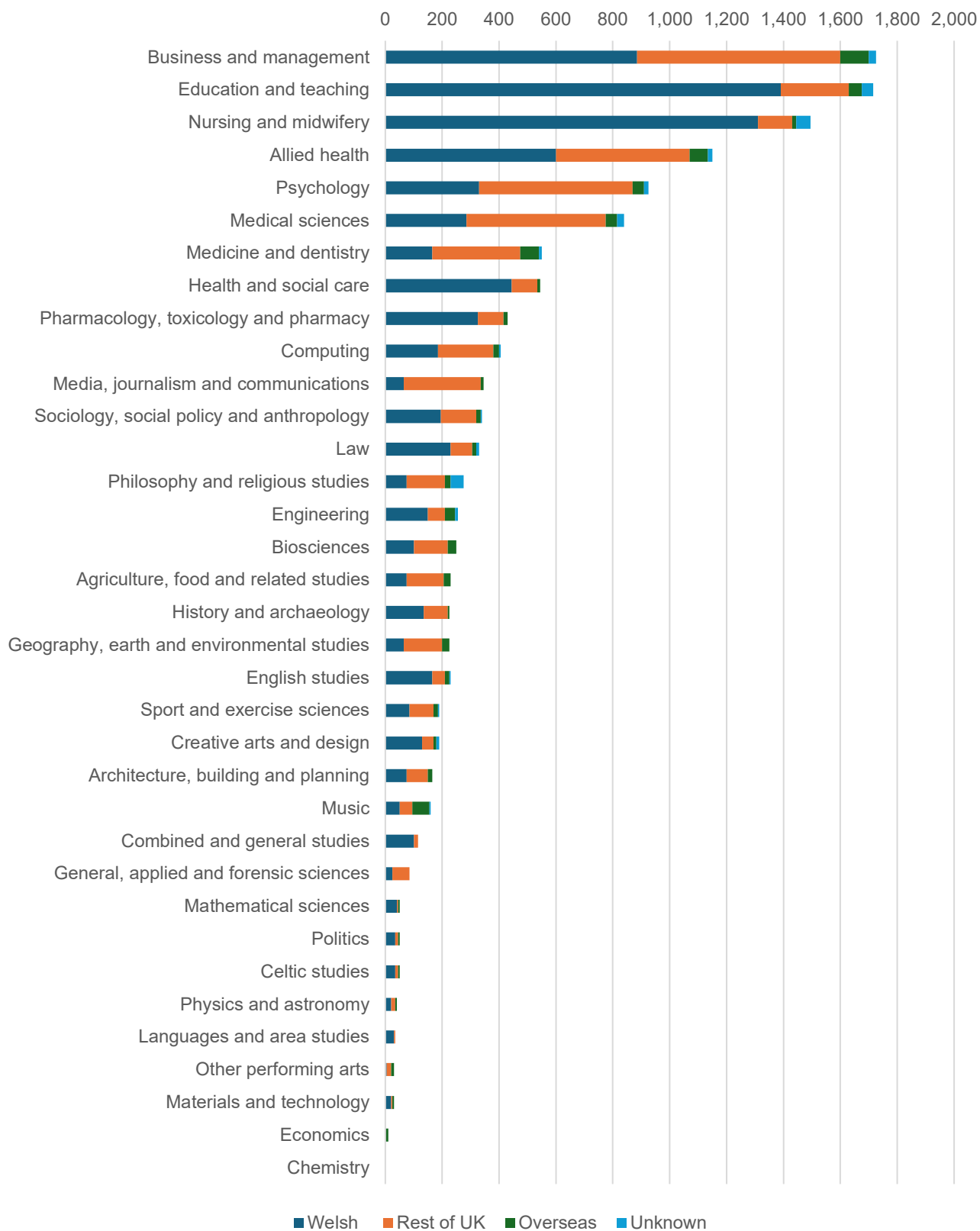
Source: HESA student record

Chart 5 - Full-time postgraduate enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

Chart 6 - Part-time postgraduate enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, 2023/24

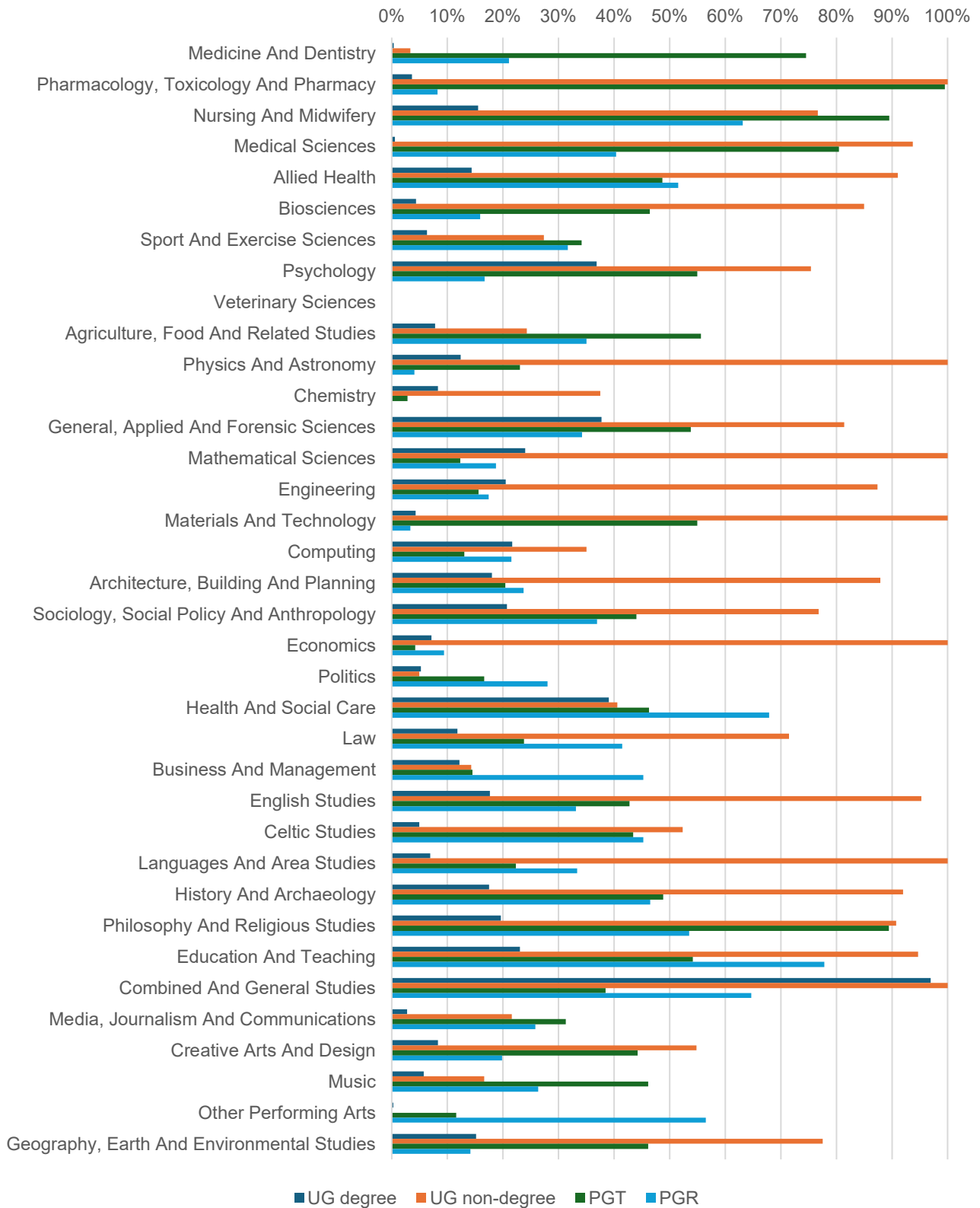


Source: HESA student record

Proportion of enrolments that are part-time

31. There were some CAH level 2 subject groups and levels of study that had high proportions of enrolments undertaking part-time study in 2023/24. For UG degree provision, around 17% of 91,165 enrolments were studying part-time. For some subject groups, the proportion was much higher, Psychology, General, applied and forensic sciences and Health and social care all had a proportion between 35% and 40% and Combined and general studies had a proportion of 97%. For other subject groups, only very small proportions were studying part-time, such as Medicine and dentistry (0.4%), Medical sciences (0.6%) and Other performing arts (0.3%).
32. For UG non-degree provision, overall, the proportion of the 20,155 total enrolments that were part-time was 61%, with a number of subject groups having 100% or nearly 100% studying part-time. For those subject groups with over 200 enrolments, this included Allied health (91%), English studies (95%), Languages and area studies (100%), Education and teaching (95%) and Combined and general studies (100%). Medicine and dentistry, Veterinary sciences, Politics and Other performing arts all had less than 5% part-time enrolments, though numbers were small in most of those groups.
33. For PGT provision, overall, 36% of all enrolments (34,655) were part-time. Again, the proportion varied by subject group with Medicine and dentistry, Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy, Medical sciences, Nursing and midwifery, and Philosophy and religious studies all having a 75% or greater proportion of enrolments that were part-time. Two subject groups had less than 10% of enrolments that were part-time, Economics (4.2%) and Chemistry (2.9%).
34. For PGR provision, out of 4,705 enrolments, 28% were studying part-time. Some subject groups had higher proportions of part-time enrolments, including Education and teaching at 78%, and Health and Social Care at 68%. Three subject groups had less than 5% of enrolments that were part-time, Chemistry (0.0%), Materials and technology (3.4%) and Physics and Astronomy (4.1%).
35. Some of the high proportions that were part-time in particular subject groups were due to enrolments at the Open University in Wales, which accounts for 37% of all PT provision and 53% of all PT UG provision.
36. Chart 7 below shows the percentage of enrolments that were part-time by CAH level 2 subject group and level of study, in 2023/24.

**Chart 7 - Percentage of enrolments that are part-time, by CAH level
2 subject group and level of study 2023/24**

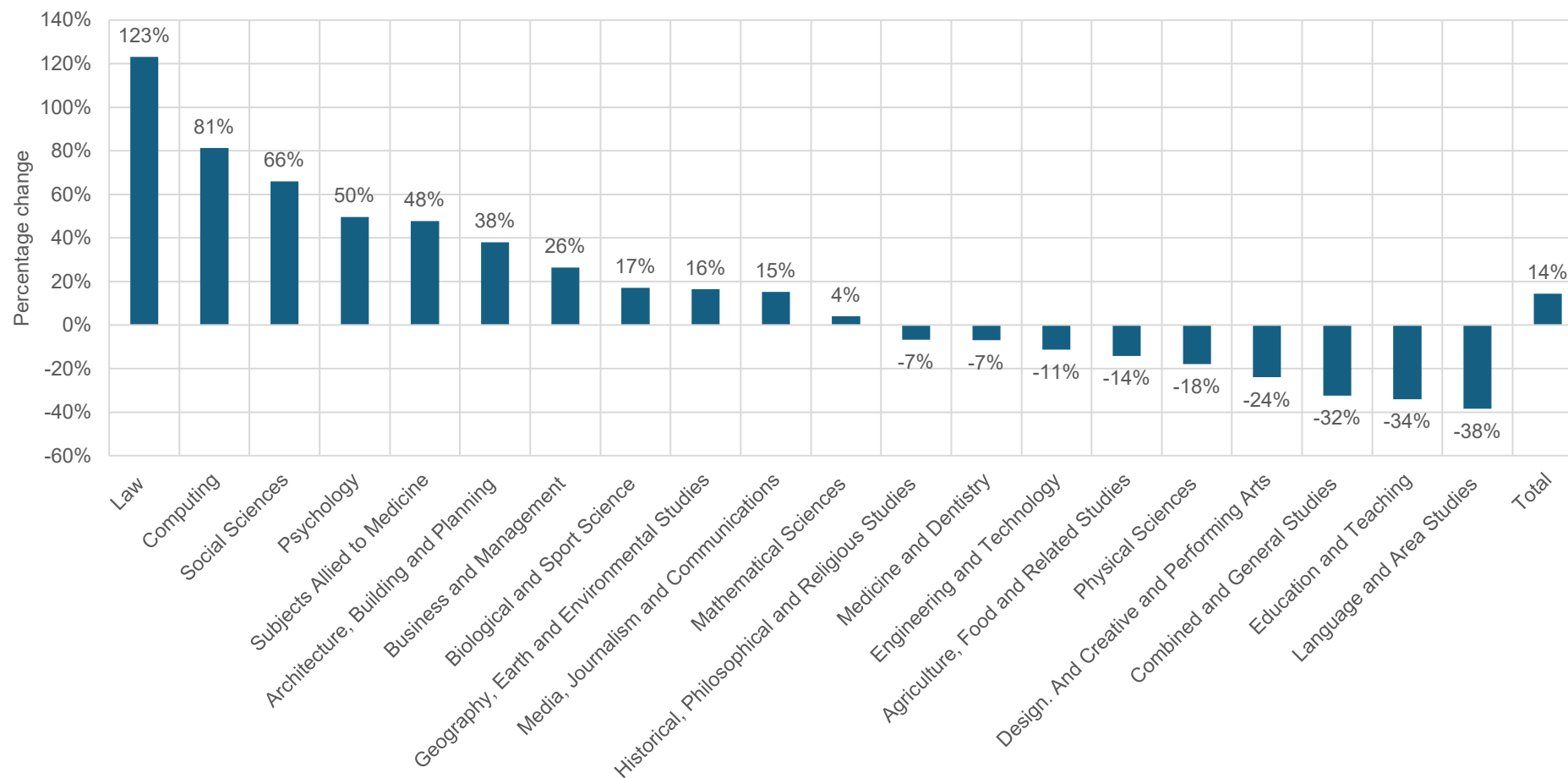


Source: HESA student record

Trends in enrolments

37. Chart 8 below shows the percentage change in enrolments between 2014/15 and 2023/24, for each CAH 1 subject group, including all levels of study, modes of study and domiciles. Veterinary sciences is not included because of small numbers. The associated numbers behind the chart, plus the figures for all years between 2014/15 and 2023/24 are in Annex C.
38. The data shows that the overall number of enrolments has increased by 14% over the 10 year time period. However, this level of increase is not seen across all subject groups. The largest increases are seen in Law (123%), Computing (81%) and Social sciences (66%), while the largest decreases are seen in Language and area studies (38%), Education and teaching (34%) and Combined and general studies (32%). The overall figures for each subject group hide the trends in different mode and level combinations, and these are explored in more detail in the section following the chart.

Chart 8 - Percentage change in enrolments at Welsh HEPs 2014/15 to 2023/24 by CAH level 1 subject group



Source: HESA student record

Trends in full-time enrolments

39. We looked at the trend in FT enrolments at Welsh HEPs by level of study and subject group for a 10 year period, 2014/15 to 2023/24. Charts for each CAH level 1 subject group are included in Annex A.
40. In summary, those CAH level 1 subject groups which have had the greatest increases in enrolments in FT UG degree provision are Subjects allied to medicine, Computing, Architecture, building and planning and Law. Physical Sciences, Mathematical sciences, Language and area studies, Education and teaching and Design, and creative and performing arts subject groups have seen the greatest decline in FT UG degree enrolments over the 10 year period. UG and PG provision do not show the same pattern, which could be explained in part by the large increases seen in FT PG provision for overseas domiciles while UG enrolments are more likely to be home domiciles. The paragraphs below give more detail.
41. Medicine and dentistry and Subjects allied to medicine showed an increase over the 10 year period, with a 20% increase in FT UG degree enrolments in Medicine and dentistry and 54% in Subjects allied to medicine. There was a slight increase in FT UG degree enrolments in Biological and sport sciences enrolments of 7% with other levels of study seeing bigger increases. Enrolments in Psychology also increased over the period, for all levels of study except FT UG non-degree.
42. For Agriculture, food and related studies, over the 10 year period, only FT postgraduate taught (PGT) enrolments increased, with other levels of study declining in number.
43. Physical sciences enrolments have declined for UG provision (38% for degree provision), while PG enrolments have increased (196% for PGT). Mathematical sciences enrolments for FT UG degree decreased from 2016/17 to 2022/23, but then increased in number in 2023/24, with an overall decrease of 19%. FT PGT Mathematical sciences enrolments increased by 424%.
44. Numbers of Engineering and technology enrolments in FT UG provision varied over the period, and decreased overall by 10% (degree provision) and 56% (non-degree provision). FT PGT increased by 42%.
45. Computing enrolments increased for all levels of study over the 10 year period, by 34% for FT UG degree, 166% for FT UG non-degree, 361% for FT PGT and 98% for FT PGR.
46. Architecture, building and planning enrolments also increased, by 59% for FT UG degree and 108% for FT PGT. Social sciences enrolments increased overall over the period, for all levels except PGR, though had a peak in 2020/21 for both FT UG degree and FT UG non-degree. Law enrolments increased substantially over the 10 year period, including by 126% for FT UG degree.
47. Business and management enrolments, increased over the 10 year period other than for FT PGR. For both FT UG degree and FT PGT, after some decreases in the earlier years, both increased up to 2022/23 and then decreased again in 2023/24.

FT UG non-degree saw a large increase over the period, with some variation within the period, giving an overall increase of 385%.

48. Language and area studies enrolments saw a large decline over the 10 year period, by 35% for FT UG degree, 72% for FT UG non-degree and 4% for both FT PGT and FT PGR. FT UG degree enrolments in Historical, philosophical and religious studies decreased from 2016/17 after an increase from 2014/15, by 19% overall.
49. Education and teaching enrolments have declined over the 10 year period for FT UG provision, by 50% for degree provision and 32% for non-degree provision. For FT PGT provision, the number of enrolments was about the same in 2014/15 and 2023/24, with some decline to 2018/19 before increasing in 2020/21.
50. Combined and general studies enrolments show an unusual pattern of activity. This is due to a particular FT UG non-degree course being coded as Combined and general studies in 2017/18 and 2018/19 only.
51. For Media, journalism and communications, FT UG enrolments were fairly stable across the 10 year period while FT PGT increased by 68% overall.
52. FT UG enrolments in Design, and creative and performing arts showed a decline across the 10 year period, decreasing by 32% for degree and 31% for non-degree. Both FT PGT (50%) and FT PGR (96%) enrolments increased.
53. For FT UG degree enrolments studying Geography, earth and environmental studies, there was some variation over the 10 year period, with enrolments increasing up to 2016/17, then decreasing to 2020/21 before increasing again up to 2023/24. Overall the decrease was 4%. FT PGT and PGR provision increased over the period, by 16% and 62% respectively.

Trends in part-time enrolments

54. A similar analysis was carried out for part-time enrolments at Welsh HEPs. Charts for each CAH level 1 subject group are included in Annex B.
55. In summary, those subject groups which had the greatest increases in enrolments in PT UG degree provision across the ten year period were Social sciences and Law. UG non-degree provision also saw large increases in those subjects, plus Psychology, and Computing. For PT UG, large decreases were seen for Combined and general studies for both degree and non-degree provision, and degree provision also saw large decreases in Subjects allied to health, Engineering and technology, Business and management, Education and teaching and Language and area studies. Large increases were seen for Subjects allied to medicine, Psychology, Computing and Social sciences for PT PGT, but there were decreases in Medicine and dentistry and Education and teaching. Numbers of enrolments were small in many of the subject groups for PT PGR, though large percentage increases were seen in Business and management, Education and teaching and Historical, philosophical and religious studies.
56. Enrolments in Medicine and dentistry decreased over the 10 year period. Most part-time enrolments in Medicine and dentistry were in PT PGT and this decreased by

61%. Subjects allied to medicine showed an increase over the 10 year period in PT UG degree (117%) and PT PGT (65%), also seen in FT provision, but decreased in PT UG non-degree (47%) and PT PGR (42%).

57. Enrolments in Biological and sport sciences increased for all levels of study including by 96% in UG degree. Enrolments in Psychology also increased over the period, for all levels except PT PGR. Enrolments in PT UG degree provision had a particularly large increase at 190%, from 785 to 2,285 enrolments.
58. There were very few part-time enrolments in Veterinary sciences and so the subject group has been excluded from any part-time analysis presented by subject group. For Agriculture, food and related studies, over the 10 year period, PT UG degree and PT PGT increased while PT UG non-degree decreased.
59. Physical sciences enrolments have increased over the period for all levels except PGR, which had small numbers of enrolments. The trend differed to FT UG enrolments in that PT UG enrolments increased for both degree and non-degree provision. This was the same for Mathematical sciences.
60. Engineering and technology enrolments in PT UG degree provision increased by 35% over the period, however, PT UG non-degree enrolments decreased by 48%. PT PGT decreased by 9% and PT PGR increased by 10%.
61. Computing enrolments increased for all levels of study except UG non-degree (36% decrease), with a 181% increase for PT UG degree, a 400% increase for PT PGT and a 55% increase for PT PGR.
62. Architecture, building and planning enrolments decreased for PT UG non-degree (36%) and PT PGR enrolments (55%) but increased for PT UG degree (80%) and PT PGT (22%). Social sciences enrolments increased overall over the period, for all levels, by 152% for PT UG degree, 230% for PT UG non-degree, 138% for PT PGT and 49% for PT PGR. Law enrolments also increased substantially over the 10 year period for PT UG degree (156%), PT UG non-degree (793%) and PT PGR (171%).
63. There was a large increase in PT UG degree enrolments (130%) for Business and management but decreases in PT UG non-degree and PT PGT. PT PGR saw an increase of 45%.
64. Language and area studies enrolments saw a decline in all levels of PT study over the 10 year period, by 4% for PT UG degree, 64% for PT UG non-degree 2% for PT PGT and 24% for PT PGR. For Historical, philosophical and religious studies, PT UG enrolments increased for all PT UG levels (25% for degree, 136% for UG non-degree), also increased for PT PGR (83%) but decreased for PT PGT (5%).
65. Education and teaching enrolments declined over the 10 year period for PT UG non-degree (38%) and PGT (39%). Both PT UG degree (40%) and PGR (99%) increased. Combined and general studies enrolments decreased for all levels except for PT PGR, which had low numbers of enrolments in most years. PT UG degree enrolments fell by 29%, PT UG non-degree by 37% and PT PGT by 55%.
66. For Media, journalism and communications, PT enrolment numbers were fairly small in all levels except for PT PGT where a 21% increase was seen. Only PT UG

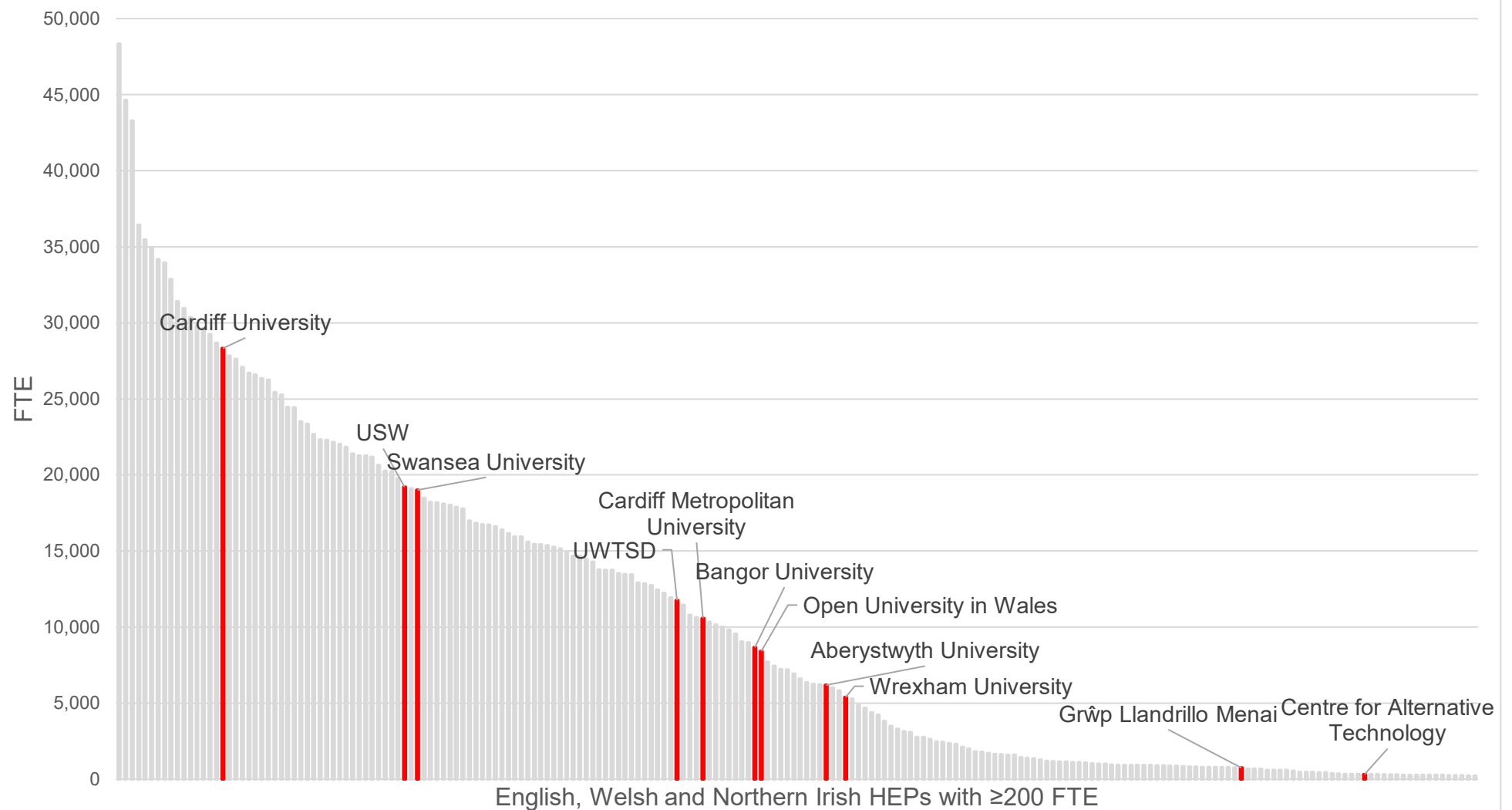
degree enrolments in Design, and creative and performing arts showed an increase across the 10 year period, of 46%, with the other levels of study showing a decline.

67. All part-time levels of study showed an increase in enrolments in Geography, earth and environmental studies, with a 180% increase in PT UG degree, a 893% increase for PT UG non-degree (though on small numbers) and a 694% increase for PT PGT, PT PGR had a 45% increase, again on small numbers.

Comparison with the UK

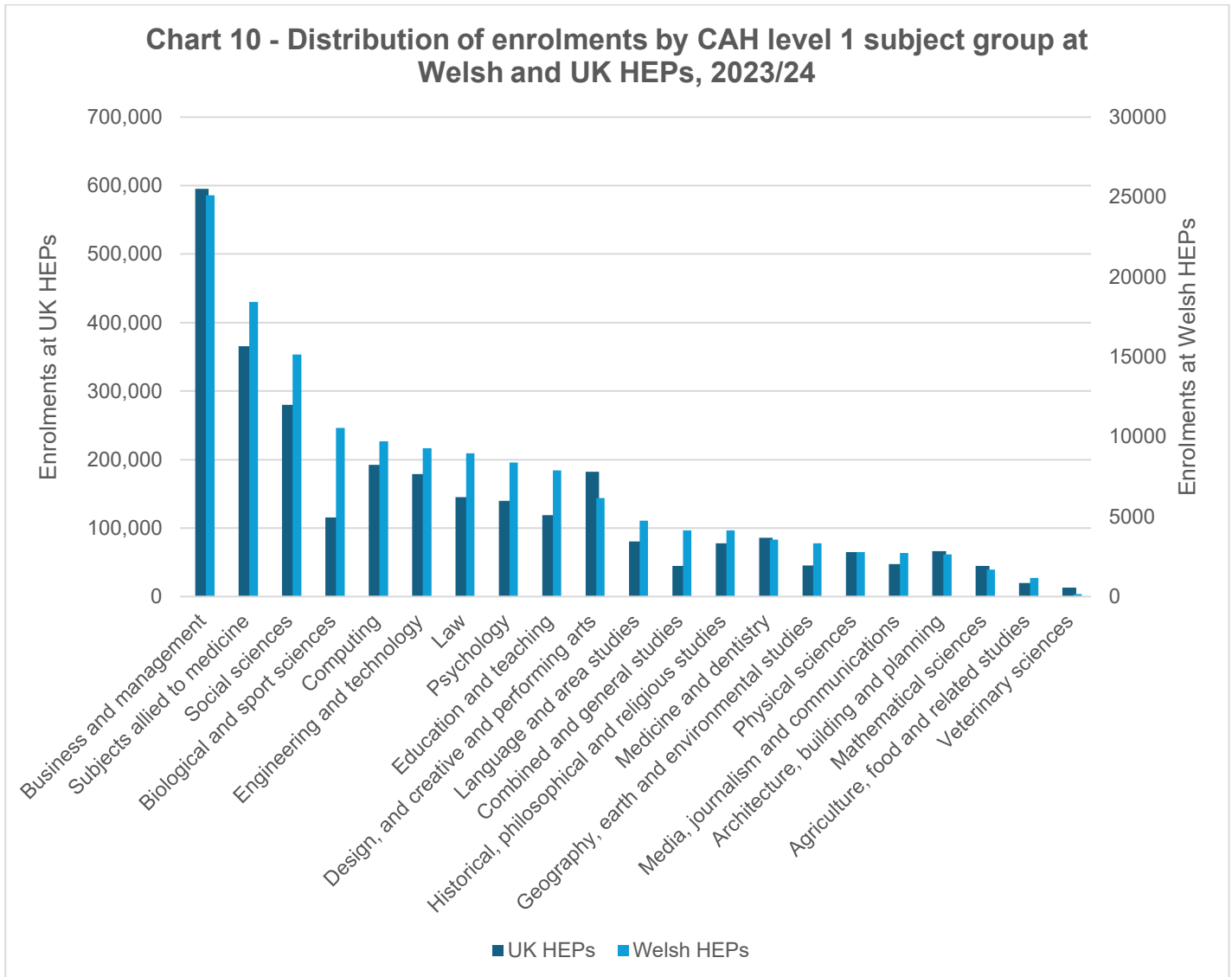
68. To give some context to how Welsh providers fit into the UK picture of higher education, the chart below shows, for providers in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland with 200 or more full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments in 2023/24, where Welsh providers sit when providers are ordered by total FTE. Scotland is not included due to FTE being recorded differently. Cardiff is by far the largest university in Wales, with University of South Wales and Swansea University being the next largest, having a similar volume of FTE each. The rest of the universities in Wales are relatively small and only two of the colleges and alternative providers have 200 or more FTE recorded on the HESA student record.

Chart 9 - Full-time equivalent (FTE) at English, Welsh and Northern Irish HEPs with ≥ 200 FTE, 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

69. Chart 10 below shows the distribution of subjects for Wales and for the UK as a whole, ordered by number of enrolments at Welsh HEPs. The subject distribution in Wales was similar to that of the UK as a whole, with the three largest CAH level 1 subject groups being the same, Business and management, Subjects allied to medicine and Social sciences. There are some differences, for example, Wales has a relatively higher proportion of Biological and sport sciences enrolments and a relatively lower proportion of Design, and creative and performing arts than the UK.

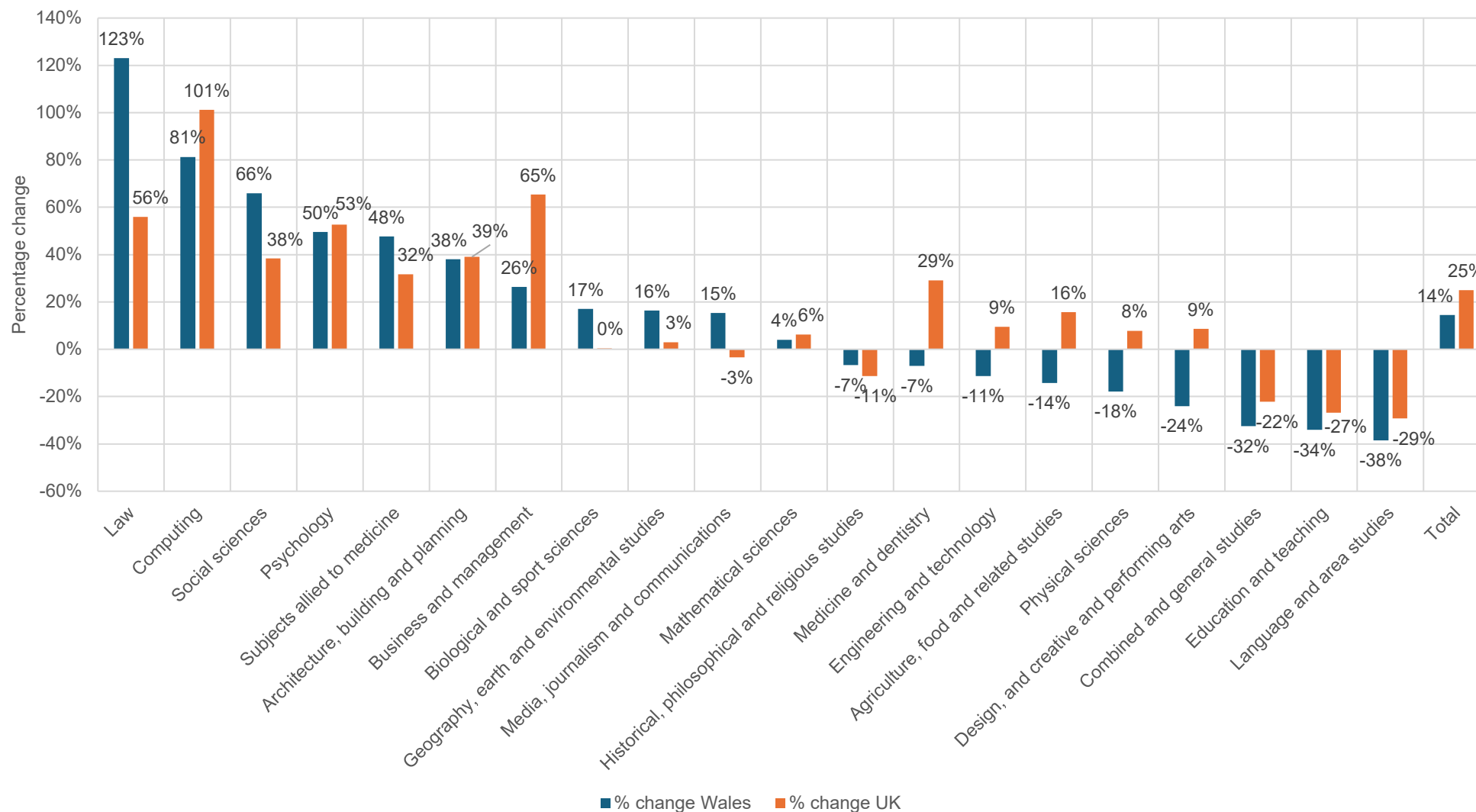


Source: HESA student record

70. Looking at the change in enrolments from 2014/15 to 2023/24 for Wales compared to the UK (see Chart 8 above for the Wales only change), there are some differences. Overall, the increase in enrolments for Wales was 14%, for the UK it was 25%. The change for each CAH level 1 subject group is shown in the chart below. The subject group with the largest increase for Wales was Law (123%), while for the UK it was Computing (101%), which had the second largest increase in Wales (81%). The three subject groups with the largest decrease in enrolments were the same for both Wales and the UK, Combined and general studies (32% for Wales, 22% for the UK), Education and training (34% for Wales, 27% for the UK)

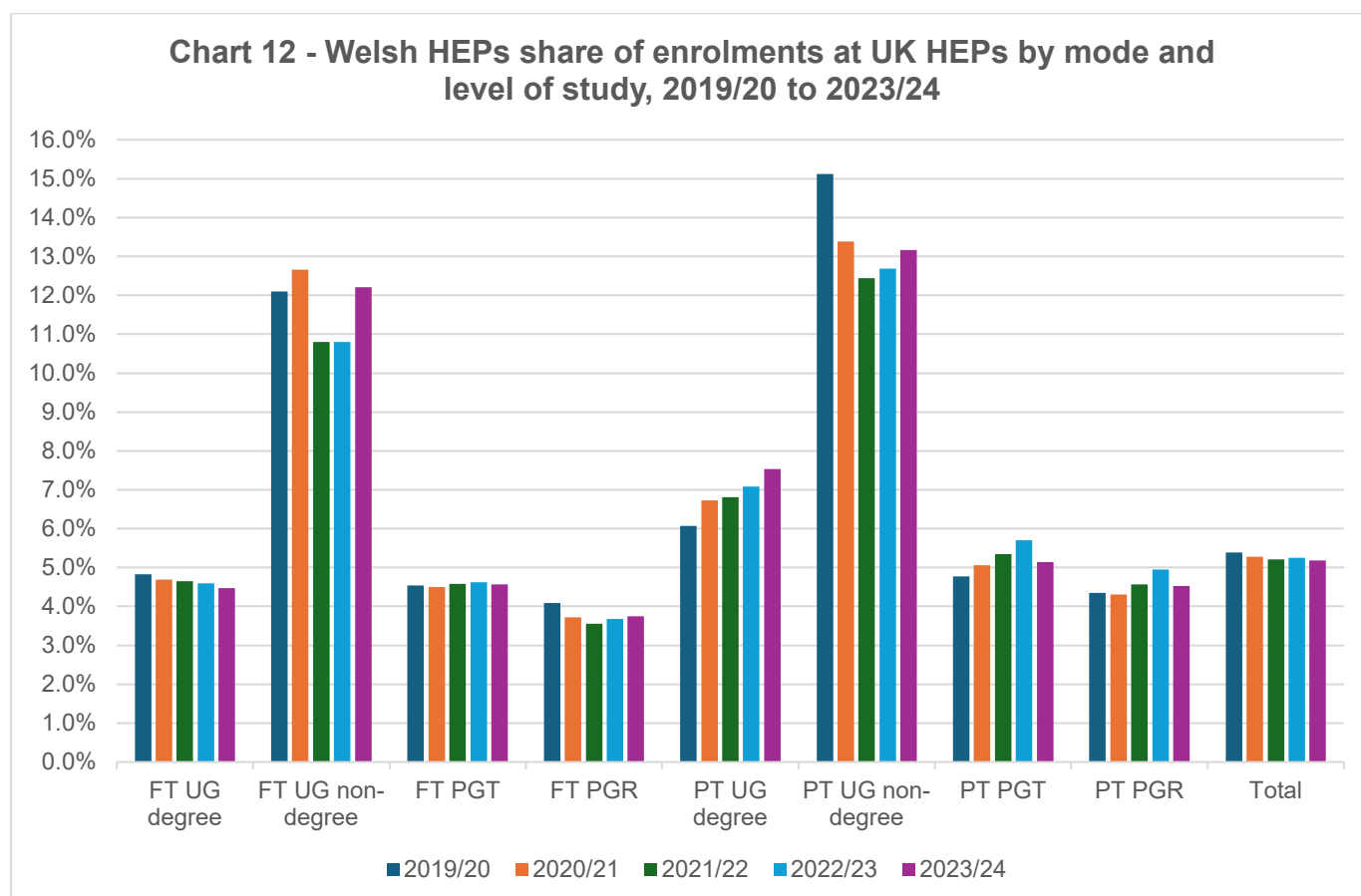
and Language and area studies (38% for Wales, 29% for the UK), with the decreases for Wales being larger in all three groups. Veterinary sciences is not shown as numbers were very small in 2014/15 in Wales.

Chart 11 - Percentage change in enrolments 2014/15 to 2023/24 by CAH level 1 subject group Wales and UK HEPs



Source: HESA student record and HESA student alternative record

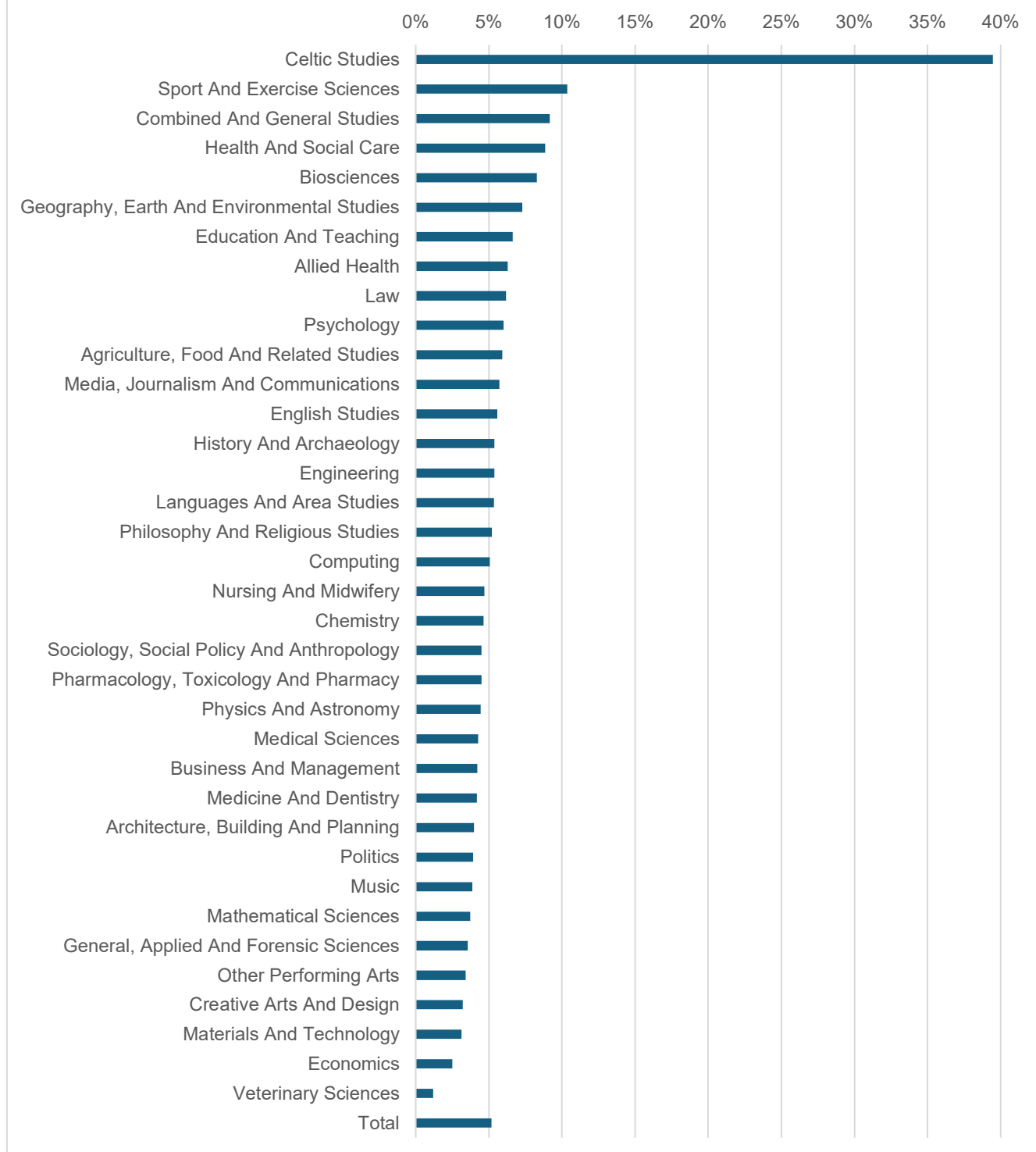
71. Over the past five years, Wales has had a share of between 5.2% and 5.4% of the UK total number of enrolments. The share varies by mode and level of study, with Wales having a greater than might be expected share of UG non-degree provision, and with PT UG degree increasing its share over the five year period while the share for FT UG degree decreased. The chart below shows the trend for Wales by mode and level of study.



Source: HESA student record and HESA student alternative record

72. There was also a difference in the domicile mix for Welsh and UK providers, with the UK as a whole having a higher proportion of students from overseas, 19% in Wales, compared to 25% in the UK, in 2023/24.
73. Within each mode and level, the proportion of enrolments at UK HEPs that were studying at Welsh HEPs varied by subject group. The chart below shows the distribution by CAH level 2 subject group for all enrolments in 2023/24. For some subject groups, this is as might be expected, for example, there was no veterinary school in Wales in the period under analysis, and the chart shows that Wales had the largest share of total UK enrolments in Celtic studies at 39.5%. Other subjects that had higher proportions than the overall Wales share of 5.2% in 2023/24 include Sport and exercise sciences, Combined and general studies, Health and social care and Biosciences. Veterinary sciences, Economics and Materials and technology had the lowest proportions.

Chart 13 - enrolments at Welsh HEPs as a proportion of enrolments at UK HEPs, by CAH level 2 subject group 2023/24



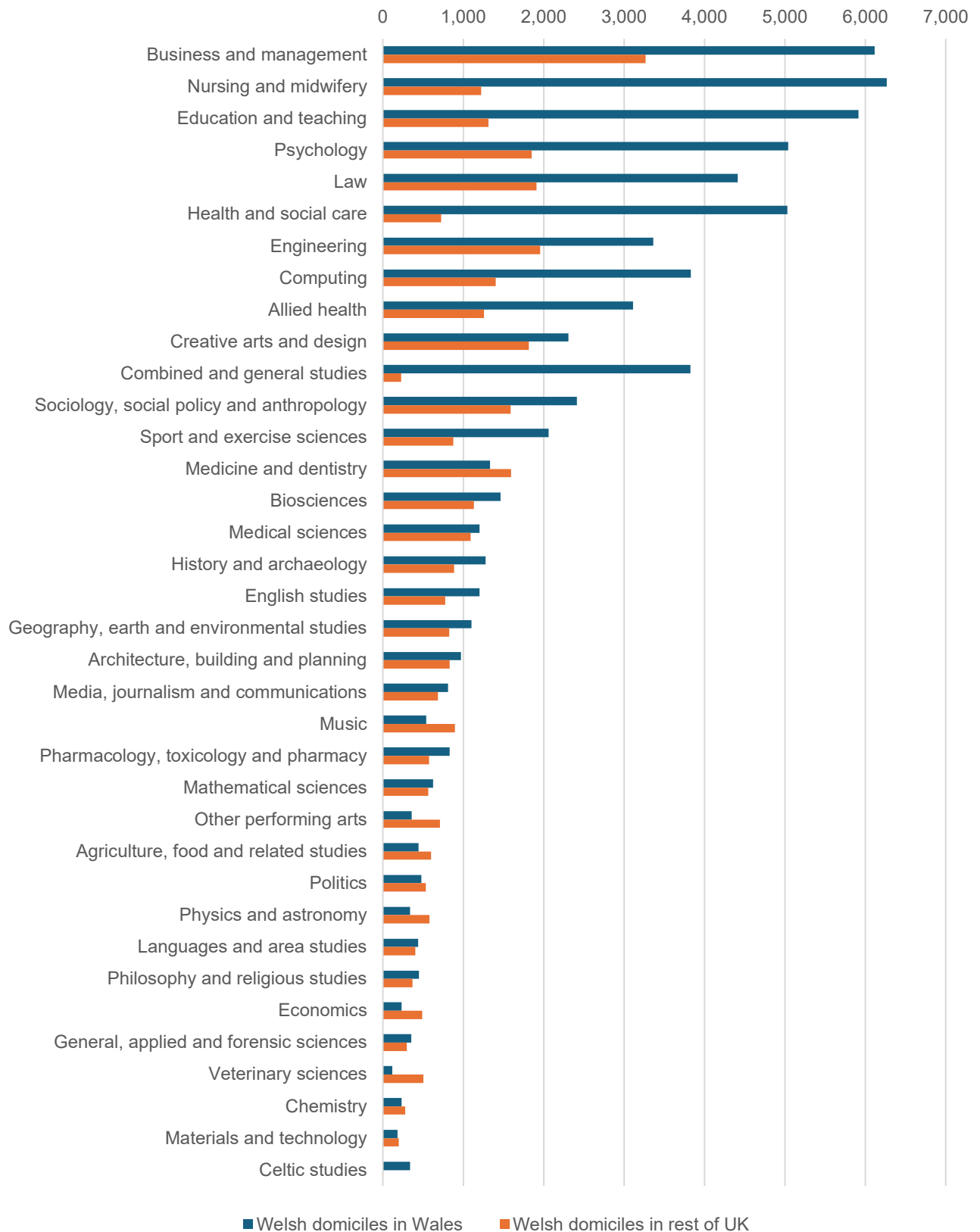
Source: HESA student record

74. The next two charts look at the subjects that Welsh domiciles studied in the UK in 2023/24, and compares the subject choices of those studying at Welsh providers with those studying at providers elsewhere in the UK. The first chart shows the numbers in each CAH level 2 subject group, for all modes and levels of study, the second chart shows the picture for FT UG only as they are the largest group and the group most likely to study outside Wales (44%). Figures for PT UG, FT PG and

PT PG studying outside of Wales were 8%, 38% and 36% respectively. Both charts are sorted in the order of subject groups with the greatest number of Welsh domiciles in total.

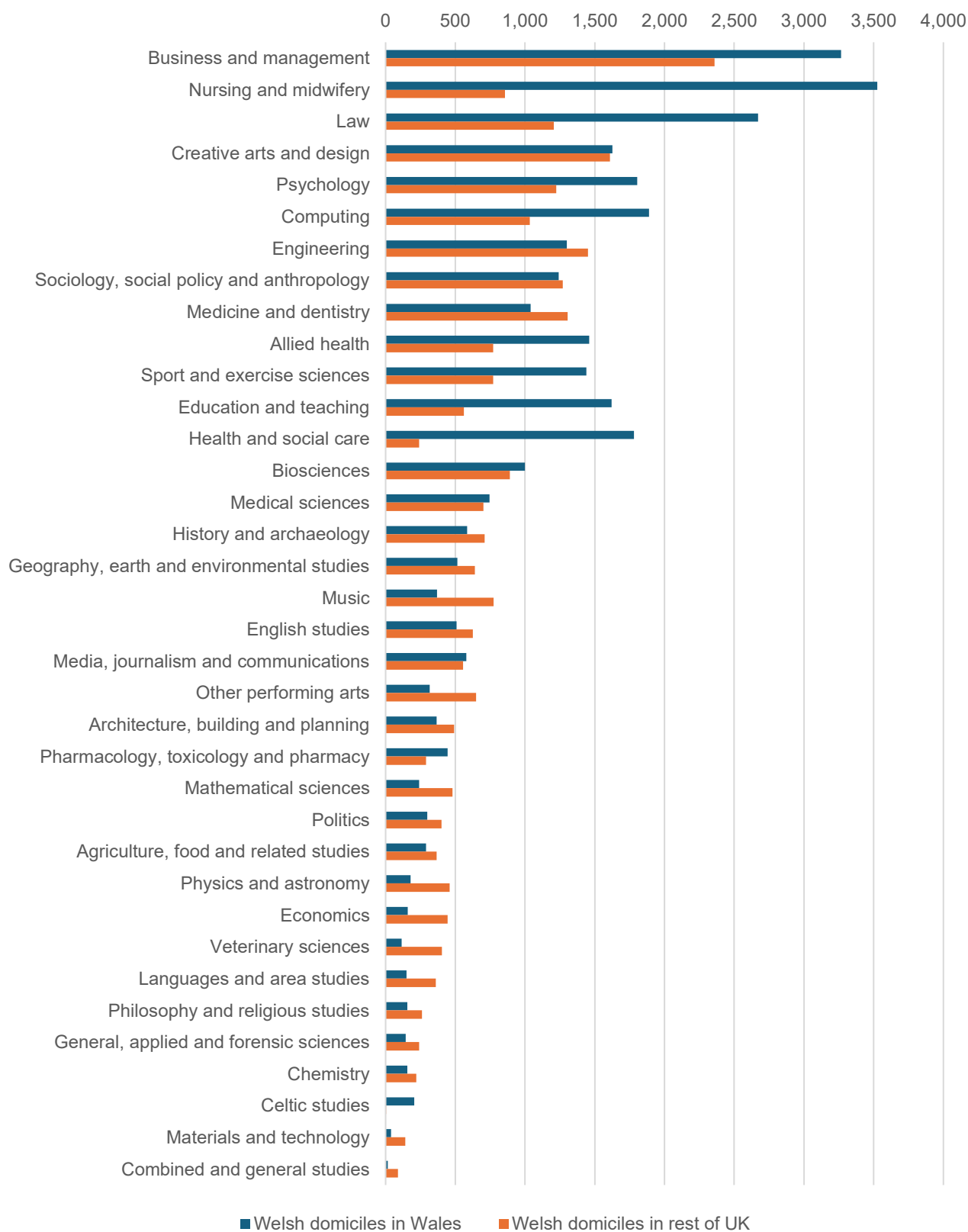
75. For the overall picture, for most subject groups, particularly those with a large number of enrolments, the majority of Welsh domiciles study in Wales. Those subject groups where Welsh domiciles are more likely to study outside of Wales include Medicine and dentistry, Music and Other performing arts.
76. For FT UG provision, Welsh domiciles were more likely to study outside of Wales in over half of the CAH level 2 subject groups, with Music and Other performing arts having both a notable number of enrolments and proportion studying outside of Wales.

Chart 14 - Welsh domiciles by location of study in the UK, 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

Chart 15 - Full-time undergraduate Welsh domiciles by location of study in the UK, 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

Subject supply and demand – full-time undergraduate

77. This analysis aimed to look at the supply and demand for FT UG places for Wales. Supply is measured as places that are taken up by home domiciles at Welsh HEPs and demand is measured as Welsh domiciles that take up a place anywhere in the UK. In doing this we have assumed that places filled by home domiciled students in Wales would be the places potentially available for Welsh domiciles that choose to stay in Wales. Home domicile is defined as those assumed to be eligible to pay home fees. It should be noted that this analysis is simply looking at numbers of places potentially available in a subject group should Welsh domiciles wish to study in Wales and doesn't take any account of whether the student's exact choice of course or type of provider would be available.
78. We have done this analysis at the CAH level 2 subject grouping. For most subjects, supply, i.e. number of places at Welsh HEPs with home-domiciled enrolments, exceeded, or were similar to, the demand, i.e. Welsh domiciled enrolments studying anywhere in the UK.
79. For some subjects there was more demand than supply. For degree provision excess demand can be seen for Veterinary sciences, with very little provision in Wales. It should be noted that this provision does not include the Veterinary Science provision at Aberystwyth University that is delivered in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) as the provision is returned in the HESA student record by RVC.
80. The three subjects in the Design and creative and performing arts group, Creative arts and design, Music and Other performing arts all have large numbers of excess demand, for both degree and non-degree provision. Other subject groups with high excess demand for degree provision include General, applied and forensic sciences and Education and teaching.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate enrolments 2023/24 – supply and demand

CAH level 2 Subject Group	UG degree enrolments				UG non-degree enrolments			
	Demand (Welsh Domiciled Enrolments)	Supply (home enrolments at Welsh HEPs)	Where Demand Exceeds Supply		Demand (Welsh Domiciled Enrolments)	Supply (Home enrolments at Welsh HEPs)	Where Demand Exceeds Supply	
			Excess Demand	Excess Demand as % of Total			Excess Demand	Excess Demand as % of Total
Medicine And Dentistry	2,255	2,390	0	0%	20	25	0	-
Pharmacology, Toxicology And Pharmacy	720	910	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Nursing And Midwifery	4,195	4,180	15	0%	170	165	0	1%
Medical Sciences	1,405	1,390	15	1%	15	10	5	-
Allied Health	2,155	2,790	0	0%	60	40	20	34%
Biosciences	1,835	4,275	0	0%	15	10	5	-
Sport And Exercise Sciences	2,045	3,250	0	0%	155	605	0	0%
Psychology	2,960	3,670	0	0%	40	55	0	0%
Veterinary Sciences	395	10	385	98%	115	145	0	0%
Agriculture, Food And Related Studies	500	475	25	5%	150	135	15	11%
Physics And Astronomy	605	735	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Chemistry	365	625	0	0%	0	0	0	-
General, Applied And Forensic Sciences	375	235	140	38%	0	0	0	-
Mathematical Sciences	695	900	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Engineering	2,610	3,970	0	0%	85	90	0	0%
Materials And Technology	145	120	25	16%	35	0	35	100%
Computing	2,695	3,850	0	0%	185	625	0	0%
Architecture, Building And Planning	795	1,040	0	0%	45	35	15	30%
Sociology, Social Policy And Anthropology	2,400	2,390	15	1%	95	50	45	46%
Economics	590	960	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Politics	645	1,355	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
Health And Social Care	1,450	1,965	0	0%	565	1,985	0	0%
Law	3,570	4,990	0	0%	290	350	0	0%
Business And Management	4,910	7,555	0	0%	665	2,635	0	0%
English Studies	1,105	1,650	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Celtic Studies	145	150	0	0%	60	60	0	0%
Languages And Area Studies	480	820	0	0%	0	0	0	-
History And Archaeology	1,245	1,955	0	0%	0	0	0	-
Philosophy And Religious Studies	375	500	0	0%	15	15	0	-
Education And Teaching	2,065	1,795	265	13%	115	125	0	0%
Combined And General Studies	100	35	65	64%	0	0	0	-
Media, Journalism And Communications	1,110	1,345	0	0%	25	20	5	13%
Creative Arts And Design	3,045	2,615	430	14%	165	195	0	0%
Music	1,065	810	255	24%	70	45	25	36%
Other Performing Arts	900	650	250	28%	60	30	30	50%
Geography, Earth And Environmental Studies	1,125	2,180	0	0%	10	10	0	-
Total	53,075	68,520	1,885	3.6%	3,260	7,495	205	6.3%

Source: HESA student record

Regional analysis

81. Not all subject provision is available in a uniform way across Wales, and a high proportion of Wales' population is located in the south of the country. We carried out a regional analysis of where provision was being delivered. In doing this, provision that was located at franchise providers was counted at the franchised location, provision was counted at the campus the student was studying at and distance learners were counted at the location of their home postcode.
82. We have divided Wales into six regions for the purposes of this analysis. The categories and what is included in them is outlined below. The Open University (OU) in Wales is included in 'Distance learning in the region'. For the FE colleges and alternative providers, 'direct' provision is provision they return themselves on the HESA student record, 'franchise' provision is franchised in from a university in Wales and is returned by the university on the HESA student record. There are also some private providers that universities franchise to. These are not listed here but will be counted in the region that the private provider is located in. Those enrolments located outside Wales are enrolments at Welsh HEPs that are not based in Wales for their study.

Table 2 – Unitary authorities and providers included in each region category

Region category	Unitary authorities included	Providers included
Cardiff	Cardiff	Cardiff University Cardiff Metropolitan University University of South Wales Cardiff and RWCMD campuses UWTSD Cardiff campuses CAVC Cardiff campus direct and franchise provision St Padarn's Institute direct and franchise provision Distance learning in the region (OU and other providers)
South East Wales (excluding Cardiff)	Caerphilly, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and Newport	University of South Wales Treforest, Newport, Glyntaff and Merthyr Tydfil College campuses Coleg Gwent direct and franchise provision Bridgend College franchise provision Coleg Y Cymoedd franchise provision Union School of Theology direct provision CAVC Barry campus direct and franchise provision Distance learning in the region (OU and other providers)

Region category	Unitary authorities included	Providers included
South West Wales	Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea	Swansea University UWTSD Swansea, Carmarthen and Coleg Sir Gâr campuses Grŵp Colegau NPTC Group of Colleges Neath Port Talbot campuses direct and franchise provision Gower College Swansea direct and franchise provision Pembrokeshire College franchise provision Distance learning in the region (OU and other providers)
Mid Wales	Powys and Ceredigion	UWTSD Lampeter campus Aberystwyth University Grŵp Colegau NPTC Group of Colleges Powys campuses direct and franchise provision Black Mountains College franchise provision Distance learning in the region (OU and other providers)
North Wales	Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Wrexham.	Bangor University Wrexham University Grŵp Llandrillo Menai direct and franchise provision Coleg Cambria direct and franchise provision Centre for Alternative Technology Distance learning in the region (OU and other providers)
Outside Wales	UK, not including Wales	London and Birmingham campuses of UWTSD Franchise provision located outside Wales in the UK Distance learning located outside Wales in the UK

RWCMD = Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, UWTSD = University of Wales Trinity Saint David, CAVC = Cardiff and Vale College, OU = Open University in Wales

83. The table below shows the overall distribution of enrolments by region, with the population of that region in the 16-64 age group for some simple context. It shows that Cardiff has around a third of all enrolments at 33%, or 36% if enrolments located outside Wales are excluded, with South West Wales the next largest region in terms of enrolments at 22%, or 24% if enrolments located outside Wales are discounted. South East Wales in total, if Cardiff is included, accounts for 54% of all enrolments located within Wales. The proportion of the 16-64 population in South

East Wales, including Cardiff, is 50%, but the population split between Cardiff and the rest of South East Wales differs to the number of enrolments with a much higher concentration of the population being outside Cardiff.

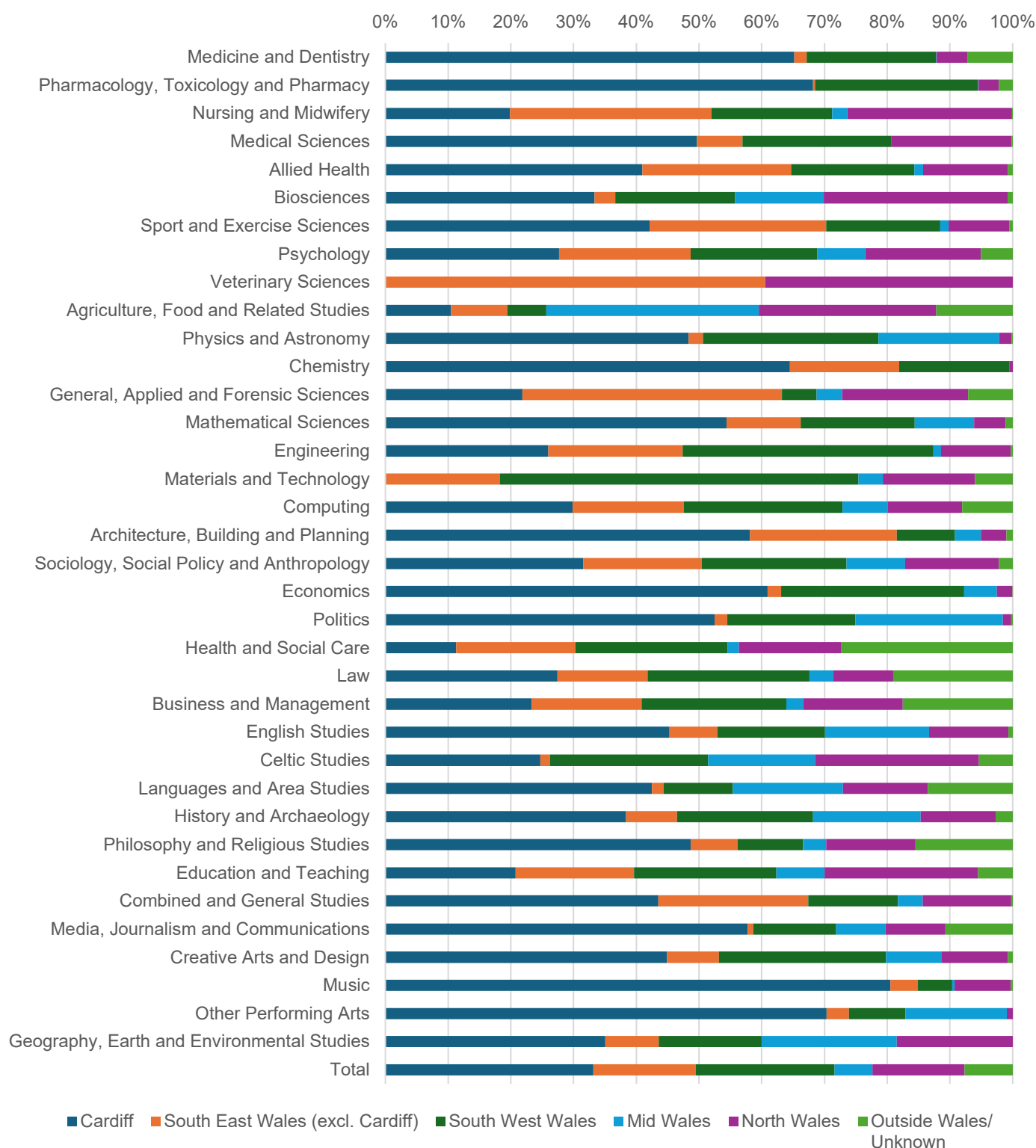
Table 3 - Number and percentage of enrolments in each region, 2023/24, with mid-year population estimates for ages 16-64, 2024

Region	Number of enrolments	Percentage of all enrolments	Percentage of all enrolments located in Wales	Mid-year population estimate 2024 - ages 16-64	Percentage of 16-64 population
Cardiff	49,915	33%	36%	260,984	13%
South East Wales (excl. Cardiff)	24,615	16%	18%	726,457	37%
South West Wales	33,340	22%	24%	428,327	22%
Mid Wales	9,100	6%	7%	119,134	6%
North Wales	22,180	15%	16%	412,814	21%
Outside Wales/Unknown	11,525	8%			
Total	150,680	100%	100%	1,947,716	100%

Source: HESA student record, ONS mid-year population estimate

84. The chart below looks at the regional distribution by CAH 2 level subject group for total enrolments, with all modes and levels combined, for 2023/24.
85. At the level of detail shown in the chart, some subject groups are predominantly provided in particular areas. This is not surprising as particular specialisms would be expected to be concentrated in particular providers, such as Medicine and dentistry in Cardiff and Swansea Universities and from 2024/25, Bangor University.
86. Medicine and dentistry, Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy, Chemistry, Mathematical sciences, Architecture, building and planning, Economics, Politics, Media, journalism and communication, Music and Other performing arts all have over 50% of enrolments in Cardiff. South East Wales had over 40% of General, applied and forensic sciences, almost a third of Nursing and midwifery, and the majority of the small number of enrolments in Veterinary sciences. South West Wales had 40% or more of Engineering and Materials and technology enrolments and Mid Wales and North Wales together had around 62% of the enrolments in Agriculture, food and related studies, which might be expected given the more rural nature of those regions. Mid Wales also had 22% of enrolments in Geography, earth and environmental studies.
87. More than 10% of enrolments in Agriculture, food and related studies, Health and social care, Law, Business and management, Language and area studies, Philosophy and religious studies and Media, journalism and communications take place outside Wales.

Chart 16 - Proportion of enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group in each region, 2023/24



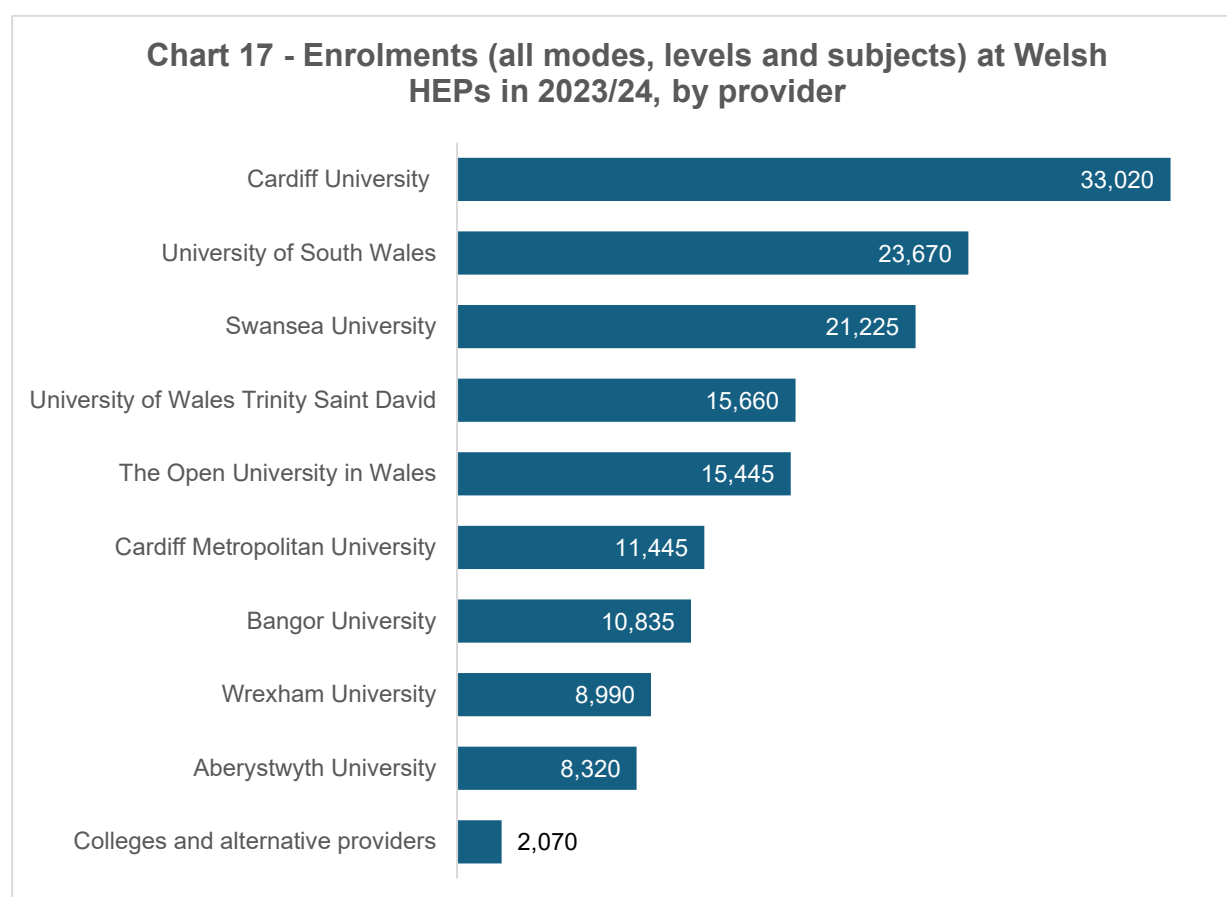
Source: HESA student record

Spread of provision amongst providers

88. This next section looks at which providers offer which subjects. This is different to the regional analysis in that some providers have campuses across Wales and outside of Wales in the UK and some provision is offered at a franchise partner or

via distance learning. For the purposes of this analysis, because of the small numbers in some subjects, provision at further education colleges and alternative providers has been included in one category.

89. The chart below shows, for all modes, levels and subjects of study, the number of enrolments by Welsh HEP. The chart shows Cardiff University has the greatest number of enrolments at 33,020, followed by University of South Wales and Swansea University, each with over 20,000 enrolments. The university with the smallest number of enrolments is Aberystwyth University with 8,320 enrolments. Between them, the further education colleges and alternative providers have 2,070 enrolments. Annex D shows a similar graph for each of the CAH level 1 subject groups.



Source: HESA student record

90. Cardiff University has the largest number of enrolments in nine of the 21 CAH level 1 subject groups. The table below shows the three subject groups with the largest number of enrolments for each provider

Table 4 – CAH level 1 subject groups with the most enrolments by Welsh HEP, 2023/24

Welsh HEP	CAH level 1 subject groups with the most enrolments		
Cardiff University	Subjects allied to medicine (4,860)	Social sciences (2,830)	Business and management (2,620)
University of South Wales	Subjects allied to medicine (4,565)	Business and Management (4,065)	Law (2,690)
Swansea University	Business and Management (3,470)	Subjects allied to medicine (3,395)	Engineering and technology (2,835)
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Business and management (6,050)	Social sciences (2,940)	Design, and creative and performing arts (1,220)
The Open University in Wales	Social sciences (2,615)	Psychology (2,465)	Combined and general studies (2,295)
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Business and management (2,615)	Biological and sport sciences (2,135)	Education and teaching (1,170)
Bangor University	Biological and sport sciences (1,850)	Subjects allied to medicine (1,645)	Business and Management (1,520)
Wrexham University	Business and Management (2,720)	Subjects allied to medicine (1,580)	Education and teaching (1,190)
Aberystwyth University	Language and area studies (920)	Education and teaching (860)	Biological and sport sciences (770)
Colleges and alternative providers	Geography, earth and environmental studies (Centre for Alternative Technology 235)	Historical, philosophical and religious studies (St Padarn's Institute 210)	Subjects allied to medicine (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai 165)
All providers	Business and management (25,100)	Subjects allied to medicine (18,445)	Social sciences (15,135)

Source: HESA student record

Welsh medium provision and Welsh language proficiency

91. The proportion of a module that is studied through Welsh is collected for each enrolment on a module, for all provision other than PGR enrolments where it can be collected as a proportion of a module or a proportion of the year of study. The number of credits through Welsh is counted for each enrolment as the number of

credits for a module, multiplied by the proportion through Welsh, and then summed over all modules for the academic year. Enrolments are categorised into those that take at least 5 credits through Welsh and those that take at least 40 credits through Welsh. Note that the 5+ category includes those that study 40+ credits. Proficiency in the Welsh language is collected for Welsh domiciled students only.

92. The table below gives the overall figures for Welsh domiciles with the extent of Welsh medium provision taken and the proportion of Welsh domiciles that have self-reported that they are fluent in Welsh.

Table 5a – Welsh medium study and Welsh proficiency by mode and level of study – Welsh domiciles 2023/24

Mode of study	Level of study	Number of enrolments			% 5+ credits through Welsh	% 40+ credits through Welsh	% known to be fluent in Welsh
		Studying 5+ credits through Welsh	Studying 40+ credits through Welsh	Fluent in Welsh			
Full-time	Undergraduate	2,885	1,720	5,290	9%	5%	16%
	Postgraduate	410	275	780	9%	6%	16%
Part-time	Undergraduate	685	205	1,935	3%	1%	8%
	Postgraduate	220	140	1,055	3%	2%	13%
Total		4,200	2,340	9,060	6%	3%	13%

Source: HESA student record

93. There are also a small number of non-Welsh domiciles that take some provision through Welsh, shown in the table below.

Table 5b – Welsh medium study by mode and level of study – non-Welsh domiciles 2023/24

Mode of study	Level of study	Number of enrolments		% 5+ credits through Welsh	% 40+ credits through Welsh
		Studying 5+ credits through Welsh	Studying 40+ credits through Welsh		
Full-time	Undergraduate	280	30	0.5%	0.1%
	Postgraduate	25	10	0.4%	0.1%
Part-time	Undergraduate	40	10	1.2%	0.2%
	Postgraduate	15	0	0.2%	0.0%
Total		360	50	0.4%	0.1%

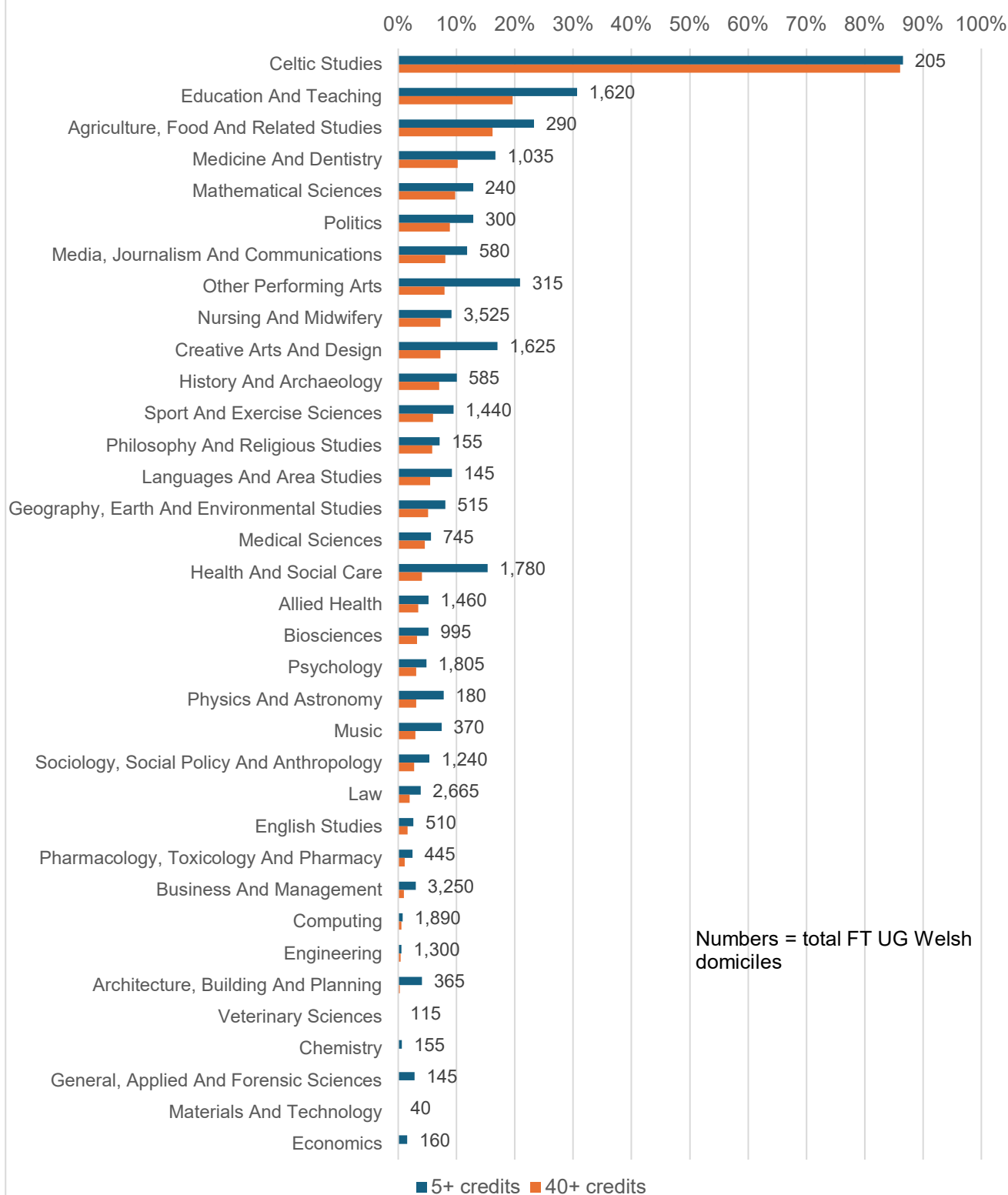
Source: HESA student record

94. The analysis below is restricted to Welsh domiciles in order for the population used in the calculation of percentages to be that likely to take some provision through the medium of Welsh.
95. Charts 18 to 21 below show the percentage of Welsh domiciled enrolments that are studying through the medium of Welsh by CAH level 2 subject group, for FT UG

enrolments, and by CAH level 1 subject group for PT UG, FT PG and PT PG enrolments. CAH level 1 is used for these three mode and level groupings given the small numbers under analysis in some categories. Some subject groups are omitted where numbers are small and percentages would be disclosive. The charts are sorted in order of subject groups with the largest proportion of enrolments studying 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh. Note that 5+ credits includes 40+ credits.

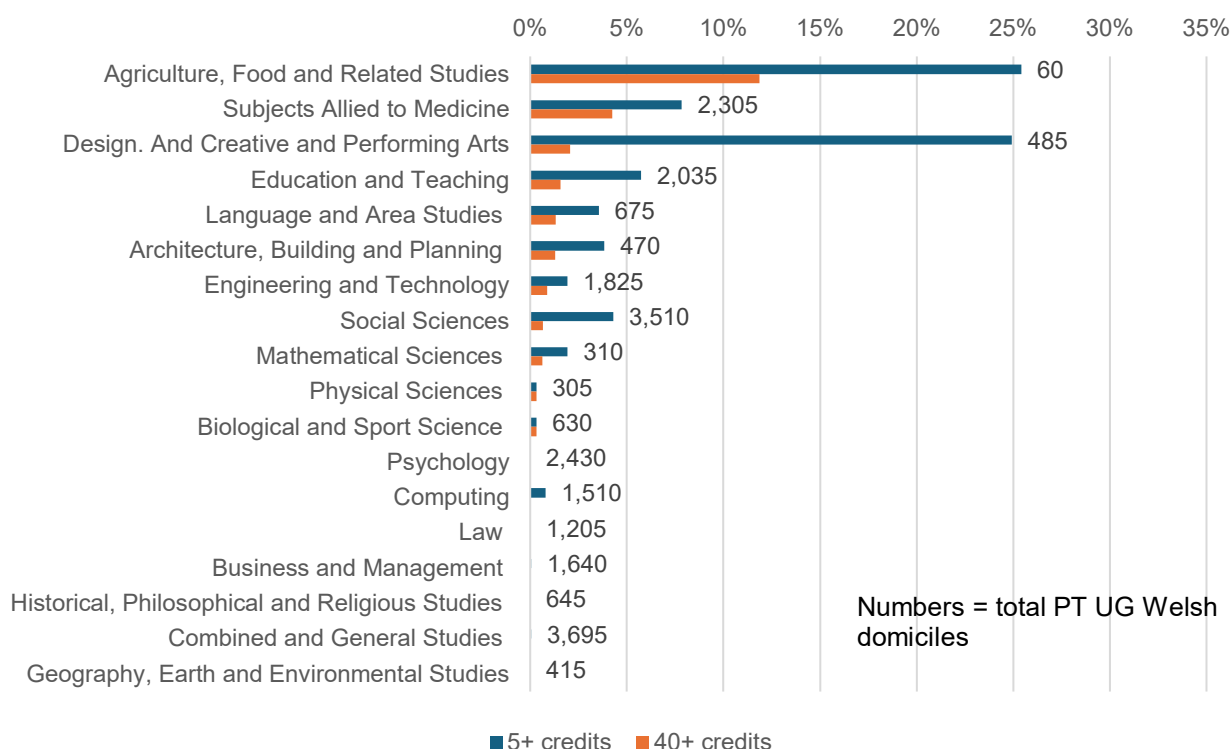
96. For FT UG provision, Celtic studies has by far the greatest proportion of enrolments studying either 40+ or 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh, as might be expected given that Welsh language and literature are included in that group. Other subject groups with at least 10% studying 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh are Education and teaching (20%), Agriculture, food and related studies (16%), Medicine and dentistry (10%) and Mathematical sciences (10%). Those studying for 5+ credits mainly follow a similar pattern, but with Other performing arts (21%), Creative arts and design (17%) and Health and social care (15%) all having more than 15% of enrolments with 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh.
97. Some subjects had very few FT UG enrolments studying through the medium of Welsh, with Veterinary science and Materials and technology having no enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh. In addition, while having small proportions studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh, Chemistry, General and combined studies and Economics all had no enrolments studying 40+ credits through Welsh.
98. For PT UG provision, a lower proportion of enrolments had some study through the medium of Welsh. Only Agriculture, food and related studies had over 10% of enrolments studying for 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh. For 5+ credits, both Agriculture, food and related studies, and Design, and creative and performing arts, had around 25% of enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh. Psychology, Law, Historical, philosophical and religious studies, and Geography, earth and environmental studies had no enrolments studying 40+ or 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh.
99. For FT PG provision, only a small number of subject groups had any enrolments that were studying through the medium of Welsh. Education and teaching and Language and area studies (which includes Celtic studies and therefore Welsh language and literature) both had 20% studying 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh and over 20% studying 5+ credits.
100. For PT PG provision, the pattern was similar with only Education and teaching and Language and area studies having any notable proportions of enrolments studying through the medium of Welsh with over 10% in each studying 5+ credits and over 8% studying 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh.

Chart 18 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 2 subject group, FT UG 2023/24



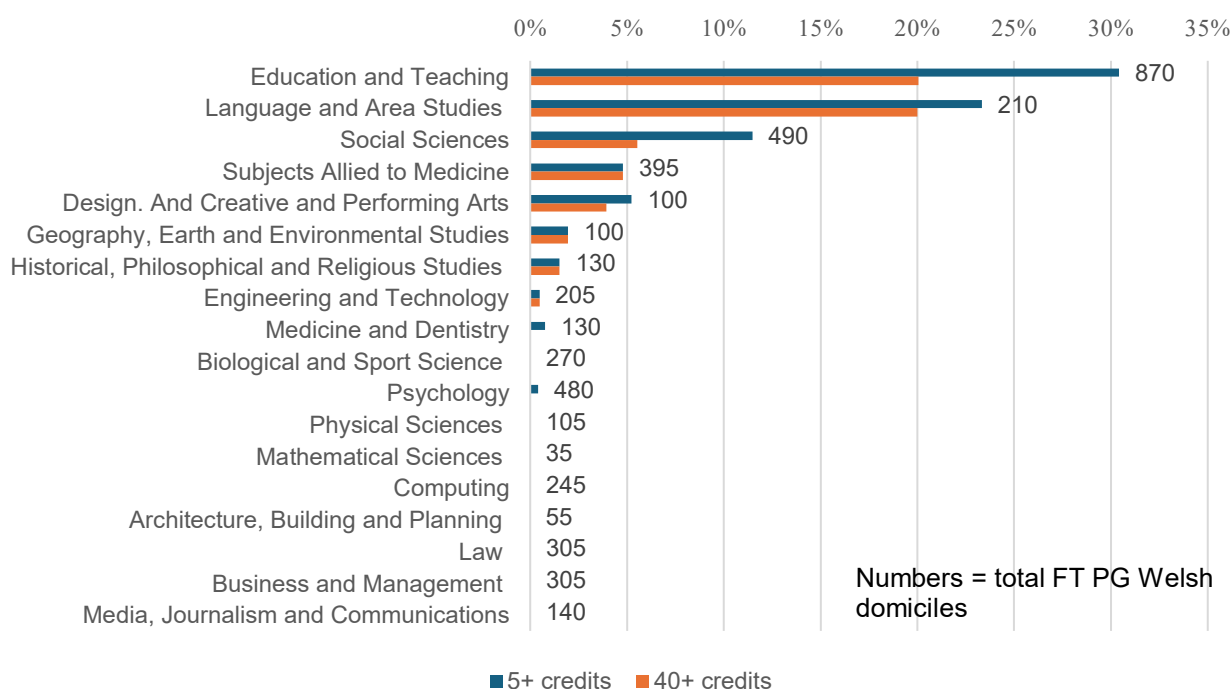
Source: HESA student record

Chart 19 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject group, PT UG 2023/24



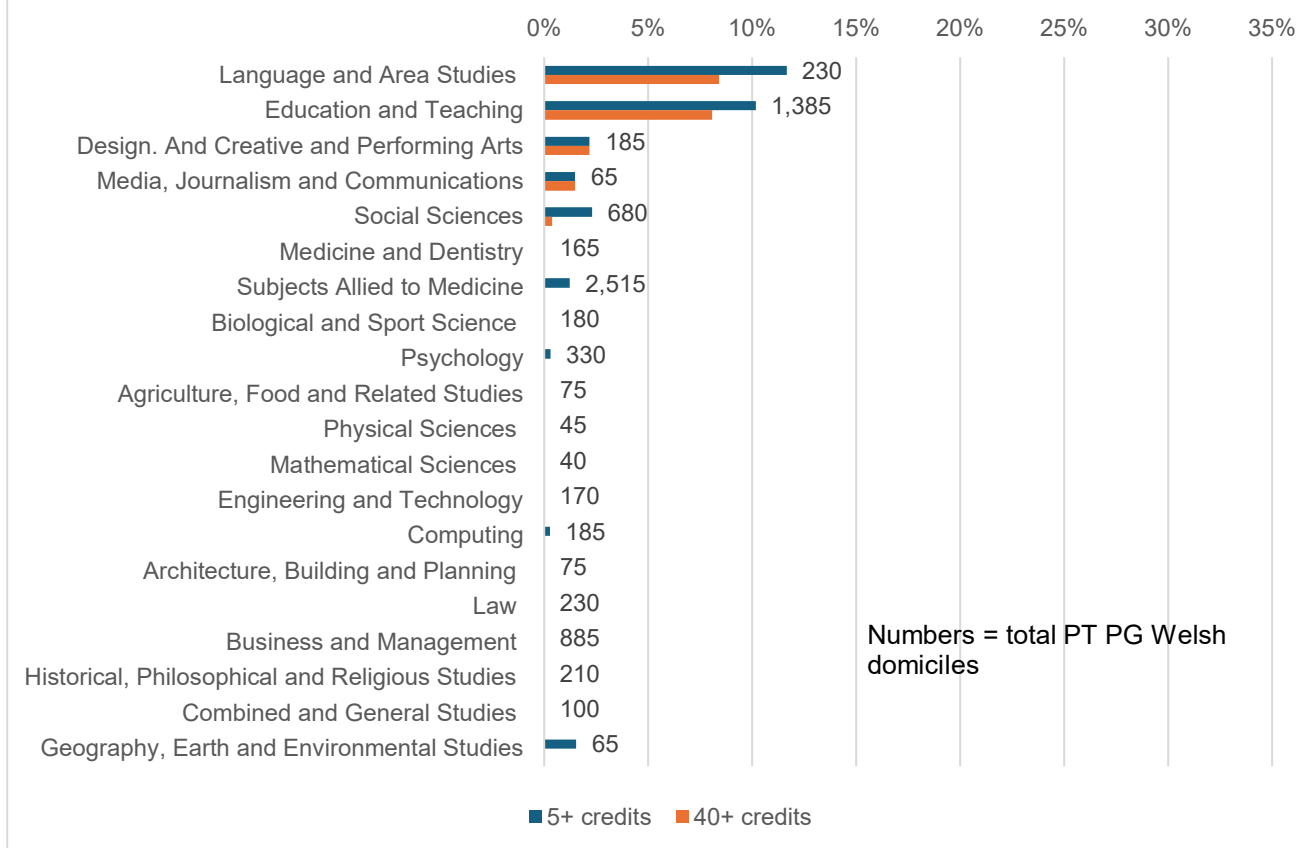
Source: HESA student record

Chart 20 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject group, FT PG 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

Chart 21 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject group, PT PG 2023/24



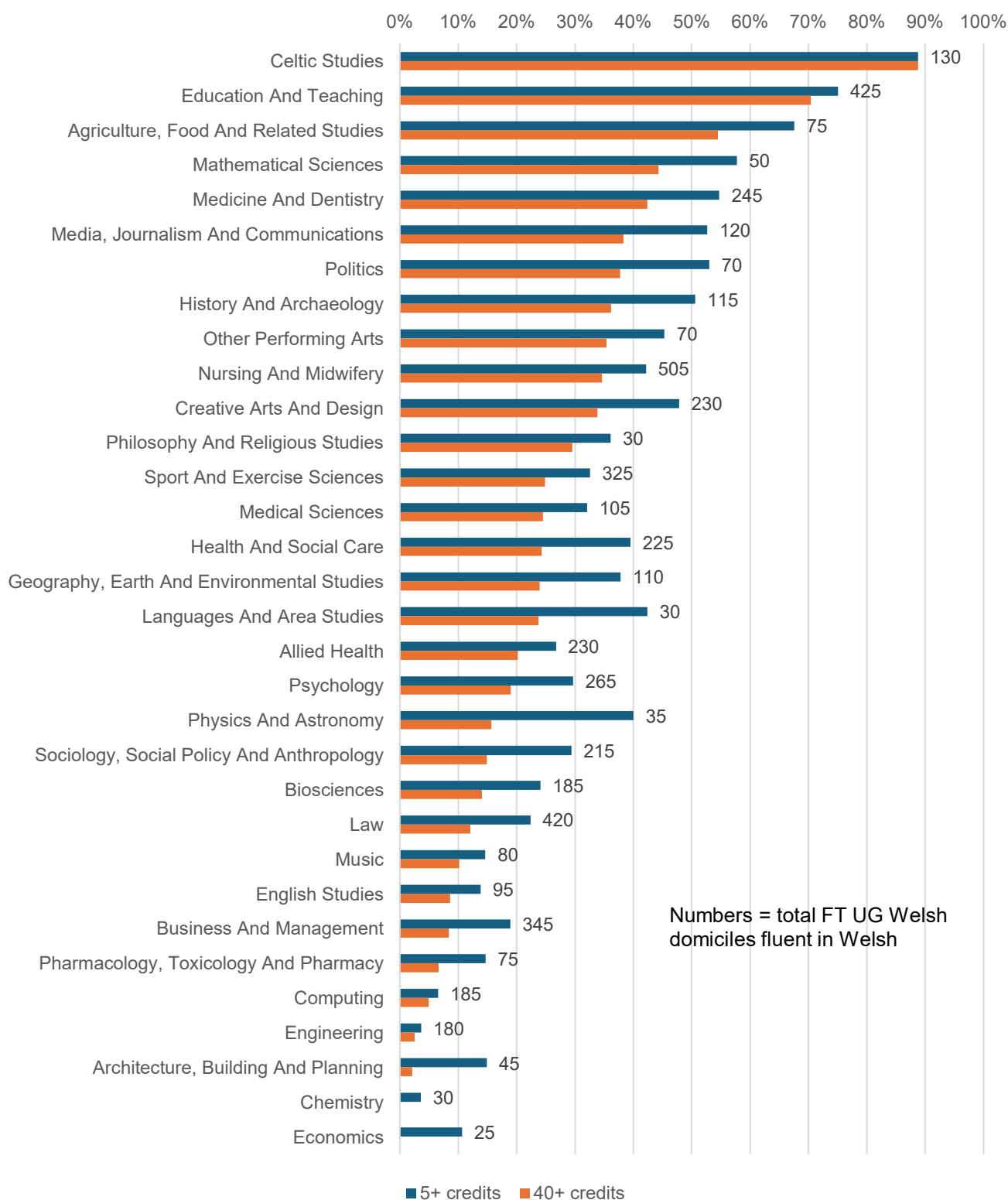
Source: HESA student record

101. The low proportion of enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh in some subject groups, modes and levels could be due to a number of factors, including availability of Welsh-speaking lecturers and tutors, lack of materials or other resources in Welsh to use in teaching, lack of interest from students, and the costs of Welsh medium provision for small groups of students.
102. The second set of charts below shows the proportion of enrolments who have self-declared as fluent in Welsh, that are studying 5+ and 40+ credits through Welsh, which we are using as a proxy for those that could potentially study through the medium of Welsh. It should be noted that some students that do not declare themselves as being fluent in Welsh are enrolled on Welsh medium study and therefore the self-declaration is only used as a proxy.
103. The aim of looking at these charts is to see if there is any potential untapped demand for Welsh medium provision that isn't being met. Any findings here can be used for further investigation.
104. For FT UG provision, eight of the 32 CAH level 2 subject groups with at least 23 enrolments have over 50% of enrolments fluent in Welsh studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh and three have over 50% studying 40+ credits. However, there are a number of subjects where only small proportions of fluent

Welsh speakers are studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh, including Computing (7%), Engineering (4%) and Chemistry (4%).

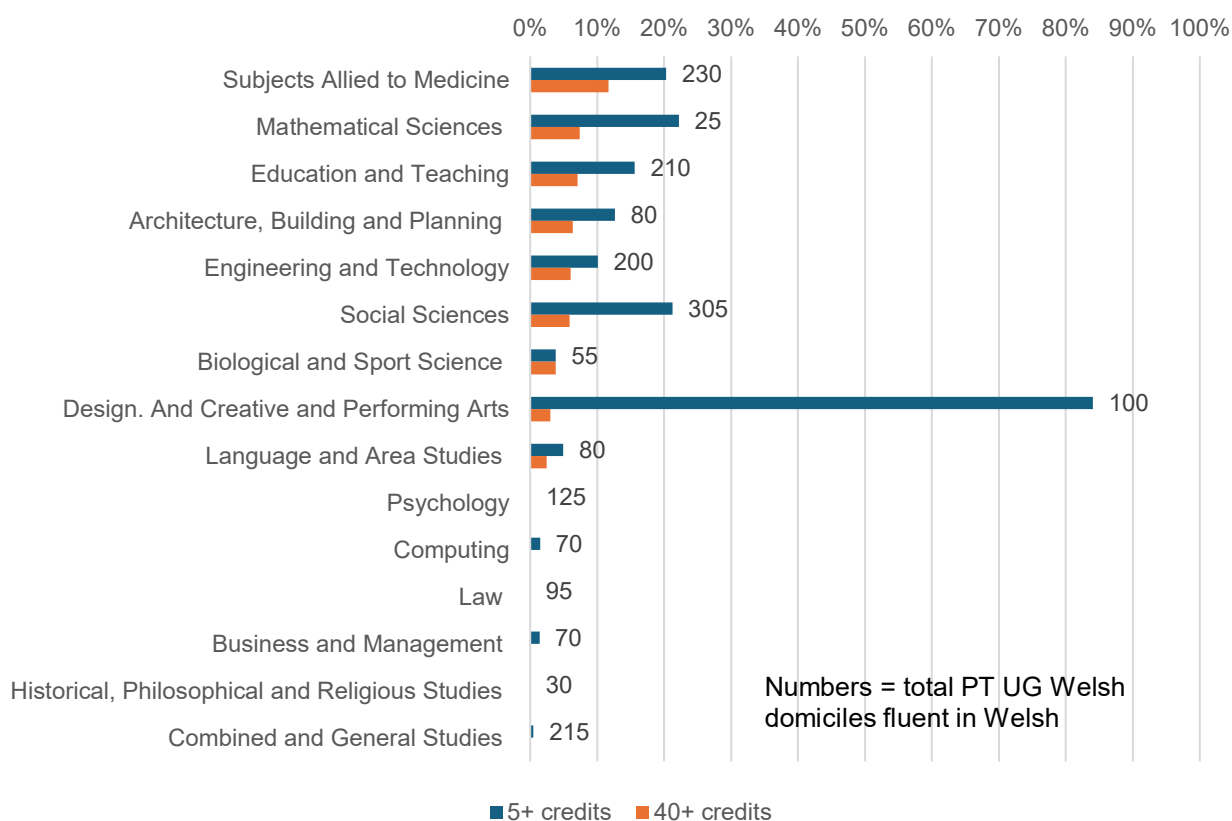
105. For PT UG provision, the pattern for 5+ and 40+ credits differed in that Design, and creative and performing arts had 84% of its fluent Welsh enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh but only 3% studying 40+ credits. Subjects allied to medicine (20%), Mathematical sciences (22%) and Social sciences (21%) had 20% or more enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh, but only Subjects allied to medicine had more than 10% studying 40+ credits. Psychology, Law and Historical, philosophical and religious studies had no enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh.
106. For FT PG provision, the majority of fluent Welsh speakers in Education and teaching (79%) were studying for 40+ credits. Languages and area studies (30%), Social sciences (26%) and Subjects allied to medicine (26%) also had over 20% of fluent Welsh enrolments studying 40+ credits. Biological and sport sciences, Computing, Law and Business and management did not have any enrolments studying through the medium of Welsh.
107. For PT PG provision, the highest proportion of Welsh medium activity was in Education and teaching (35% studying 40+ credits), Language and area studies (32% studying 40+ credits) and Design, and creative and performing arts (12% studying 40+ credits). Of the other subject groups with at least 23 enrolments by fluent Welsh speakers, only Social sciences and Subjects allied to medicine had any Welsh medium provision.

Chart 22 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments fluent in Welsh studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 2 subject group, FT UG 2023/24



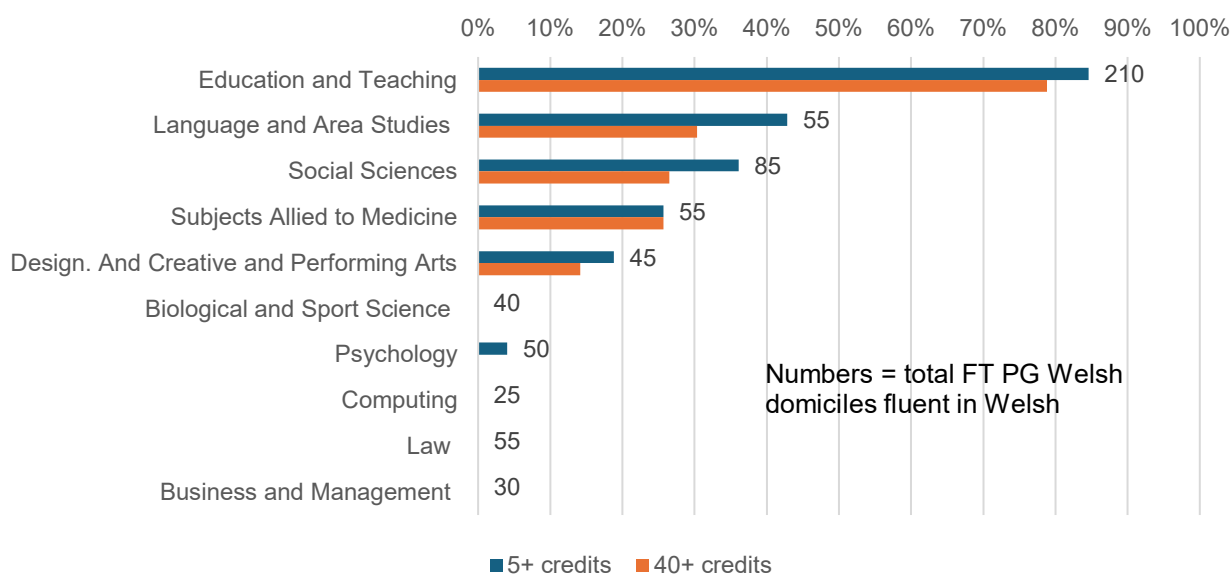
Source: HESA student record

Chart 23 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments fluent in Welsh studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject group, PT UG 2023/24



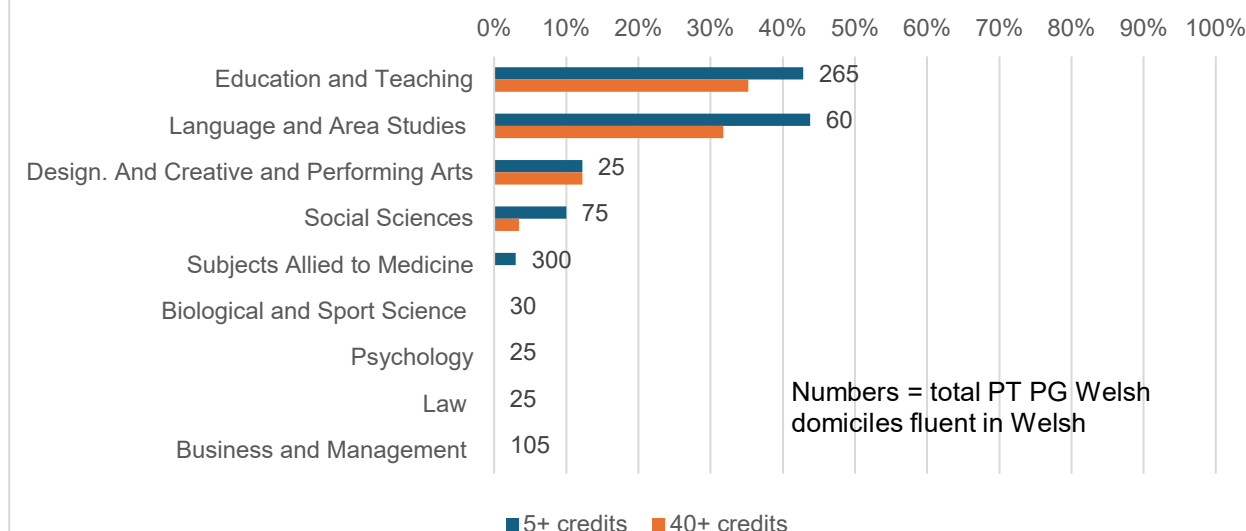
Source: HESA student record

Chart 24 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments fluent in Welsh studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject group, FT PG 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

Chart 25 - % of Welsh domiciled enrolments fluent in Welsh studying 5+ and 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh, by CAH level 1 subject groups, PT PG 2023/24



Source: HESA student record

108. The two tables below show the number of enrolments taking 5+ and 40+ credits, respectively, through Welsh, for the past five years, by CAH level 1 subject group, for all modes and levels of study and domiciles. The figures show that both the number of enrolments with 5+ credits and the number with 40+ credits fell over the five year period, by 9% and 10% respectively.
109. For enrolments with 5+ credits, the subject groups with the largest increases between 2019/20 and 2023/24 were Medicine and dentistry (229%), Engineering and technology (151%), Agriculture food and related subjects (42%) and Subjects allied to medicine (41%). Those with the biggest decreases (with more than 20 enrolments in at least one year) were Combined and general studies (99%), Computing (83%) and Media, journalism and communications (67%).
110. For enrolments with 40+ credits, with at least 20 enrolments in one year, Engineering and technology (1150%), Medicine and dentistry (84%) and Agriculture, food and related studies (22%) had the largest increases. Combined ad general studies (100%), Business and management (70%), Physical sciences (68%) and Geography, earth and environmental studies (51%) had the largest percentage decreases.

Table 6 – Number of enrolments studying 5+ credits through the medium of Welsh at Welsh HEPs 2019/20 to 2023/24

CAH level 1 Subject Group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change
Medicine and Dentistry	85	105	125	170	285	229%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	515	640	930	770	720	41%
Biological and Sport Science	325	280	245	220	195	-40%
Psychology	75	75	70	85	90	21%
Veterinary Sciences	0	0	5	0	0	-100%
Agriculture, Food and Related Studies	60	75	150	80	85	42%
Physical Sciences	45	40	10	10	20	-53%
Mathematical Sciences	40	40	30	40	35	-12%
Engineering and Technology	15	20	90	45	45	151%
Computing	160	130	65	60	25	-83%
Architecture, Building and Planning	30	65	20	10	35	10%
Social Sciences	675	845	835	660	615	-9%
Law	220	235	185	145	125	-44%
Business and Management	130	360	310	195	110	-16%
Language and Area Studies	355	390	415	380	330	-7%
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	145	215	145	90	70	-50%
Education and Teaching	930	1,185	1,225	1,135	1,055	14%
Combined and General Studies	160	115	55	60	0	-99%
Media, Journalism and Communications	245	100	85	80	80	-67%
Design. And Creative and Performing Arts	700	1,000	1,035	885	590	-16%
Geography, Earth and Environmental Studies	110	105	45	40	45	-59%
Total	5,020	6,015	6,070	5,160	4,560	-9%

Source: HESA student record

Table 7 – Number of enrolments studying 40+ credits through the medium of Welsh at Welsh HEPs 2019/20 to 2023/24

CAH level 1 Subject Group	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change
Medicine and Dentistry	60	80	105	150	105	84%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	395	480	515	535	475	21%
Biological and Sport Science	120	150	140	135	120	0%
Psychology	55	50	50	50	55	4%
Veterinary Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	-
Agriculture, Food and Related Studies	45	55	90	60	55	22%
Physical Sciences	20	15	0	5	5	-68%
Mathematical Sciences	25	25	20	25	25	8%
Engineering and Technology	0	0	25	10	25	1150%
Computing	20	20	20	15	10	-46%
Architecture, Building and Planning	5	5	10	5	5	17%
Social Sciences	310	270	195	160	185	-39%
Law	110	95	75	60	55	-49%
Business and Management	105	105	70	45	30	-70%
Language and Area Studies	320	320	325	310	280	-13%
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	85	75	60	55	50	-38%
Education and Teaching	560	675	685	560	640	14%
Combined and General Studies	25	20	0	20	0	-100%
Media, Journalism and Communications	40	45	55	50	50	20%
Design. And Creative and Performing Arts	315	290	285	165	180	-42%
Geography, Earth and Environmental Studies	60	50	35	35	30	-51%
Total	2,670	2,825	2,765	2,445	2,390	-10%

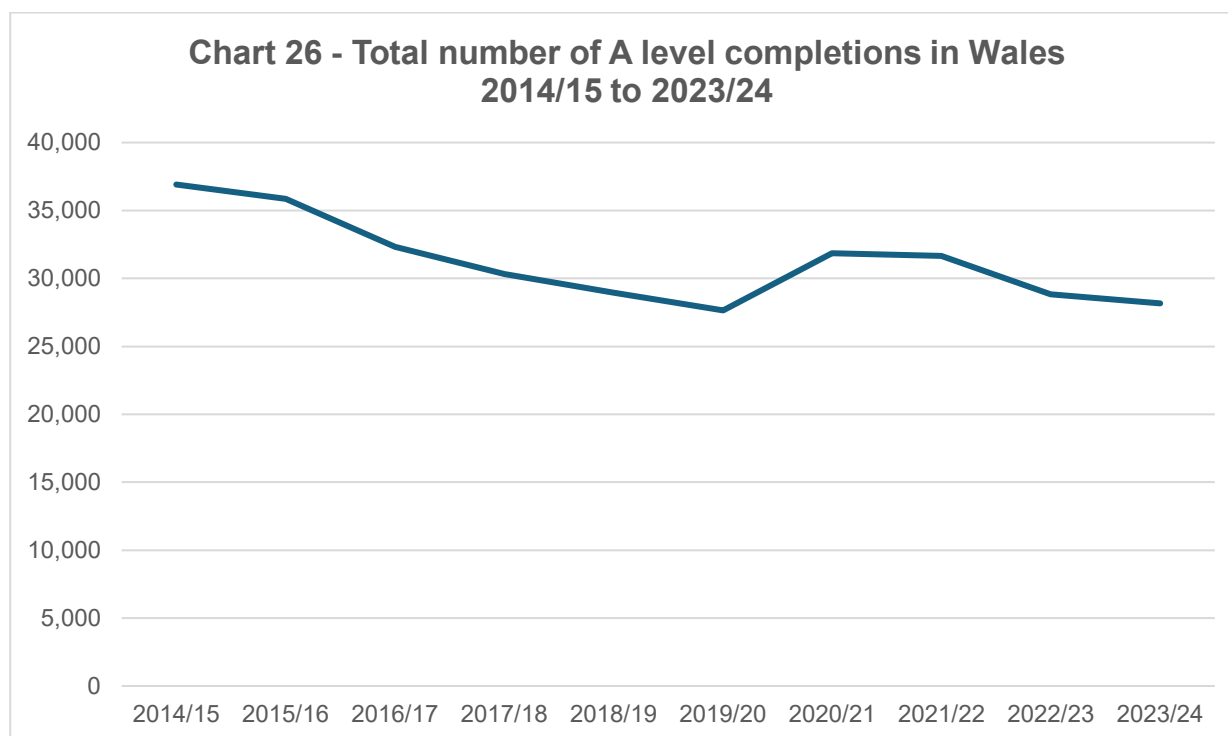
Source: HESA student record

Section 2: Pipeline to higher education - A level completions

111. The subjects that are studied prior to entering higher education influence the choices students make about which subjects to study at higher education level. Increases or decreases in completions of particular A level subjects can affect the trend at undergraduate level, which can then have a knock-on effect to postgraduate provision.

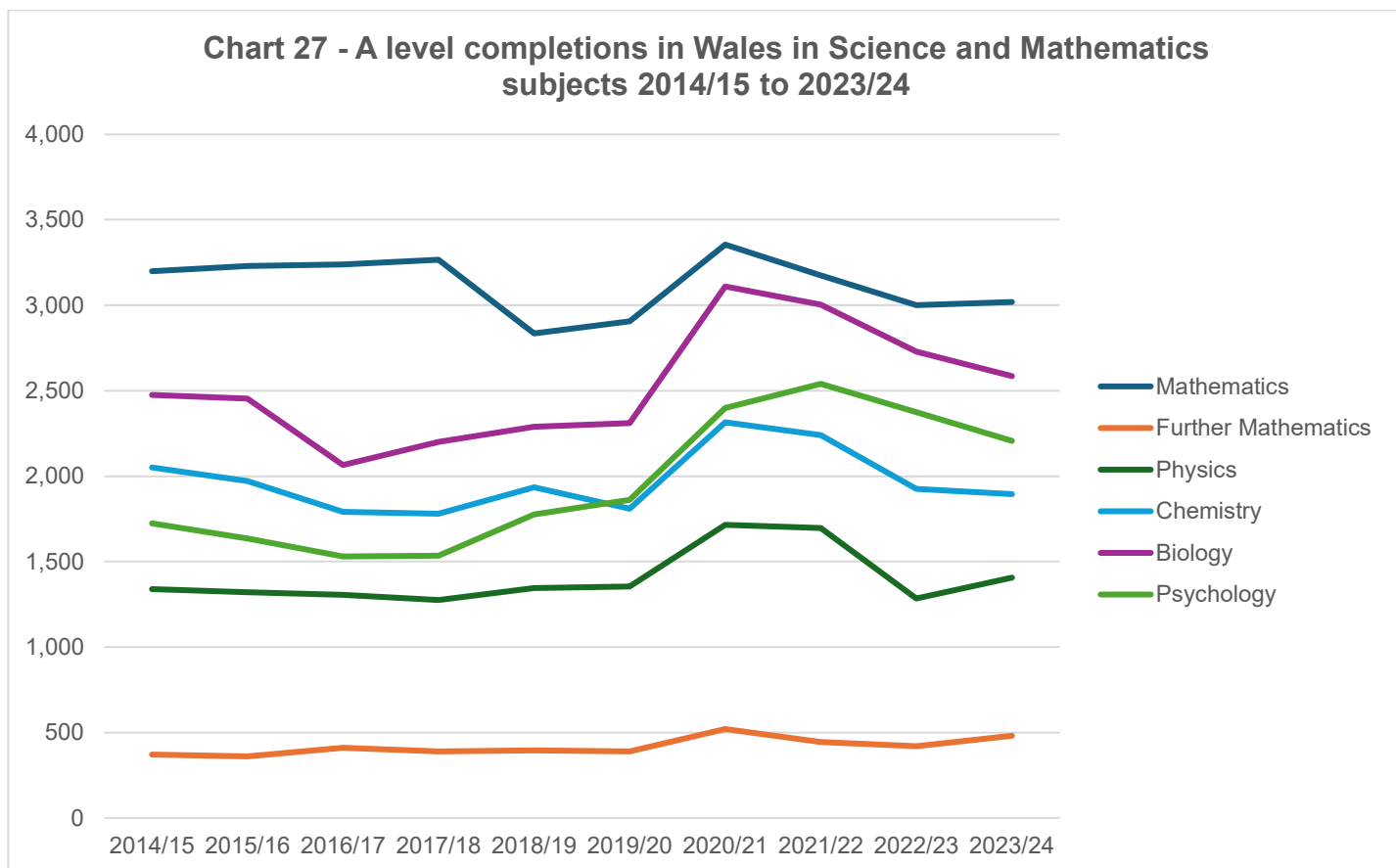
112. We have looked at A levels completions by subject. This report has not included the pipeline to HE from other qualifications, and this is listed as a potential area for further work in section 6. The chart below shows the overall trend in A level completions for the past 10 years. The trend was downward from 2014/15 to

2019/20, with an increase in 2020/21 and then a downward trend to 2023/24 back to just above 2019/20 levels. The pattern seen will have been affected in 2020/21 and 2021/22 by the Covid19 pandemic.



Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

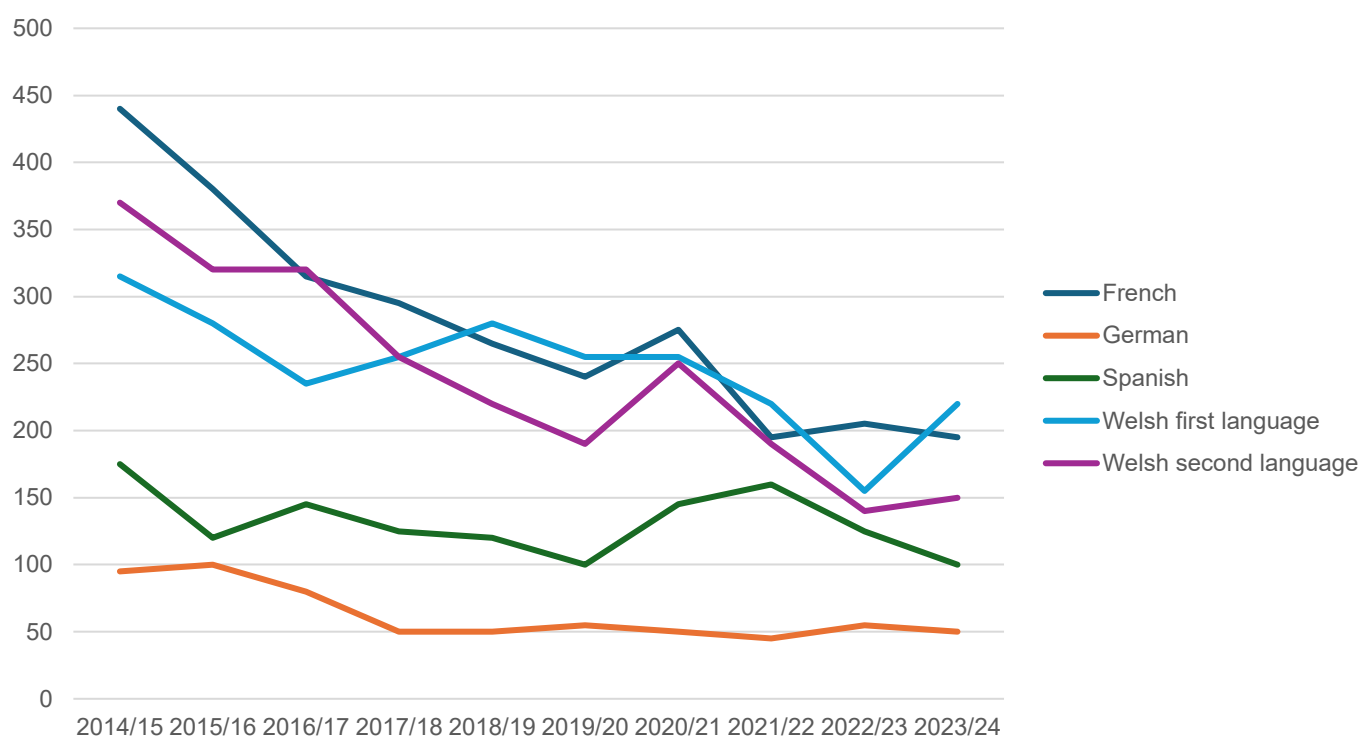
113. In this section, we have concentrated on the higher education subject groups that have had particular decreases in provision at undergraduate level, and have compared those decreases to the A level subjects that are likely to be required to study these subjects. Trends over the past 10 years for A level completions for each A level subject are included in Annex E.
114. The CAH level 1 subject groups with a notable decreasing trend in enrolments at undergraduate level are Physical Sciences, Mathematical sciences, Language and area studies, Education and teaching and Design, and creative and performing arts.
115. Chart 27 below shows the trend in A level completions in Science and Mathematics subjects. These are subjects that might be expected to lead to Physical sciences or Mathematical sciences being studied at undergraduate level. The chart does not show the same decreases seen in A level completions overall in Wales or in study at undergraduate level in Wales, particularly in full-time study. However, these only show A level completions in Wales and not for the UK more broadly and do not take into account the propensity of those holding these A levels to apply to study these subjects at Welsh providers. It could be the case for example, that those holding mathematics and science A levels are more likely to enter higher education outside of Wales. Further work would need to be carried out on the cross border flows of students, to investigate this in more detail.



Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

116. Chart 28 below shows A level completions to modern foreign language A levels, and Welsh first and second language A levels, as these subjects are included in the Language and area studies subject group at undergraduate level. The downward trend in enrolments at undergraduate level can also be seen in the A level completions for subjects in this group, particularly in French for modern foreign languages, and Welsh as a second language.

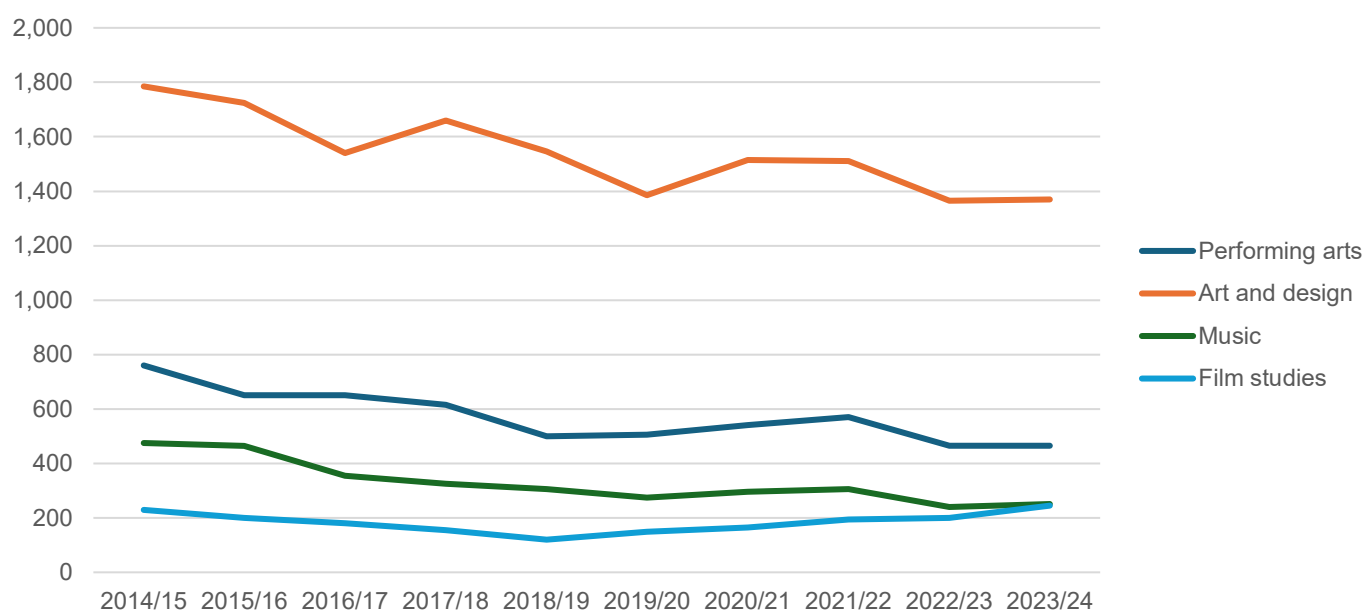
Chart 28 - A level completions in Wales in Modern foreign languages and Welsh language subjects 2014/15 to 2023/24



Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

117. For the Design, and creative and performing arts CAH level 1 subject group, Chart 29 below shows associated A level completions. Performing arts, Art and design and Music A levels all saw a downward trend in entries. Film studies saw a decrease and then an increase in enrolments, but overall numbers are small.

Chart 29 - A level completions in Wales in Art and design and creative and performing arts subjects 2014/15 to 2023/24



Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

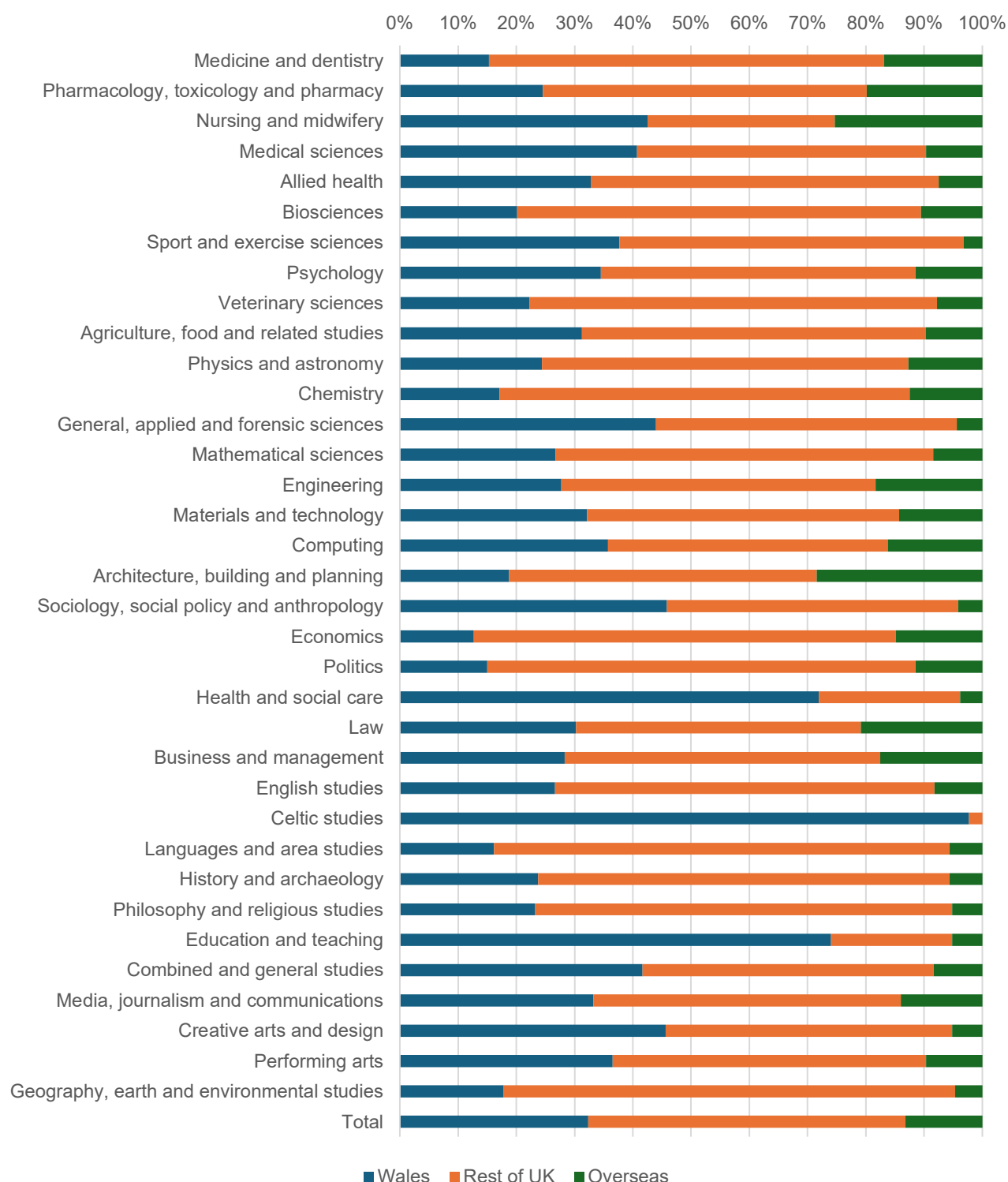
Section 3: UCAS applications and acceptances

118. The figures in this section are based on data supplied to us by UCAS. We have six years of data at CAH level 2 subject group that we have analysed to look for trends in subject choices for full-time undergraduate applications, applicants and acceptances. Prospective students can make up to five applications and so in considering the application numbers, it should be noted that a student could be represented up to five times in the figures and can apply to the same or different courses at different providers, to different courses at the same provider, or to providers in different UK countries. Applicant data was also supplied to us, however, within this section, we have concentrated on applications and acceptances only.
119. The analysis in this section relates to UCAS applications and acceptances to full-time undergraduate courses only and therefore represents only those who apply through UCAS, and does not include any students that apply directly to the provider, or any study that is not full-time undergraduate. The proportion of students that gain places at Welsh HE providers through UCAS will vary by subject of study, type of student (age, prior qualifications, location of residence etc) and provider, amongst other factors.

Latest applications and acceptances

120. The latest year for which we have data is for 2024 entry. The chart below shows applications to Welsh providers by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile of applicant.

Chart 30 - UCAS applications to Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group and domicile 2024

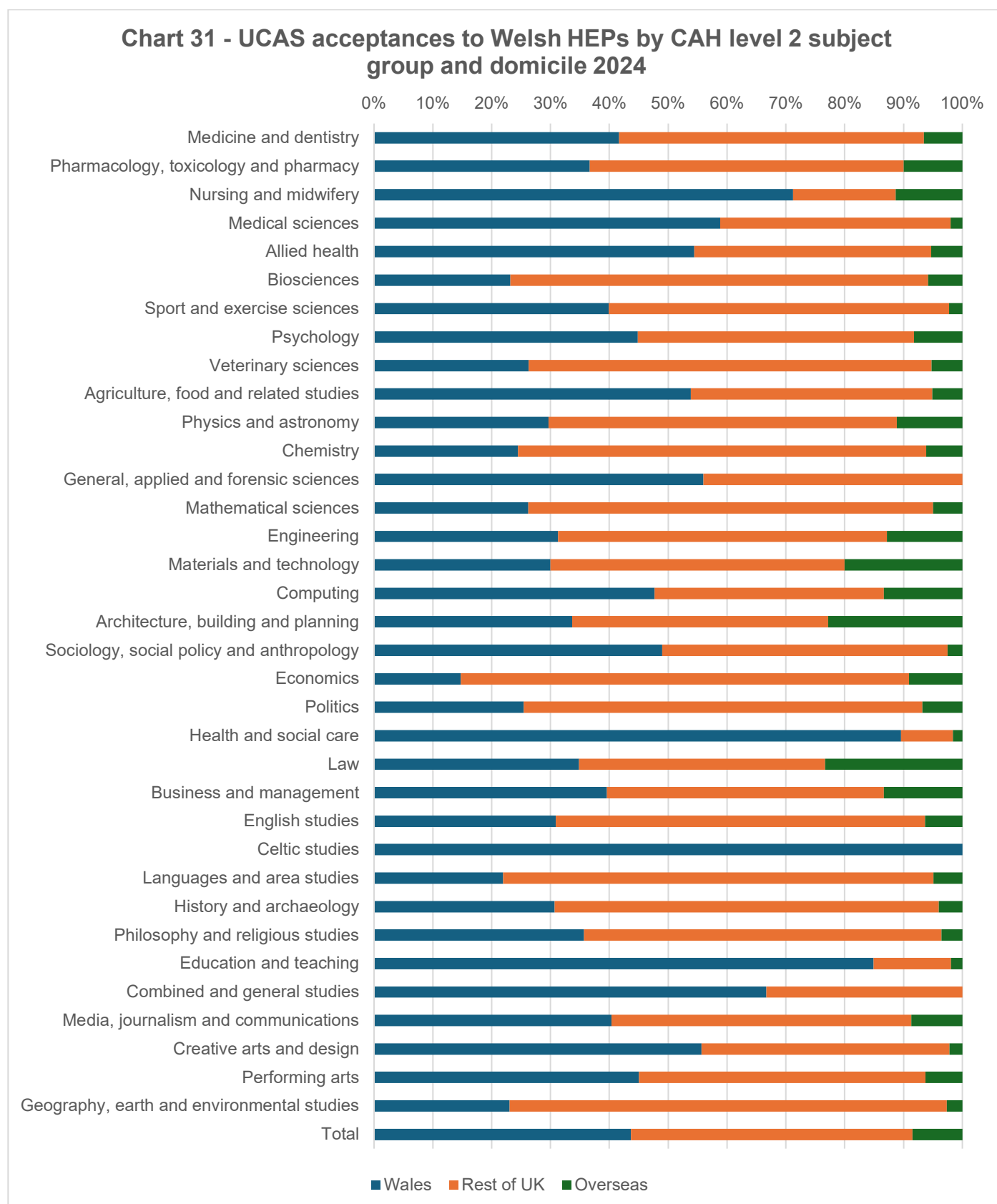


Source: UCAS

121. Over half (54%) of all applications to Welsh HEPs were from applicants domiciled in the rest of the UK, 32% were from Welsh domiciles and 13% were from overseas applicants. Subjects with high proportions of applications from Welsh domiciles included Health and social care (72%), Celtic studies (99%) and Education and teaching (74%). These were the only three subjects with over 50% of applications

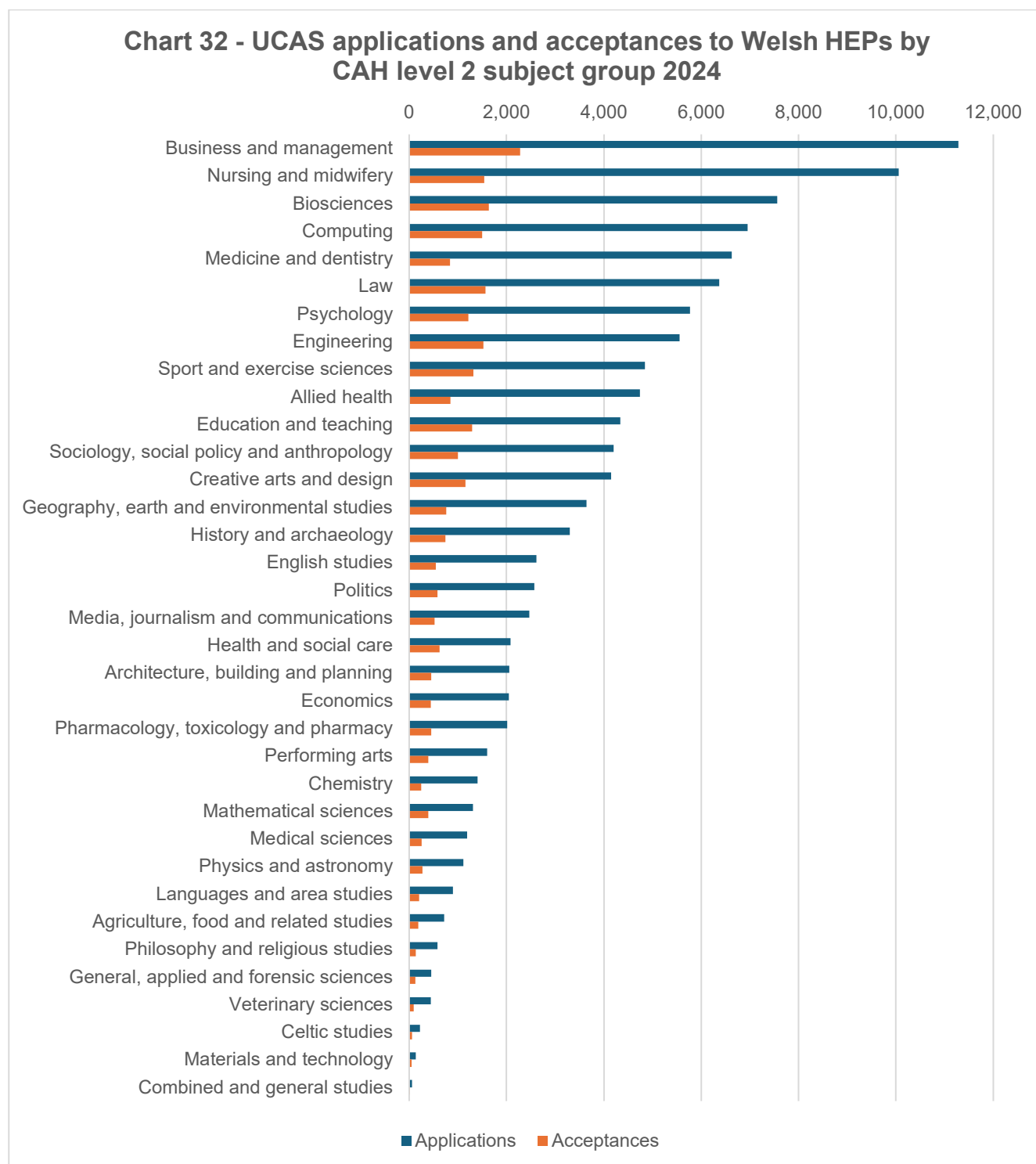
from Wales. Medicine and dentistry (15%), Economics (13%) and Politics (15%) had the lowest proportions of applications from Welsh domiciles.

122. The chart below shows the same analysis for acceptances to Welsh providers.



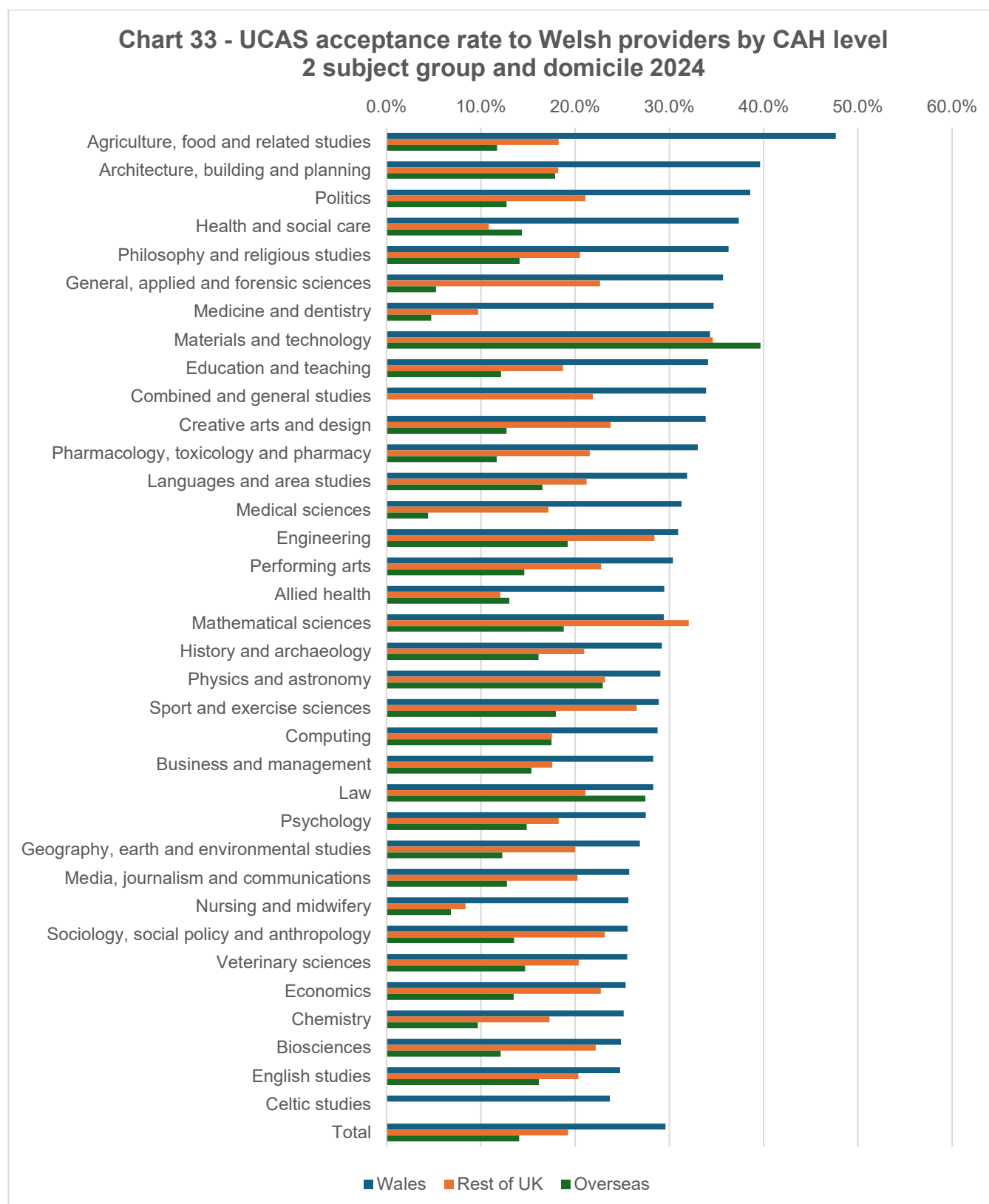
Source: UCAS

123. Overall the proportion of acceptances that were Welsh domiciles was higher than applications at 44%, with 48% rest of UK domiciles and 8% overseas domiciles. The subjects with the highest proportion of acceptances that were Welsh domiciles were Nursing and midwifery (71%), Health and social care (89%), Celtic studies (97%) and Education and teaching (85%). Subjects with low proportions of Welsh domiciles being accepted were Biosciences (23%), Chemistry (24%), Economics (15%), Language and area studies (23%) and Geography, earth and environmental studies (23%). Overall applications and acceptances for Welsh providers are shown in the chart below, ordered by the number of applications.



Source: UCAS

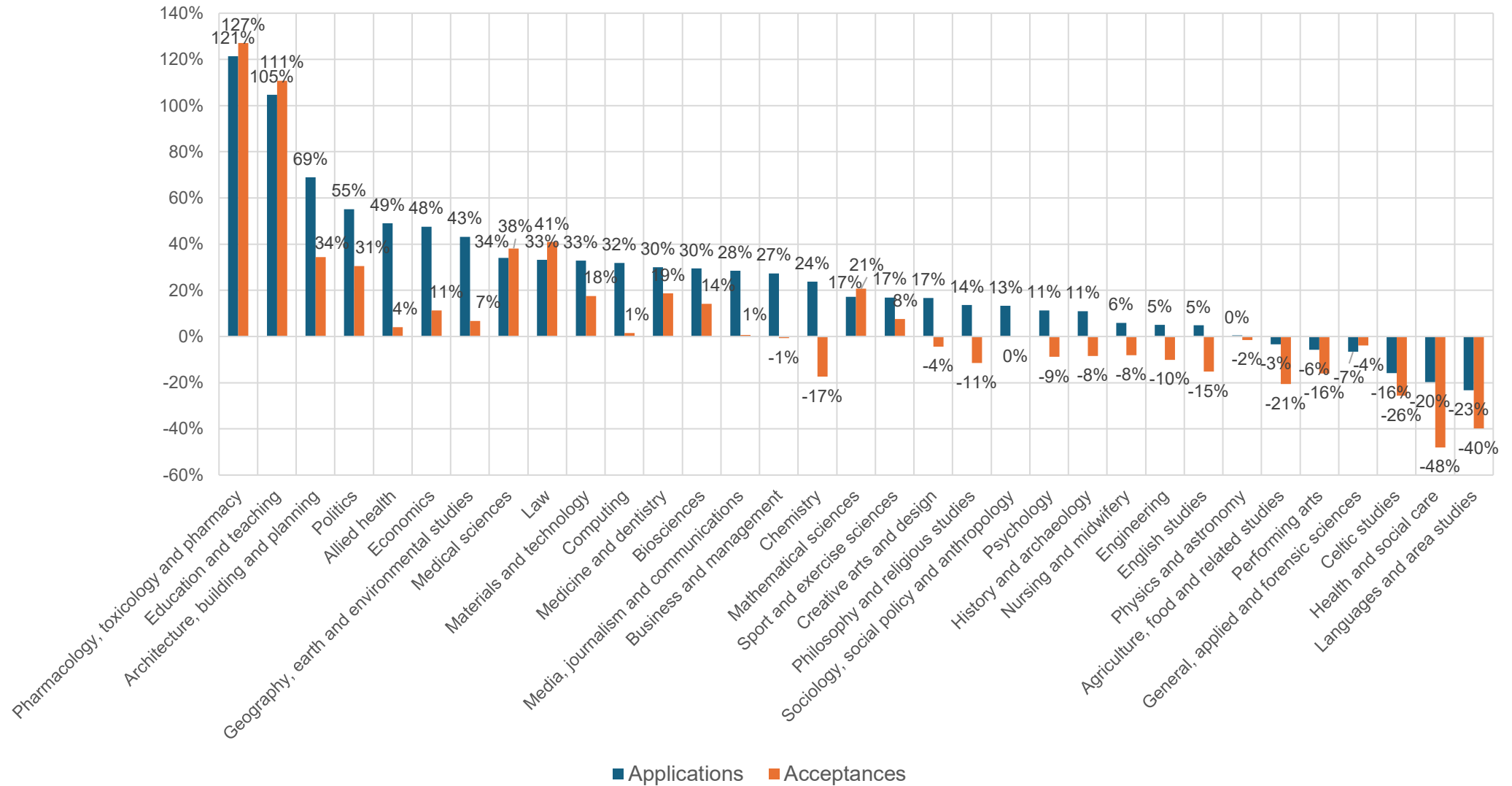
124. This is summarised further as the acceptance rate (acceptances divided by applications) for each CAH level 2 subject group and domicile, in the chart below. Consideration should be given to the numbers of acceptances and applications shown in Chart 32 when looking at the acceptance rates in Chart 33.



Source: UCAS

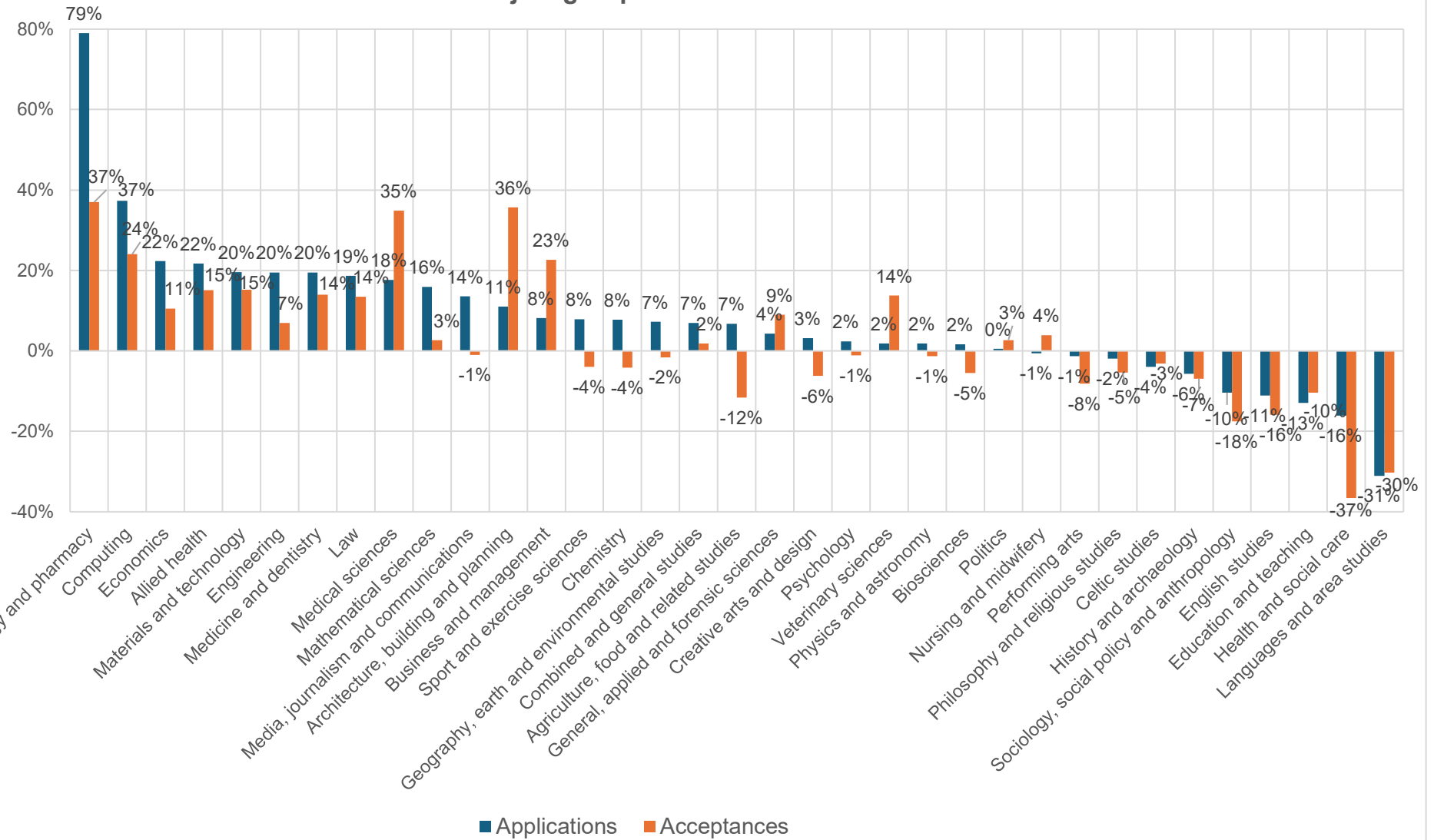
125. Some subject groups have seen increases over the past five years in the number of applications and acceptances. The charts below show the change between 2019 entry and 2024 entry for Welsh and for UK providers, ordered according to the percentage change in applications. Note that Veterinary sciences and Combined and general studies are excluded for Welsh providers because of the small number of acceptances in 2019.

Chart 34 - percentage change in UCAS applications and acceptances to Welsh HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group 2019 to 2024



Source: UCAS

Chart 35 - percentage change in UCAS applications and acceptances to UK HEPs by CAH level 2 subject group 2019 to 2024



Source: UCAS

126. The charts show for Welsh HEPs that those with the largest drops in both applications and acceptances are Languages and area studies and Health and Social care. These were also the two subject groups with the largest decreases in the UK as a whole.
127. The largest increases in both applications and acceptances for Welsh providers are seen in Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy and Education and teaching. For the UK, Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy also saw the largest increase in applications, though large increases in acceptances were also seen in Medical sciences and Architecture, building and planning. Education and teaching differed to Wales in that it had the third highest decrease for UK HEPs.
128. Annex F shows for each CAH level 1 subject group, a six year trend in acceptances and acceptance rates for Welsh HEPs.

Section 4: REF 2021 results

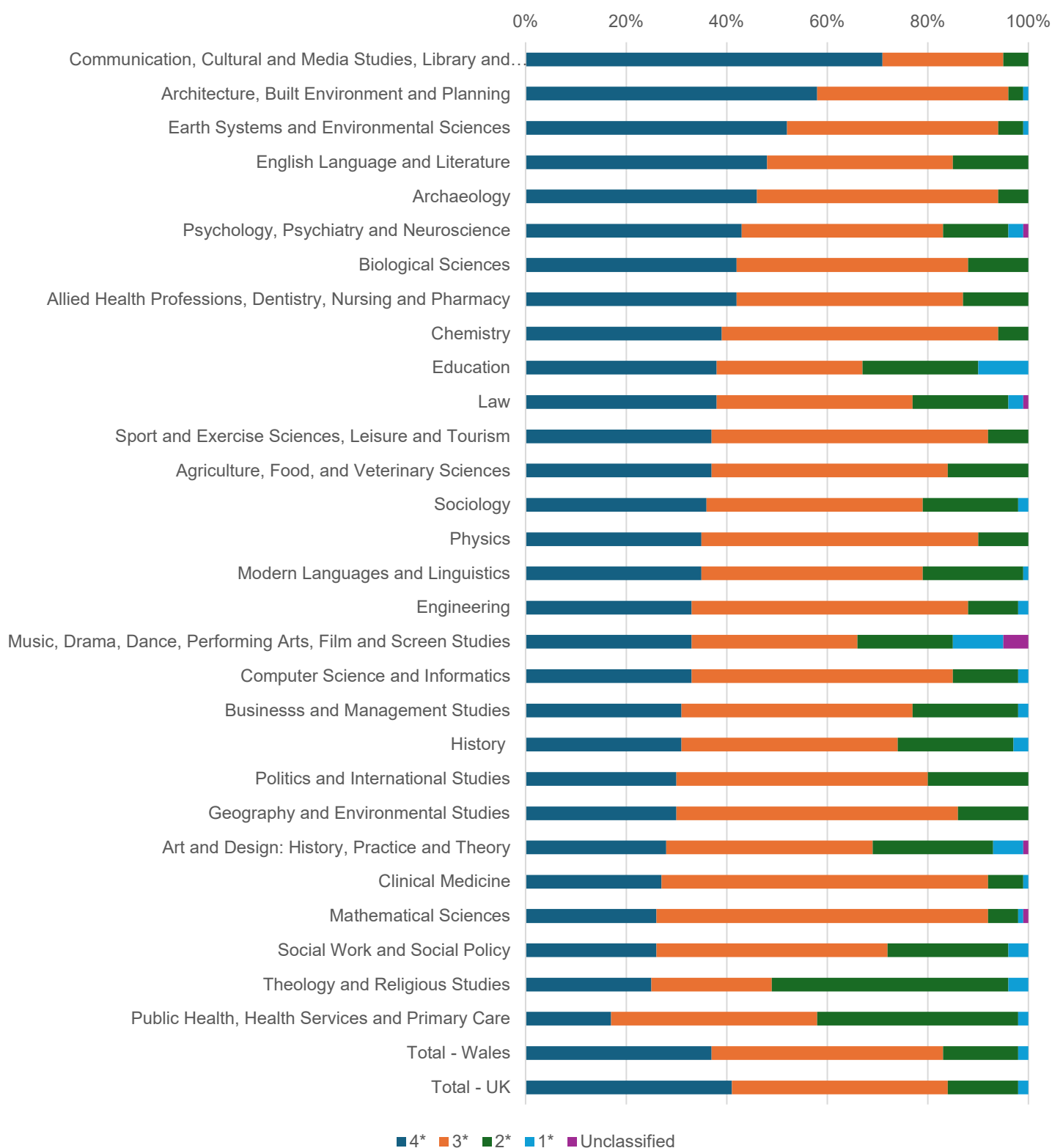
129. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 exercise looked at the quality of research that takes place at HEPs in the UK. Submissions to the exercise are made to a number of units of assessment (UoAs) and are assessed by a panel of experts. The results are summarised in an overall quality profile.

Table 8 – REF 2021 quality profile categories

REF 2021 result	Definition
Four star	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Three star	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
Two star	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
One star	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified (UC)	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.

130. More information can be found on the [REF 2021 website](#). Chart 36 shows the REF 2021 results for Wales by UoA as a proportion of submitted staff FTE in the quality profile categories. The chart is ordered by the proportion of 4* staff FTE out of the total staff FTE submitted to the exercise.

Chart 36 - REF 2021 results by unit of assessment, Welsh HEPs - proportion of staff FTE by quality profile



Source: REF 2021

131. Wales has a slightly lower proportion of staff FTE that are classified as 4* quality than the UK as a whole (37% vs 41%). Staff FTE submitted to the Research REF 2021 exercise for Wales accounted for 3.9% of the UK total and in some subject areas numbers submitted were very small. For context, 3.9% of PGR students in

the UK were studying at Welsh HEPs and 4.4% of academic staff at UK HEPs were employed at Welsh HEPs, in 2021/22.

132. Annex G shows, for each CAH level 1 subject group, associated REF 2021 UoAs by quality profile.

Section 5: Additional resources

133. Other work carried out in this area includes:

- The British Academy, September 2025: [Cold spots: Mapping inequality in SHAPE provision in UK higher education | The British Academy](#)
- Higher Education Policy Institute, July 2025: [The Languages Crisis: Arresting Decline - HEPI](#)
- Universities UK report, May 2025: [Supply and demand for high-cost subjects and graduate progression to growth sectors.](#)
- The British Academy, August 2024: [British-Academy-report-Subject-choice-trends-post-16-education-England.pdf](#)
- HESA (Jisc) Open data, subject analysis: [What do HE students study? | HESA](#)
- HESA (Jisc) subject uptake dashboard: [Subject uptake dashboard | HESA](#) and [commentary](#)

Section 6: Additional areas to consider for future work

134. These are areas that are not in scope for this piece of work but are to be considered for future analysis, for example:

- Graduate outcomes for each subject group using HESA Graduate Outcomes survey data, including a trend.
- Progression through tertiary education of Welsh domiciles by subject group using the Matched Education Dataset. This could be used, for example, to see if those with A levels in certain subjects are more likely to go outside of Wales to study, and how the subject and grade of A levels and other level 3 qualifications impacts choice of location of study.
- Cross border flows by subject group using UK HESA student record data, splitting England into its regions.
- The spread of Welsh domiciled enrolments in Wales compared to the potential population that may study.
- A level subjects on entry for those in higher education, by subject studied, including a comparison of the A level subjects held by those Welsh domiciles studying in Wales and those who study elsewhere in the UK.
- Subjects studied by personal characteristics, for example, age, sex, disability and ethnicity, and prior achievement, for example, A levels or other qualifications, A level subject choice and tariff score.
- A look at the module subject choices by course subject to see if any further insight can be gained, particularly for courses returned against Combined and general studies.

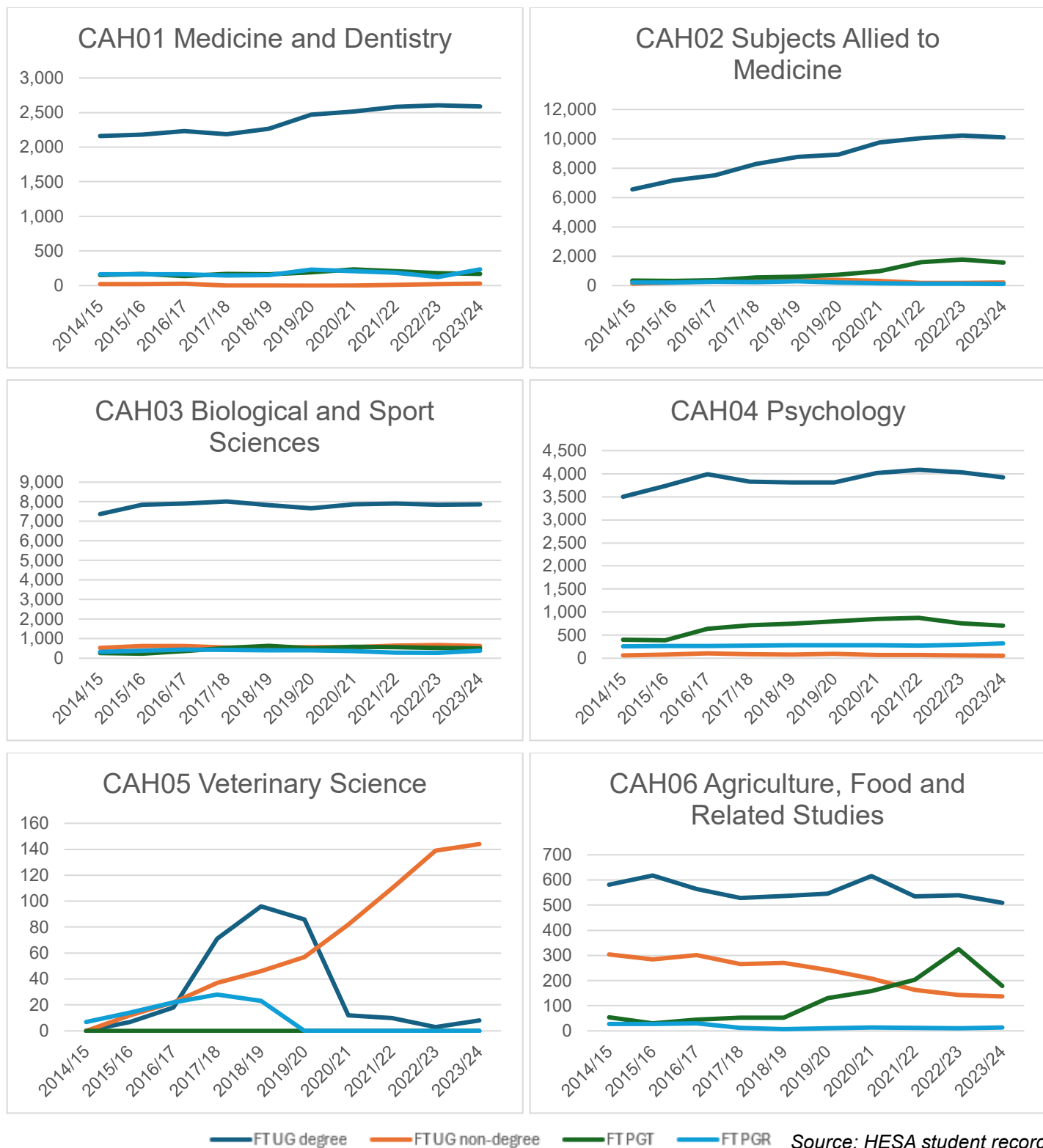
- A time series of the supply and demand analysis.
- A time series of the regional distribution of subjects studied.
- A more in depth analysis of the REF 2021 results including a comparison to the enrolment analysis.
- An in-depth look at particular subject areas of interest.
- The undergraduate subject choices of entrants from Welsh medium or bilingual schools, their A level subject choices and the availability of Welsh medium study.
- The pipeline to HE from vocational qualifications at level 3, and the regional distribution in Wales of level 3 qualifications by subject.
- Analysis of data about staff in universities and how this links to subjects studied, including availability of staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh.
- Additional suggested areas coming out of discussions about the findings of this report.

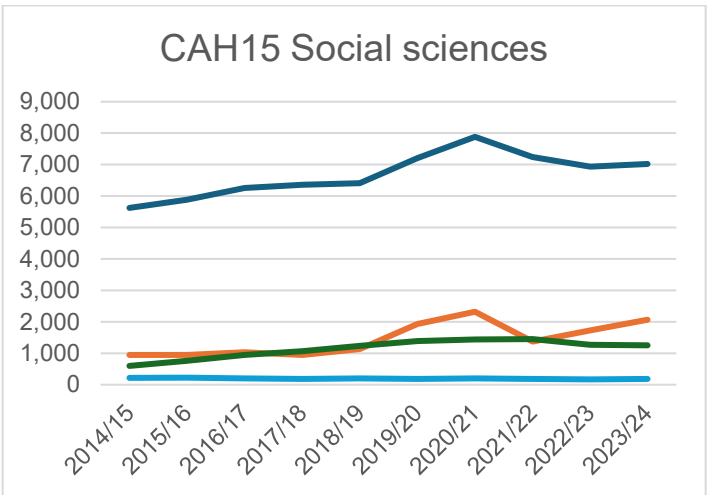
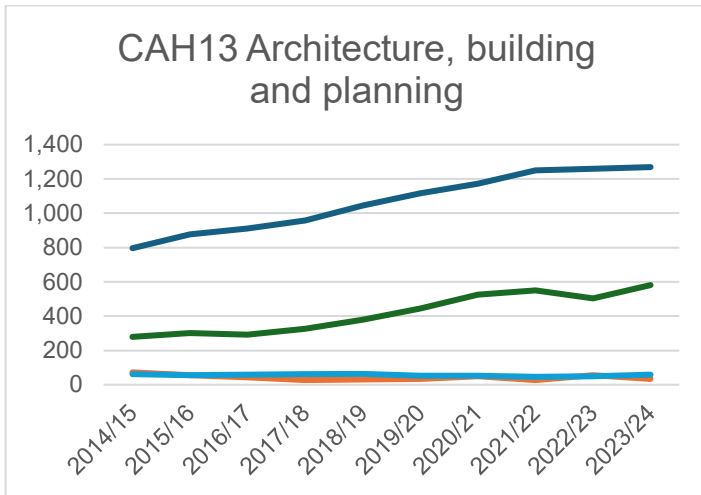
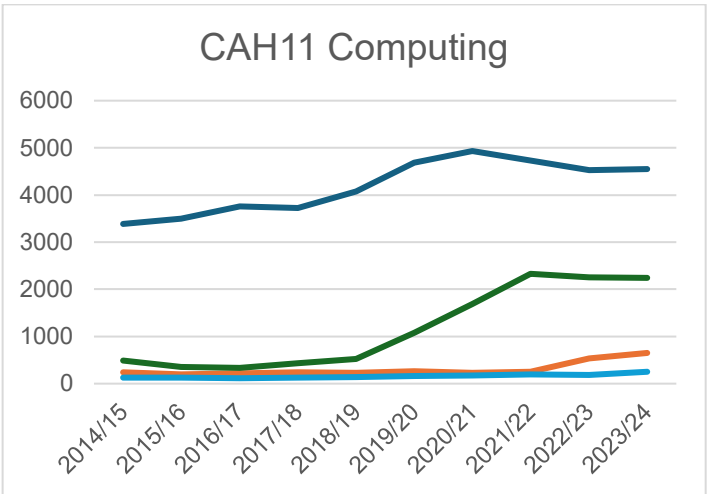
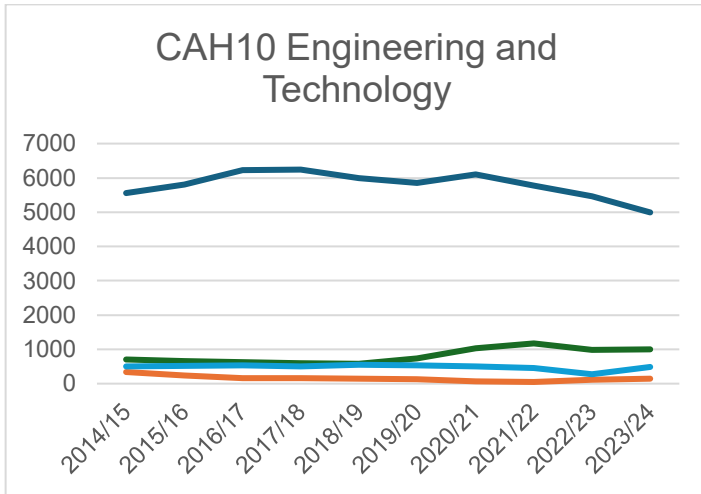
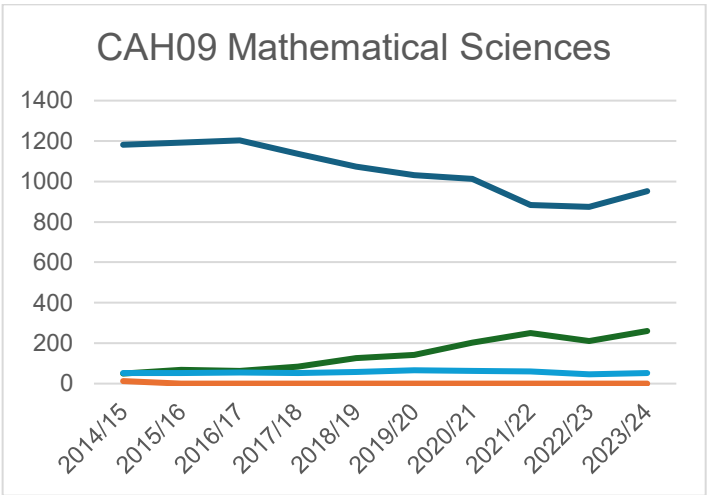
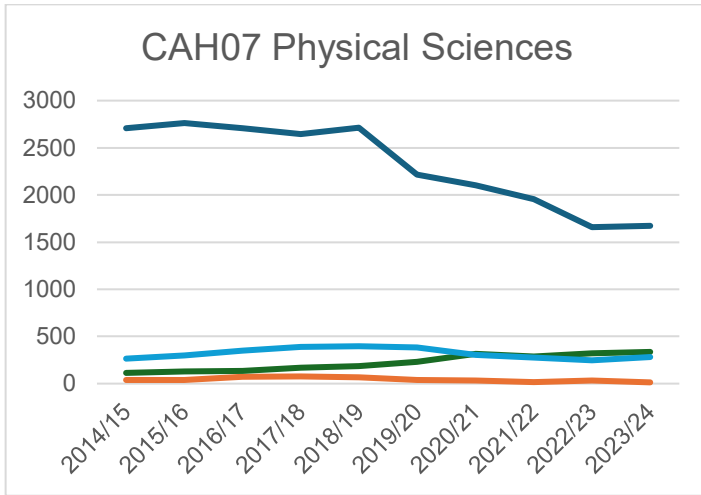
Further information

135. For further information, please contact hestats@medr.cymru.

Annex A – trends in full-time enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 1 subject group, by level of study, 2014/15 to 2023/24

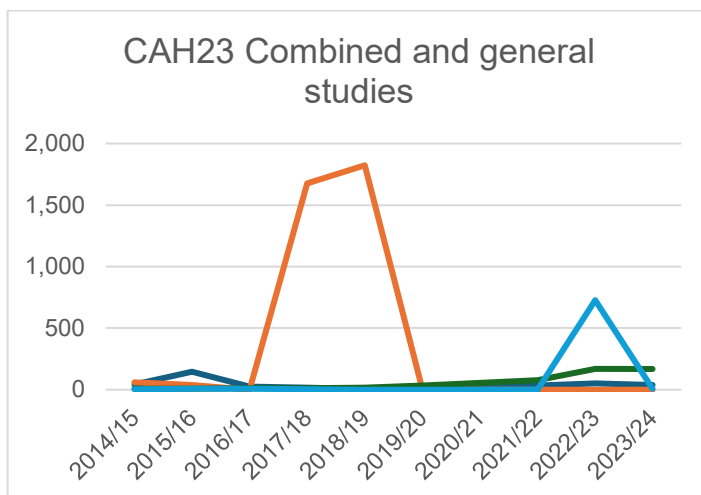
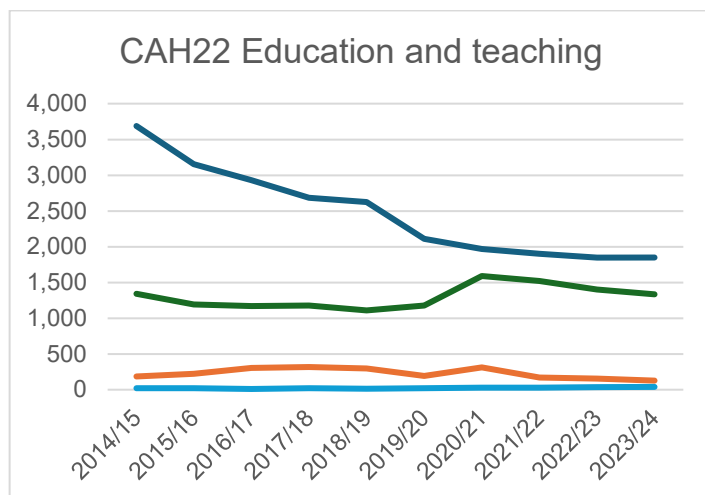
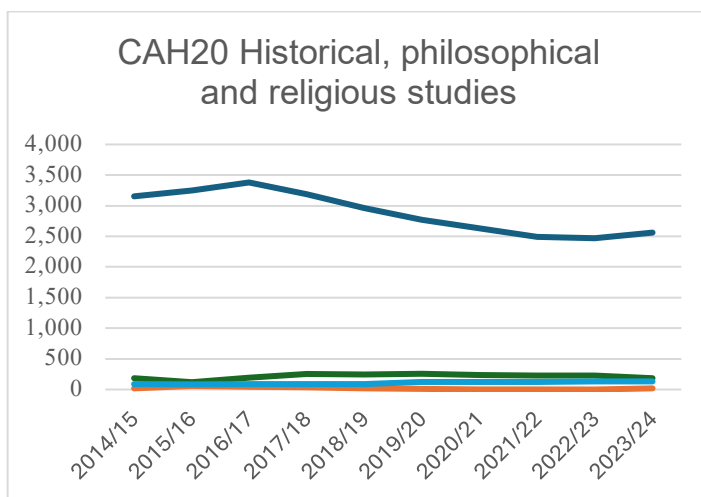
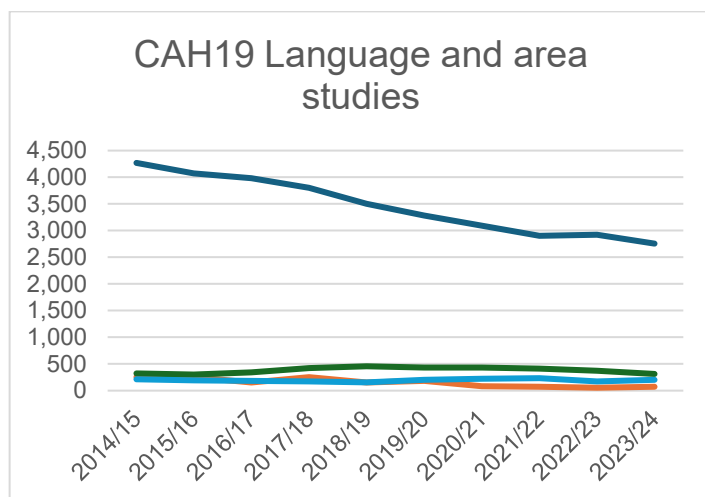
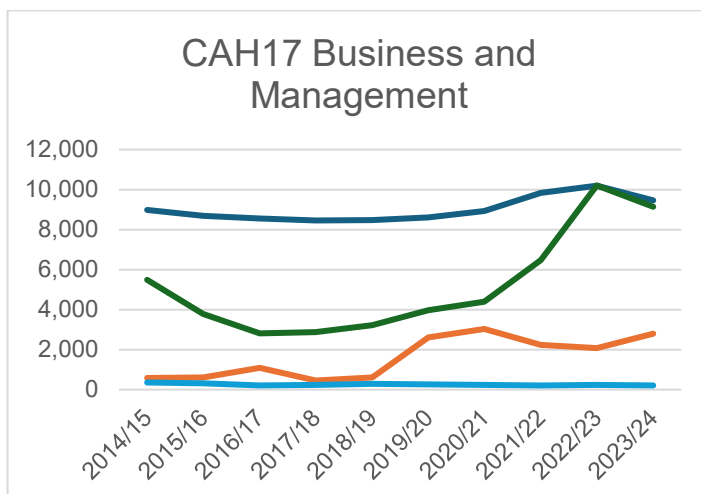
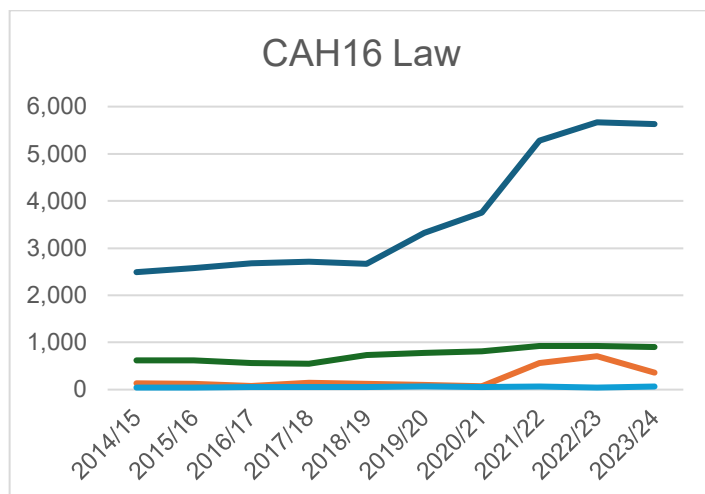
1. Data shown in this annex are taken from the HESA student record. HECoS codes replaced Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject codes in 2019/20 and so JACS codes for previous years have been mapped to CAH level 1 groups for comparison purposes. Note that not all charts are to the same scale.





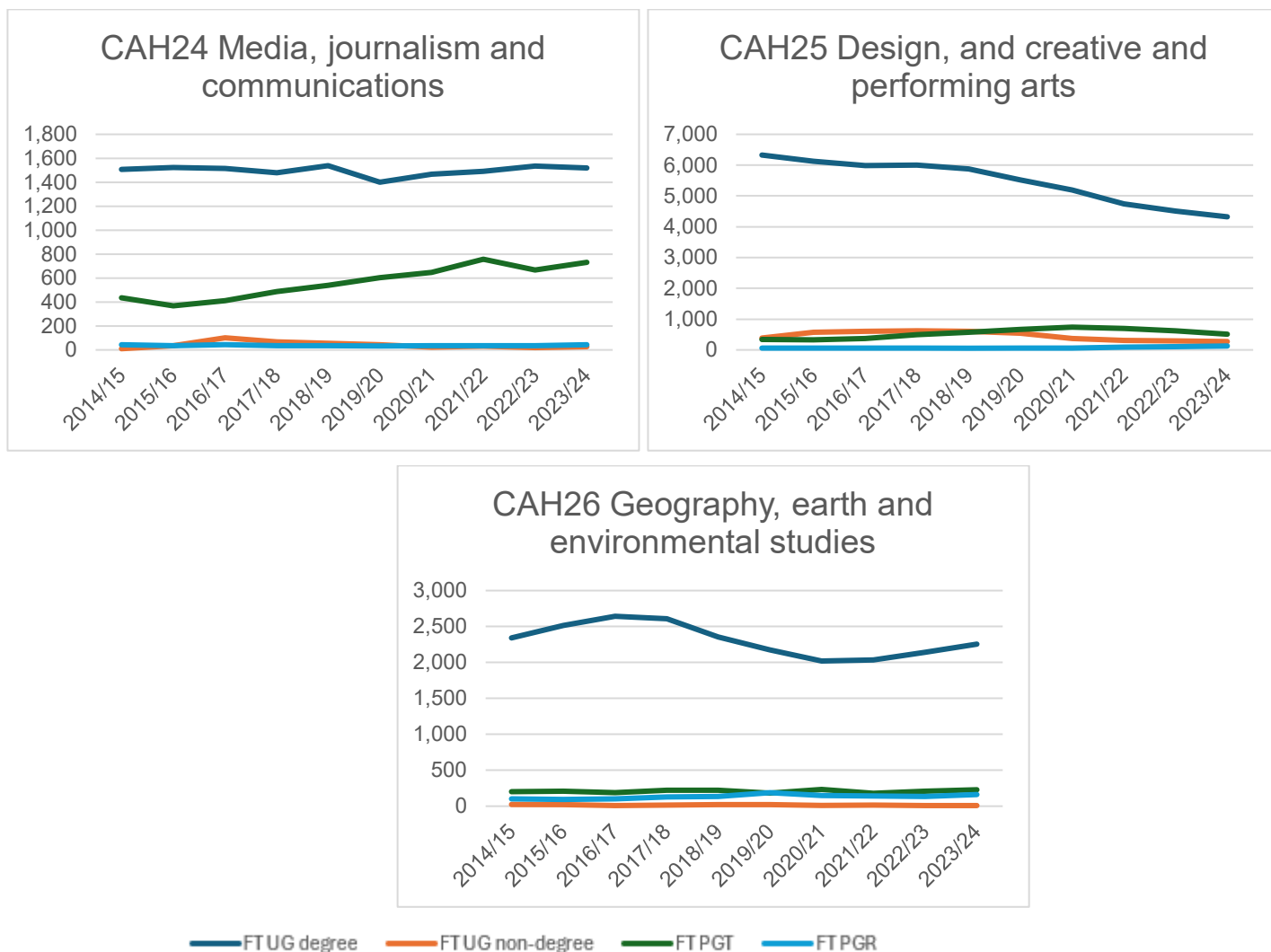
— FTUG degree — FTUG non-degree — FTPGT — FTPGR

Source: HESA student record



— FTUG degree — FTUG non-degree — FTPGT — FTPGR

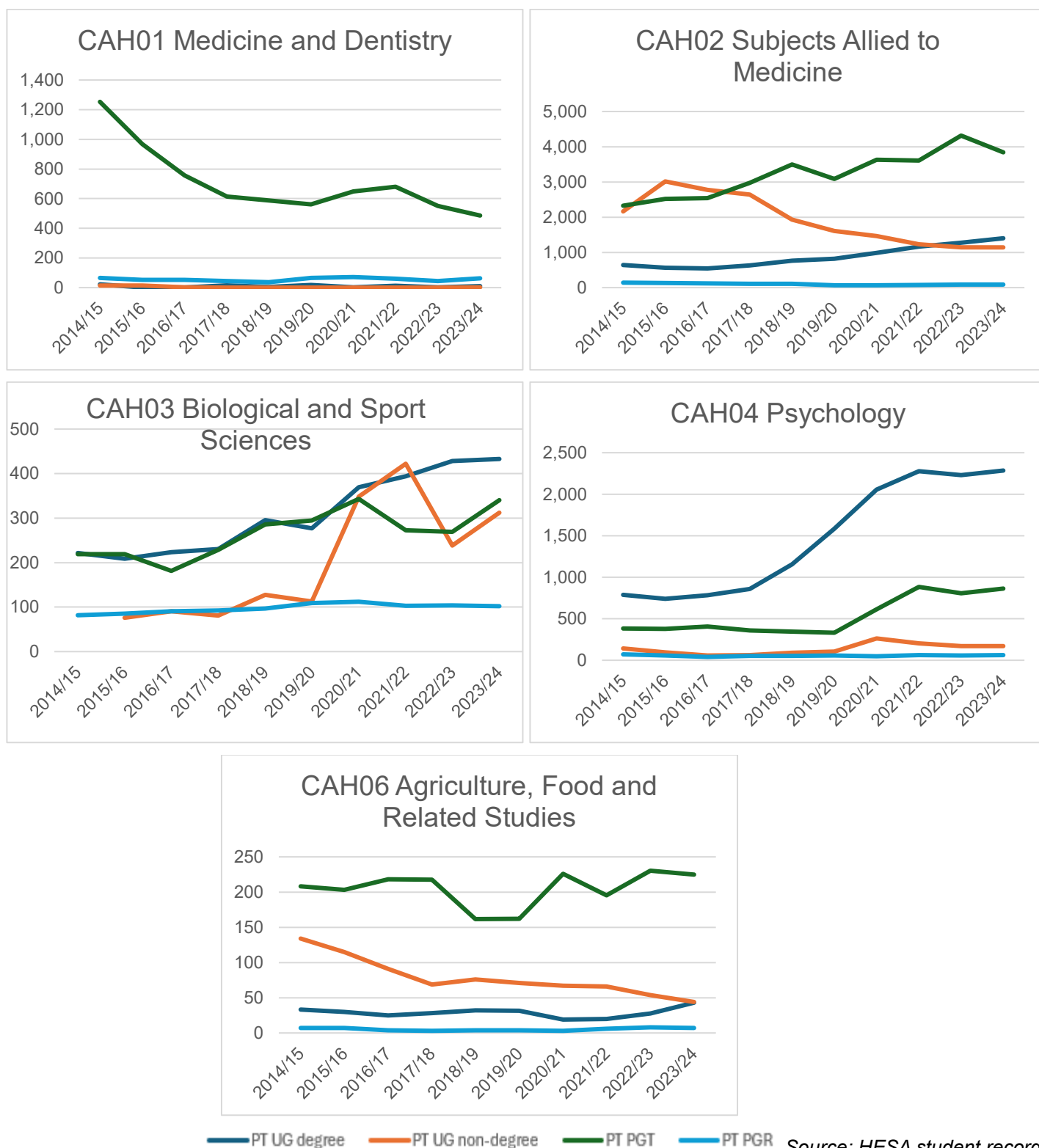
Source: HESA student record



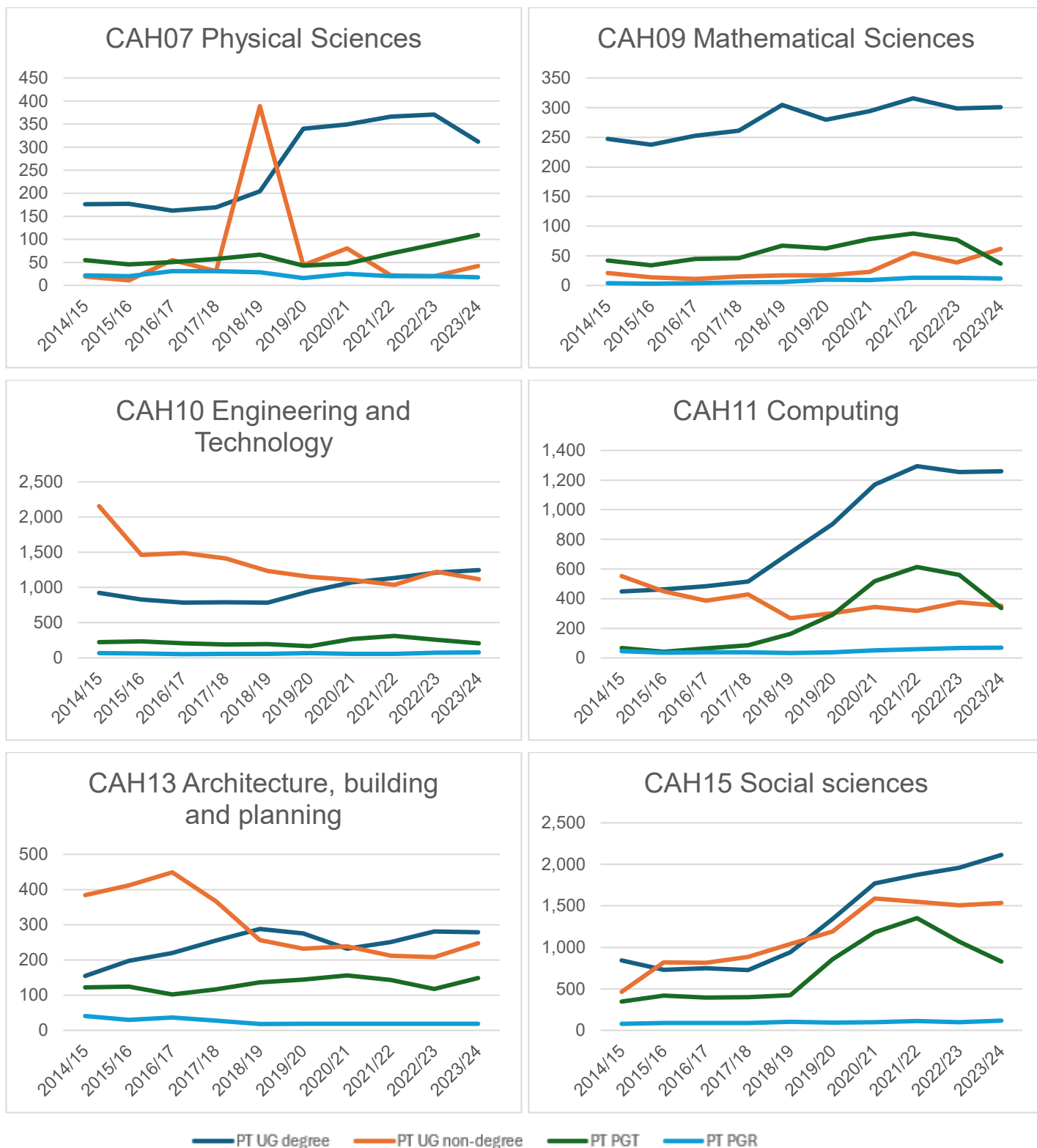
Source: HESA student record

Annex B – trends in part-time enrolments at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 1 subject group, by level of study, 2014/15 to 2023/24

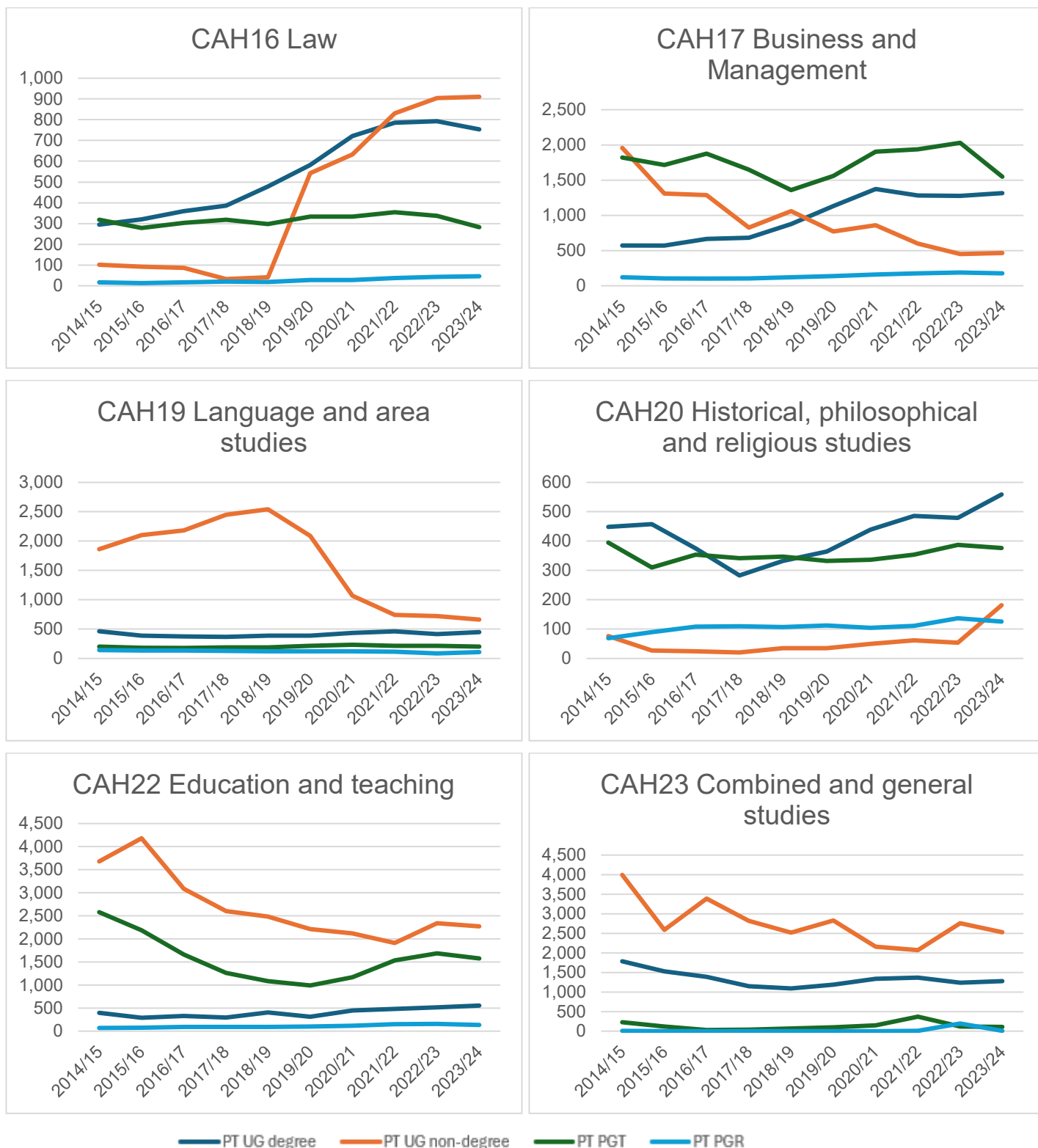
1. Data shown in this annex are taken from the HESA student record. HECoS codes replaced Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject codes in 2019/20 and so JACS codes for previous years have been mapped to CAH level 1 groups for comparison purposes. Note that not all charts are to the same scale. CAH05 Veterinary sciences is not included due to small numbers.



Source: HESA student record

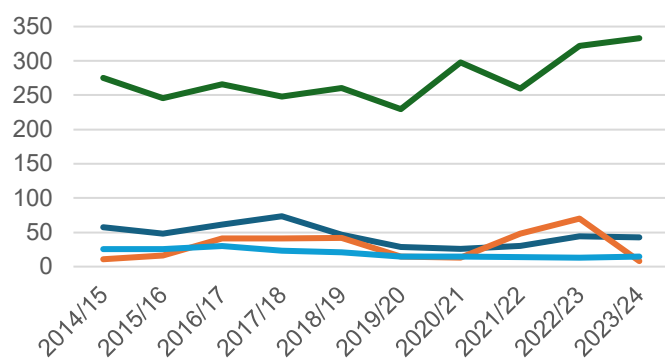


Source: HESA student record

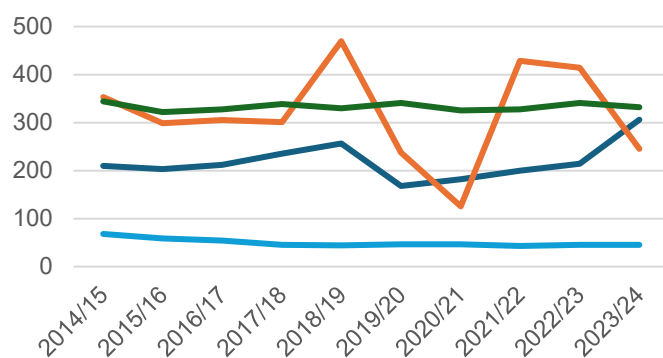


Source: HESA student record

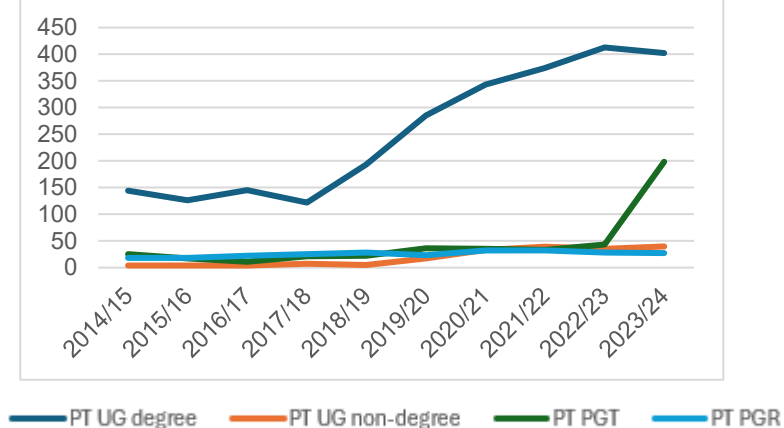
CAH24 Media, journalism and communications



CAH25 Design, and creative and performing arts



CAH26 Geography, earth and environmental studies



Source: HESA student record

Annex C - Total enrolments and percentage change between years at Welsh HEPs by CAH level 1 subject group 2014/15 to 2023/24

Enrolments

CAH level 1 subject group	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Medicine and Dentistry	3,850	3,565	3,370	3,180	3,210	3,540	3,675	3,740	3,525	3,575
Subjects Allied to Medicine	12,490	14,135	14,415	15,785	16,350	15,825	17,345	18,005	19,115	18,445
Biological and Sport Science	9,015	9,685	9,940	10,155	10,235	9,935	10,550	10,615	10,370	10,550
Psychology	5,605	5,740	6,285	6,235	6,565	7,060	8,195	8,720	8,410	8,385
Veterinary Sciences	10	35	65	135	170	145	95	120	140	150
Agriculture, Food and Related Studies	1,350	1,315	1,280	1,180	1,140	1,195	1,310	1,200	1,340	1,155
Physical Sciences	3,390	3,480	3,565	3,570	4,050	3,310	3,260	3,015	2,755	2,785
Mathematical Sciences	1,610	1,605	1,630	1,600	1,650	1,605	1,685	1,665	1,560	1,675
Engineering and Technology	10,475	9,805	10,075	9,945	9,560	9,590	10,205	10,010	9,605	9,290
Computing	5,360	5,165	5,400	5,585	6,135	7,735	9,115	9,795	9,755	9,715
Architecture, Building and Planning	1,910	2,050	2,110	2,135	2,215	2,315	2,445	2,500	2,490	2,635
Social Sciences	9,120	9,875	10,490	10,645	11,490	14,200	16,485	15,140	14,730	15,135
Law	4,015	4,060	4,140	4,210	4,415	5,750	6,405	8,835	9,420	8,955
Business and Management	19,860	17,110	16,590	15,280	16,015	19,045	20,890	22,710	26,670	25,100
Language and Area Studies	7,730	7,635	7,540	7,785	7,510	6,920	5,695	5,150	4,970	4,760
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	4,430	4,395	4,575	4,325	4,135	4,005	3,910	3,845	3,885	4,135
Education and Teaching	11,955	11,320	9,580	8,440	8,105	7,125	7,745	7,700	8,140	7,890
Combined and General Studies	6,125	4,430	4,845	5,710	5,530	4,175	3,735	3,935	5,250	4,135
Media, Journalism and Communications	2,360	2,295	2,470	2,455	2,540	2,365	2,525	2,670	2,705	2,720
Design, And Creative and Performing Arts	8,095	7,975	7,905	8,090	8,210	7,585	7,040	6,830	6,545	6,155
Geography, Earth and Environmental Studies	2,860	3,005	3,130	3,150	2,985	2,930	2,855	2,850	3,010	3,330
Total	131,615	128,675	129,395	129,585	132,205	136,355	145,170	149,045	154,385	150,680

Source: HESA student record

Percentage change

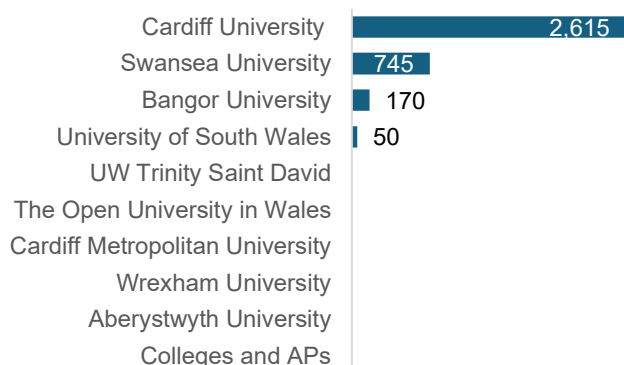
CAH level 1 subject group	2014/15 to 2015/16	2015/16 to 2016/17	2016/17 to 2017/18	2017/18 to 2018/19	2018/19 to 2019/20	2019/20 to 2020/21	2020/21 to 2021/22	2021/22 to 2022/23	2022/23 to 2023/24	2014/15 to 2023/24
Medicine and Dentistry	-7.3%	-5.6%	-5.7%	1.0%	10.3%	3.9%	1.7%	-5.8%	1.5%	-7.0%
Subjects Allied to Medicine	13.2%	2.0%	9.5%	3.6%	-3.2%	9.6%	3.8%	6.2%	-3.5%	47.7%
Biological and Sport Science	7.4%	2.6%	2.2%	0.8%	-2.9%	6.2%	0.6%	-2.3%	1.8%	17.0%
Psychology	2.4%	9.5%	-0.7%	5.2%	7.6%	16.0%	6.4%	-3.5%	-0.3%	49.6%
Veterinary Sciences	288.9%	82.9%	114.1%	22.6%	-14.3%	-34.7%	27.7%	18.3%	7.0%	1588.9%
Agriculture, Food and Related Studies	-2.5%	-2.7%	-7.9%	-3.2%	5.1%	9.5%	-8.4%	11.4%	-13.5%	-14.2%
Physical Sciences	2.7%	2.4%	0.1%	13.4%	-18.3%	-1.5%	-7.5%	-8.6%	1.1%	-17.9%
Mathematical Sciences	-0.5%	1.8%	-2.0%	3.3%	-2.6%	4.7%	-1.0%	-6.5%	7.5%	3.9%
Engineering and Technology	-6.4%	2.8%	-1.3%	-3.9%	0.3%	6.4%	-1.9%	-4.0%	-3.3%	-11.3%
Computing	-3.6%	4.6%	3.5%	9.8%	26.0%	17.9%	7.5%	-0.4%	-0.4%	81.3%
Architecture, Building and Planning	7.3%	3.0%	1.1%	3.8%	4.6%	5.5%	2.3%	-0.2%	5.8%	38.1%
Social Sciences	8.3%	6.3%	1.5%	8.0%	23.6%	16.1%	-8.2%	-2.7%	2.7%	66.0%
Law	1.1%	2.1%	1.6%	4.9%	30.2%	11.4%	38.0%	6.6%	-5.0%	123.0%
Business and Management	-13.9%	-3.0%	-7.9%	4.8%	18.9%	9.7%	8.7%	17.4%	-5.9%	26.4%
Language and Area Studies	-1.2%	-1.3%	3.3%	-3.6%	-7.9%	-17.7%	-9.6%	-3.5%	-4.2%	-38.4%
Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies	-0.8%	4.1%	-5.5%	-4.4%	-3.1%	-2.4%	-1.7%	0.9%	6.5%	-6.7%
Education and Teaching	-5.3%	-15.4%	-11.9%	-3.9%	-12.1%	8.7%	-0.6%	5.7%	-3.1%	-34.0%
Combined and General Studies	-27.7%	9.4%	17.8%	-3.2%	-24.5%	-10.5%	5.4%	33.3%	-21.2%	-32.5%
Media, Journalism and Communications	-2.8%	7.5%	-0.6%	3.6%	-6.8%	6.7%	5.6%	1.4%	0.6%	15.3%
Design, And Creative and Performing Arts	-1.5%	-0.9%	2.3%	1.5%	-7.6%	-7.2%	-3.0%	-4.1%	-6.0%	-24.0%
Geography, Earth and Environmental Studies	5.1%	4.1%	0.6%	-5.3%	-1.7%	-2.6%	-0.1%	5.6%	10.6%	16.4%
Total	-2.2%	0.6%	0.1%	2.0%	3.1%	6.5%	2.7%	3.6%	-2.4%	14.5%

Source: HESA student record

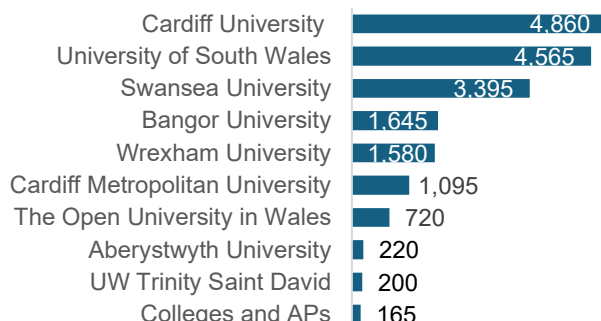
Annex D – Enrolments by Welsh HEP for each CAH level 1 subject group, 2023/24

APs = Alternative providers, UW = University of Wales

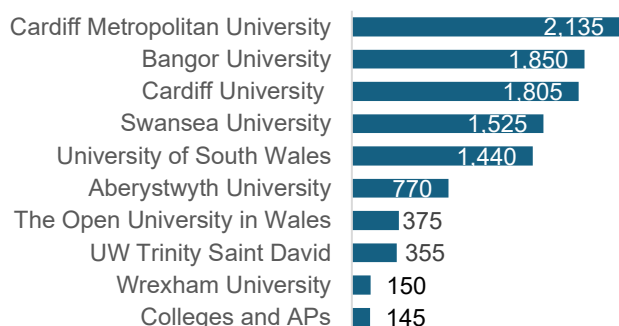
CAH01 Medicine and dentistry



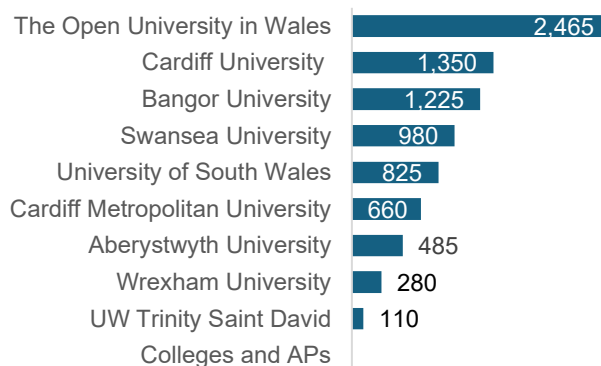
CAH02 Subjects allied to medicine



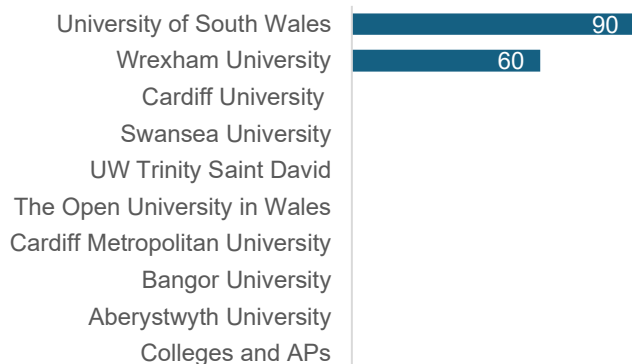
CAH03 biological and sport sciences



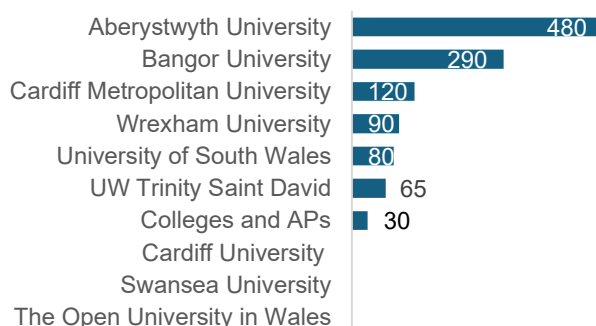
CAH04 Psychology



CAH05 Veterinary sciences

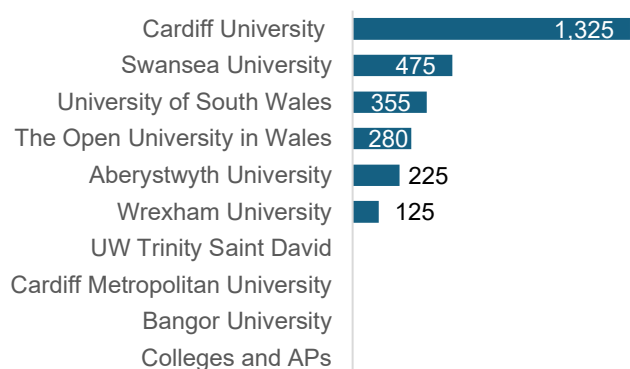


CAH06 Agriculture, food and related studies

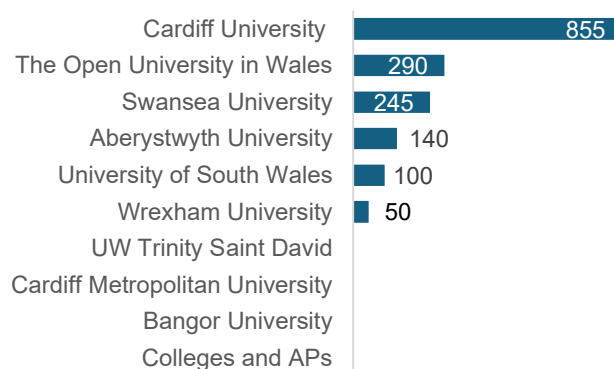


Source: HESA student record

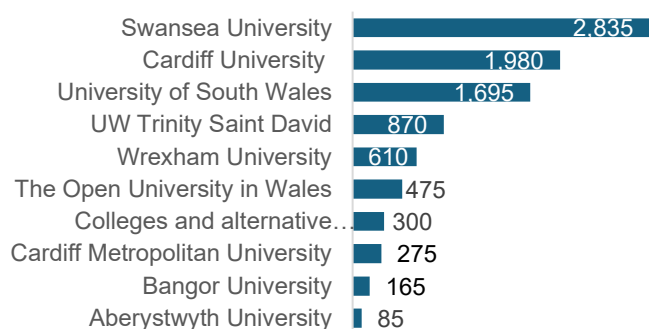
CAH07 Physical sciences



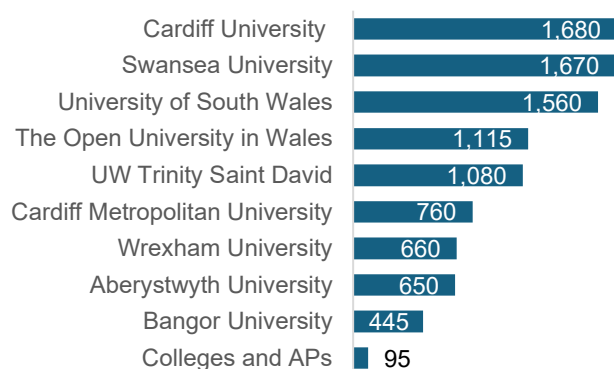
CAH09 Mathematical sciences



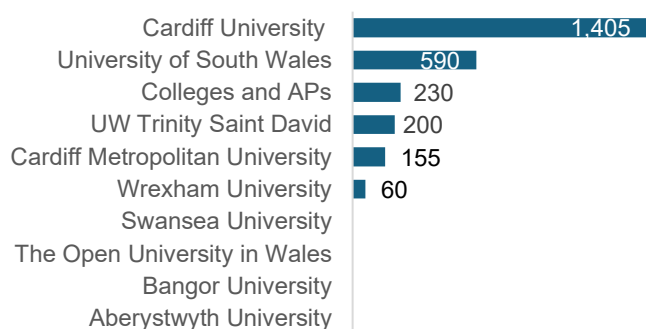
CAH10 Engineering and technology



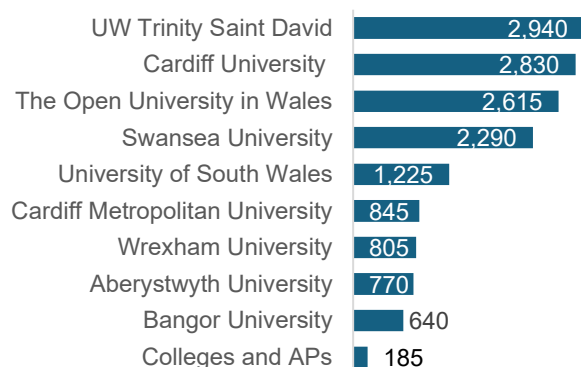
CAH11 Computing



CAH13 Architecture, building and planning

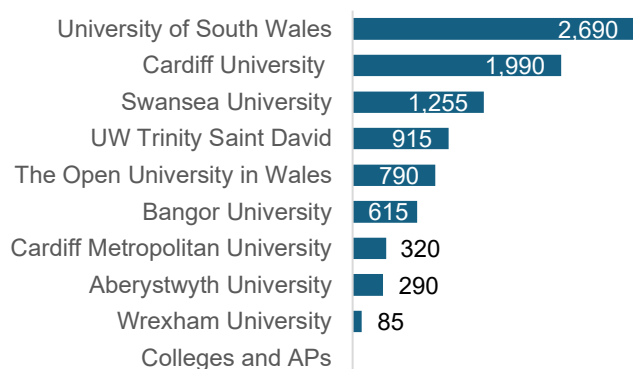


CAH15 Social sciences

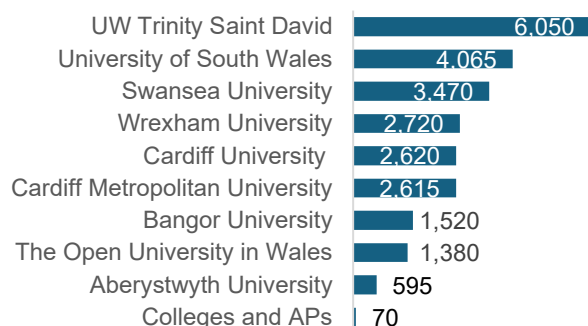


Source: HESA student record

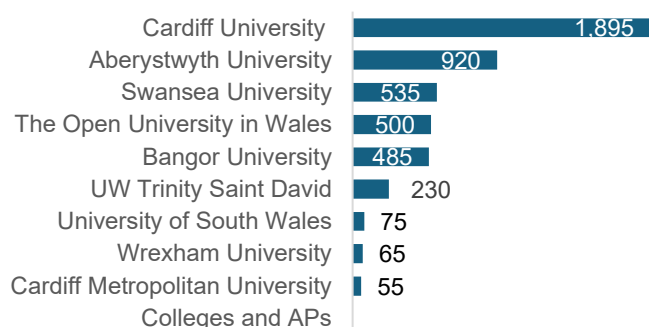
CAH16 Law



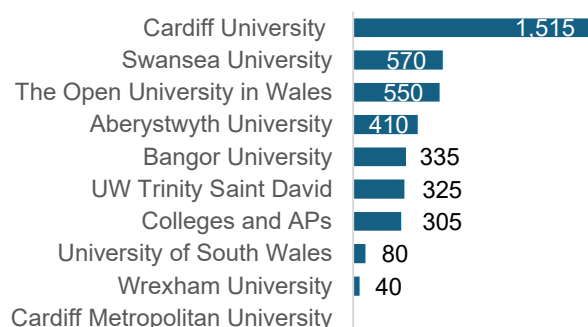
CAH17 Business and Management



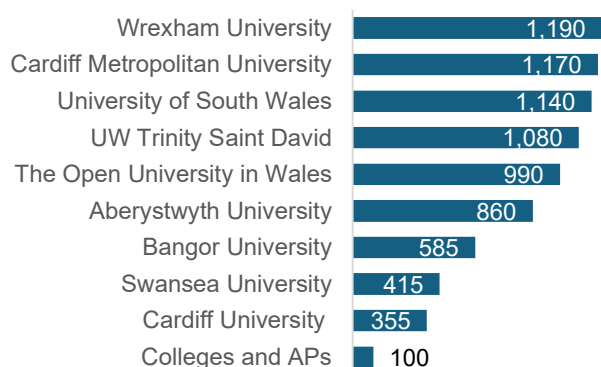
CAH19 Language and area studies



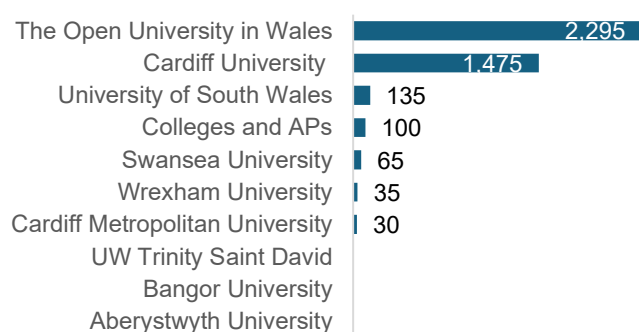
CAH20 Historical, philosophical and religious studies



CAH22 Education and teaching

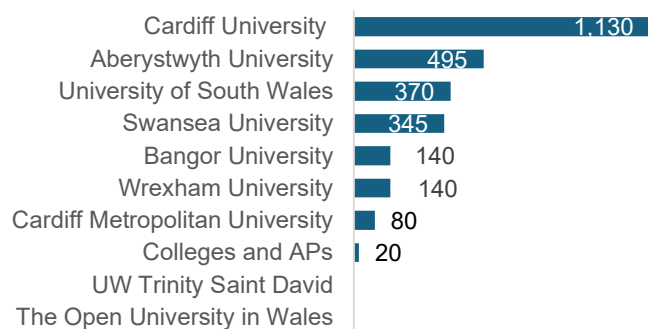


CAH23 Combined and general studies

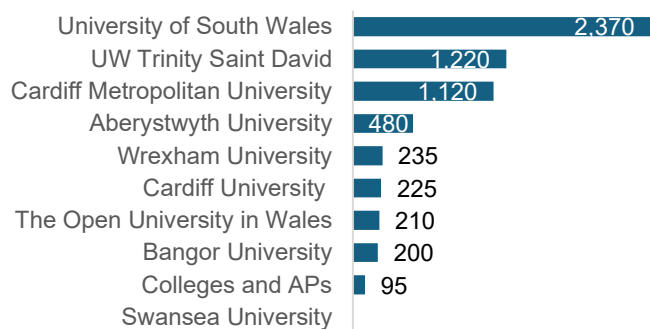


Source: HESA student record

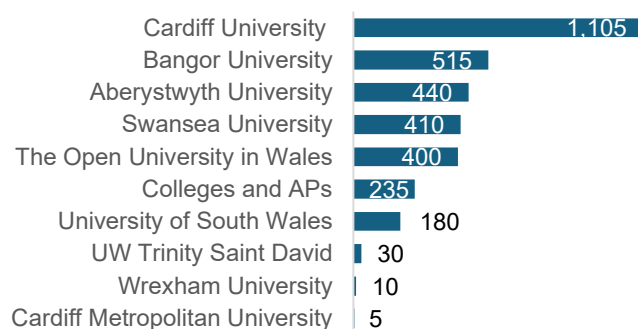
CAH24 Media, journalism and communications



CAH25 Design. and creative and performing arts



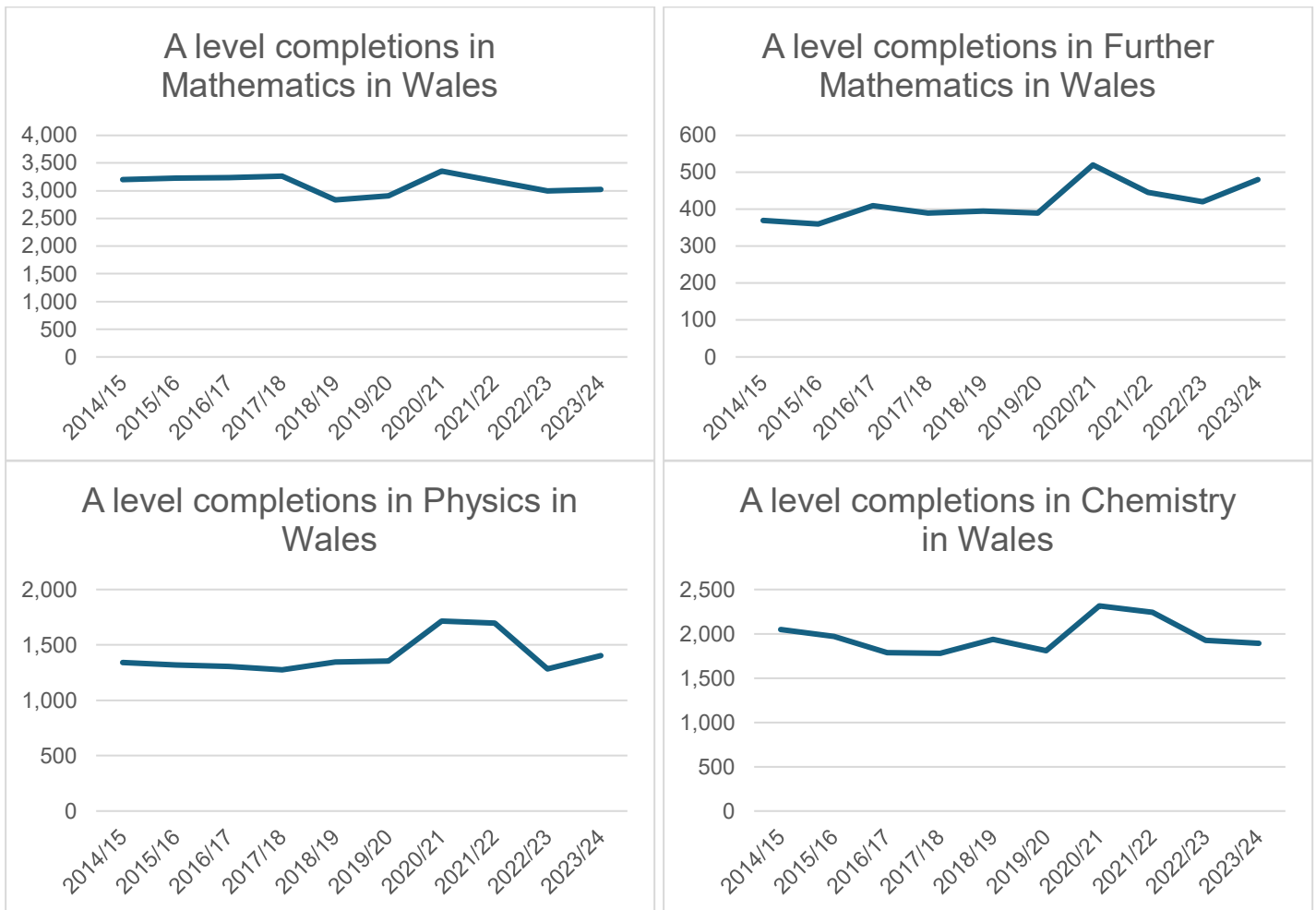
CAH26 Geography, earth and environmental studies



Source: HESA student record

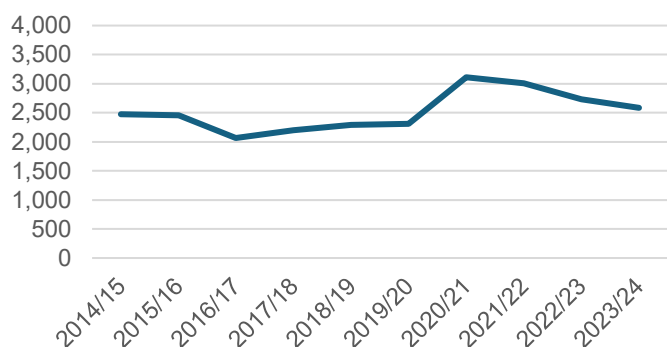
Annex E – A level completions in Wales by subject 2014/15 to 2023/24

1. A level completions in Wales are shown in the following charts. Some subjects have been combined where qualification titles have been assumed to be replaced over time and represent the same subject area of study. Some subjects are not included in the charts where numbers of entries are very small or they only have entries for a small number of the 10 years of analysis. Note that as the number of entries in each subject varies, the charts are not all to the same scale. Double awards have been counted as two completions.

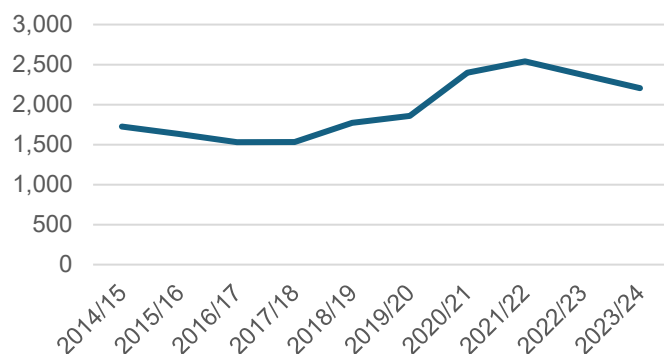


Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

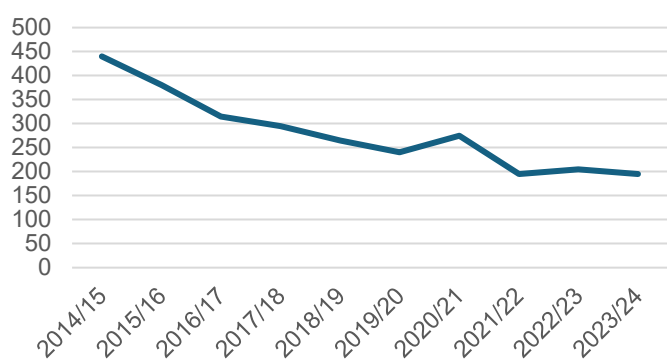
A level completions in Biology in Wales



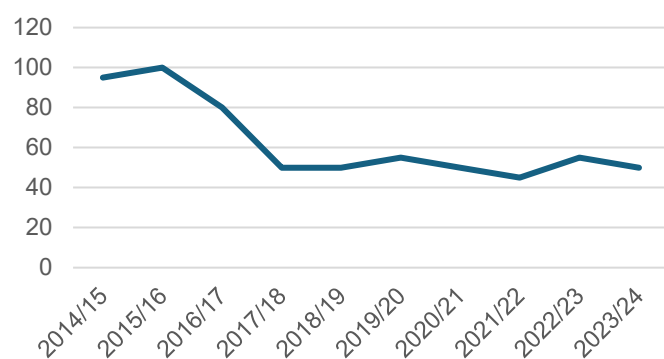
A level completions in Psychology in Wales



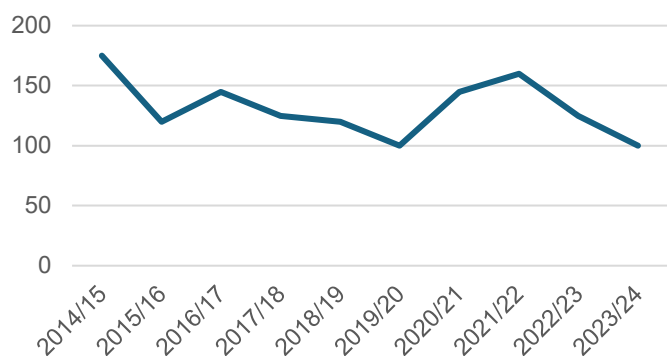
A level completions in French in Wales



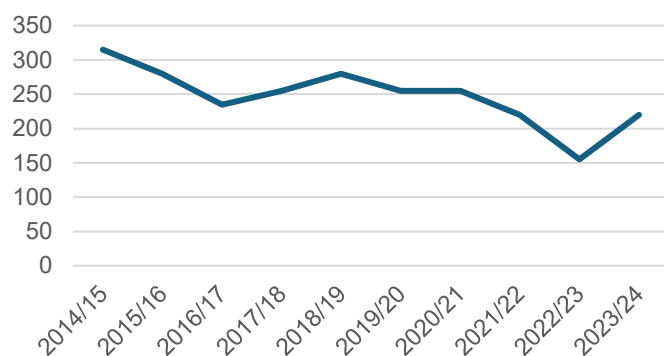
A level completions in German in Wales



A level completions in Spanish in Wales

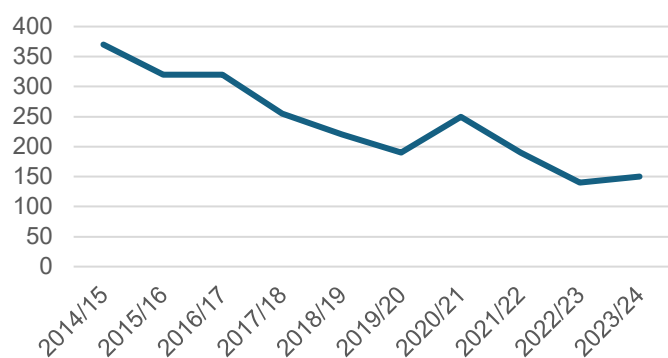


A level completions in Welsh first language in Wales

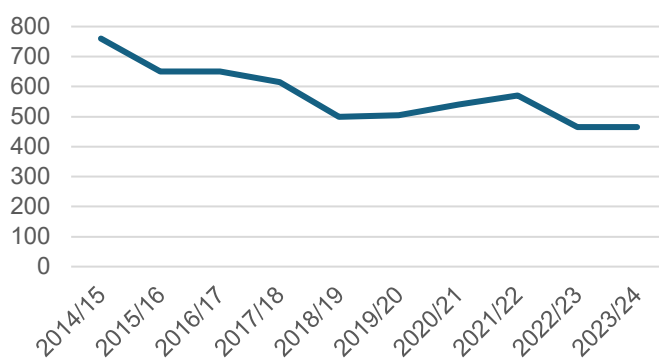


Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

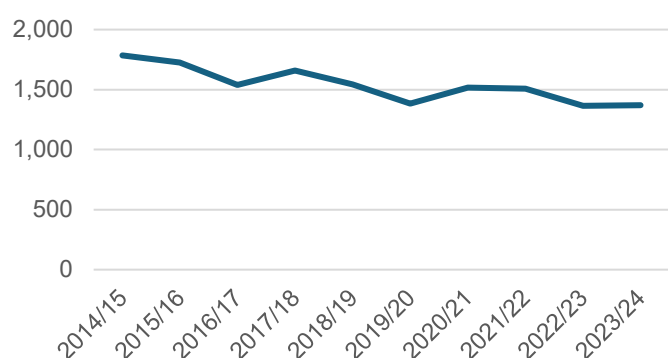
A level completions in Welsh second language in Wales



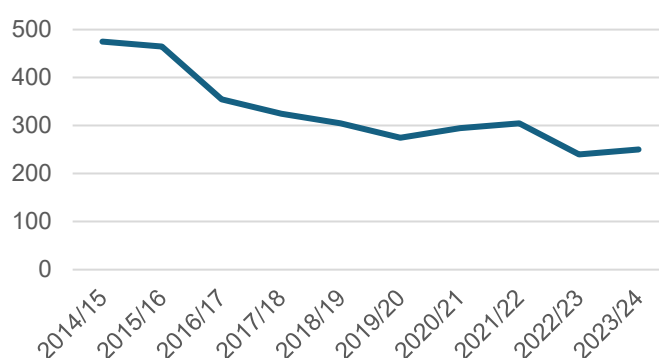
A level completions in Performing arts in Wales



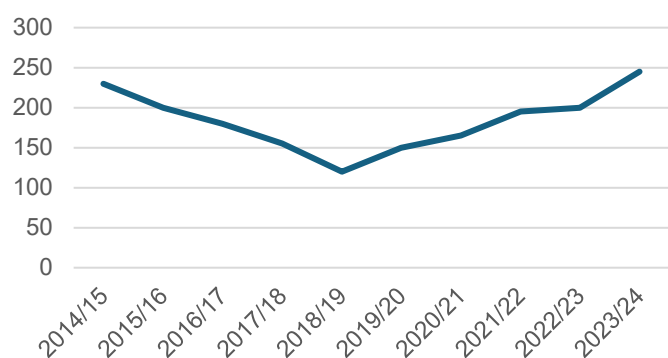
A level completions in Art and design in Wales



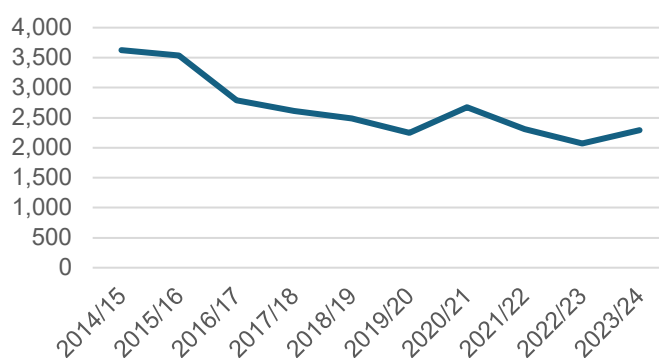
A level completions in Music in Wales



A level completions in Film studies in Wales

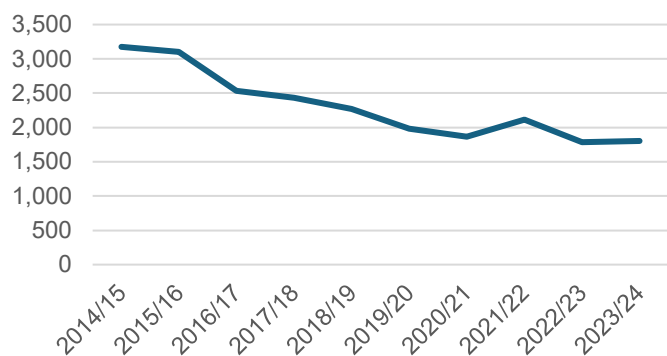


A level completions in English language and literature in Wales

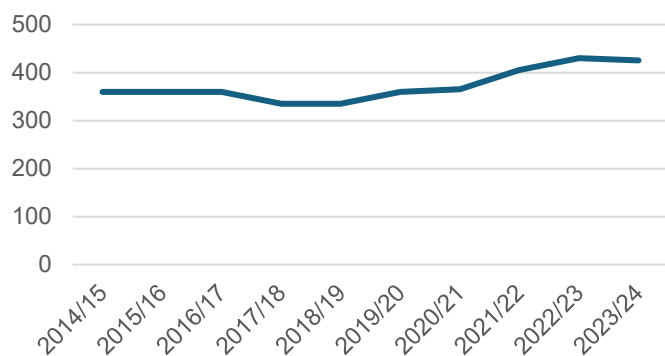


Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

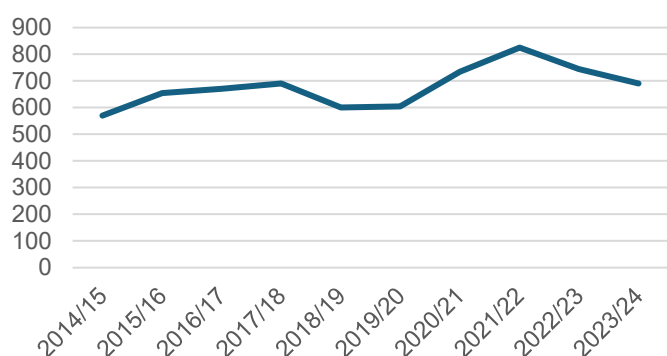
A level completions in History in Wales



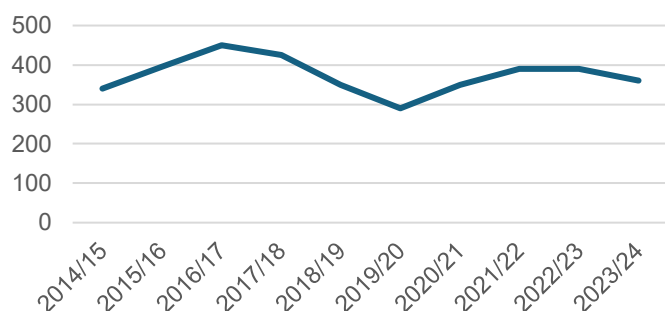
A level completions in Economics in Wales



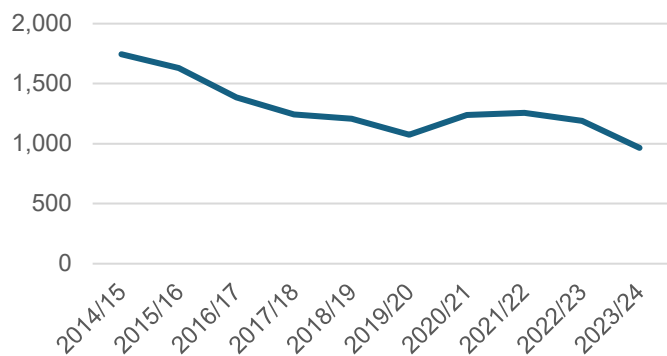
A level completions in Law in Wales



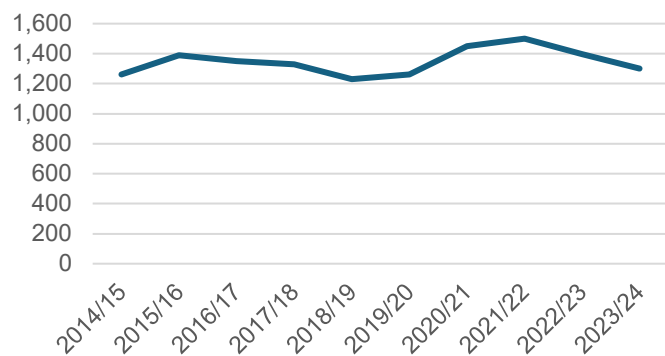
A level completions in Government and politics in Wales



A level completions in Geography in Wales

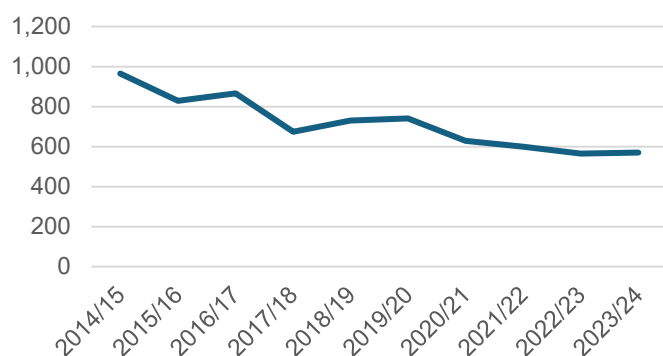


A level completions in Sociology in Wales

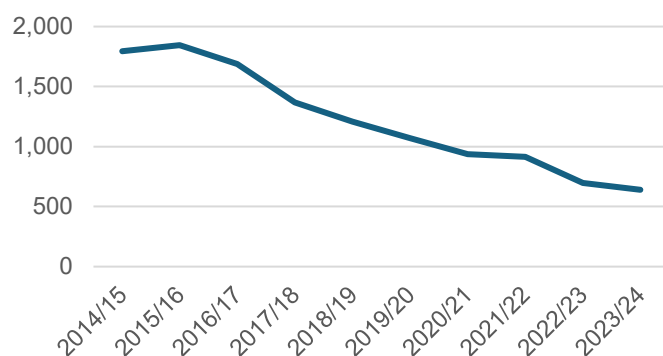


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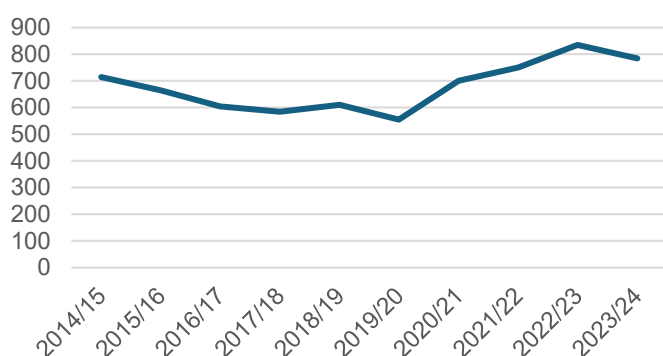
A level completions in Health and social care in Wales



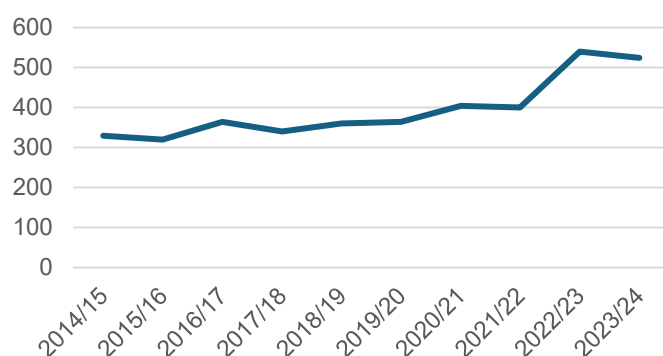
A level completions in Religious studies in Wales



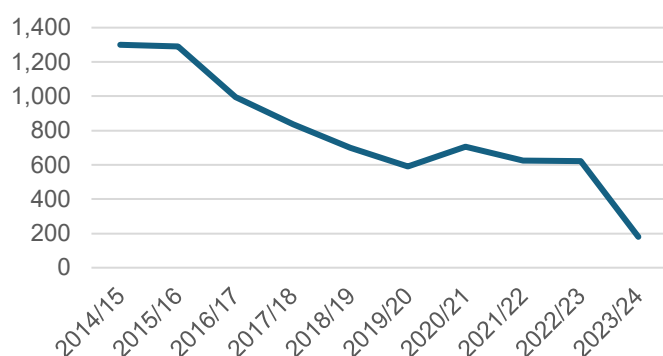
A level completions in Physical education in Wales



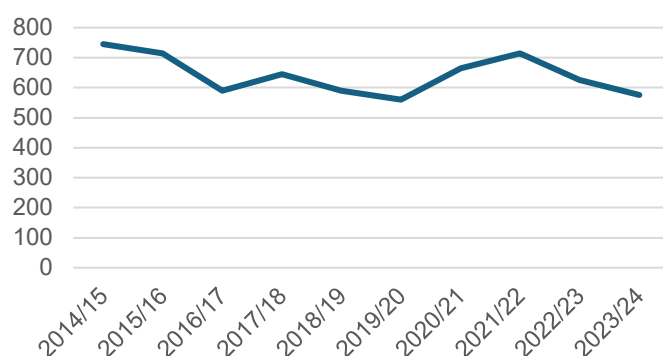
A level completions in Computer science in Wales



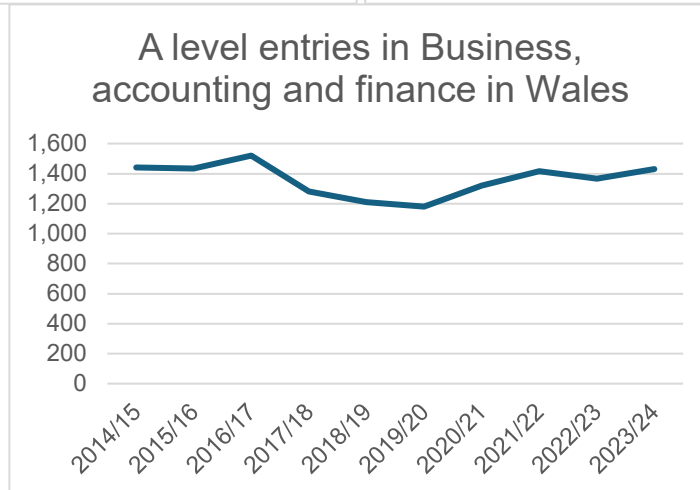
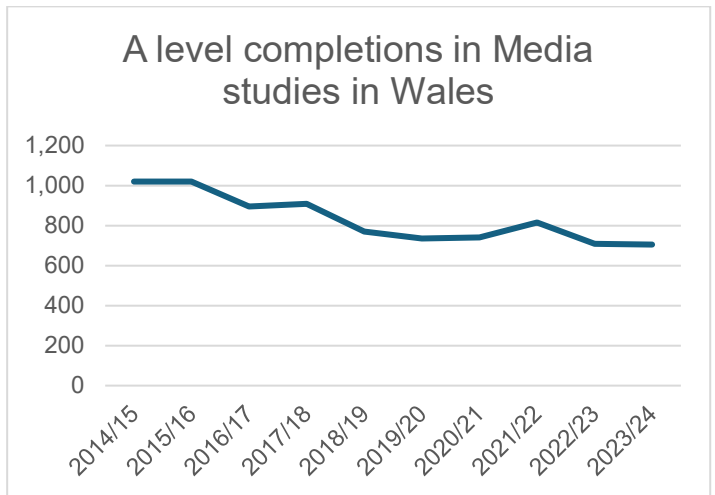
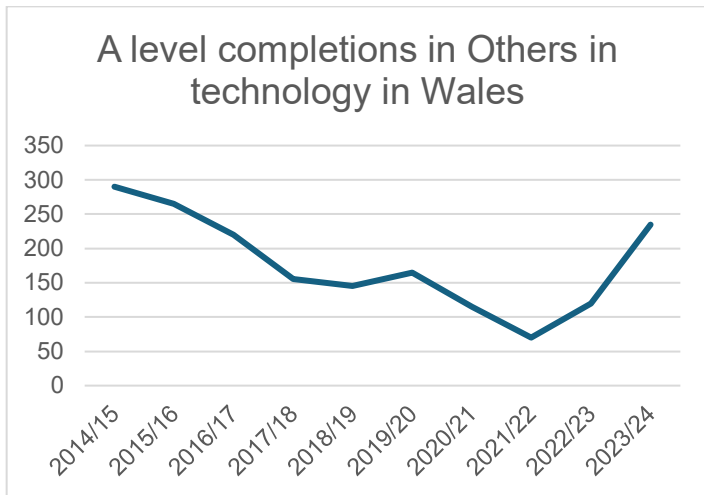
A level completions in IT in Wales



A level completions in Design and technology in Wales



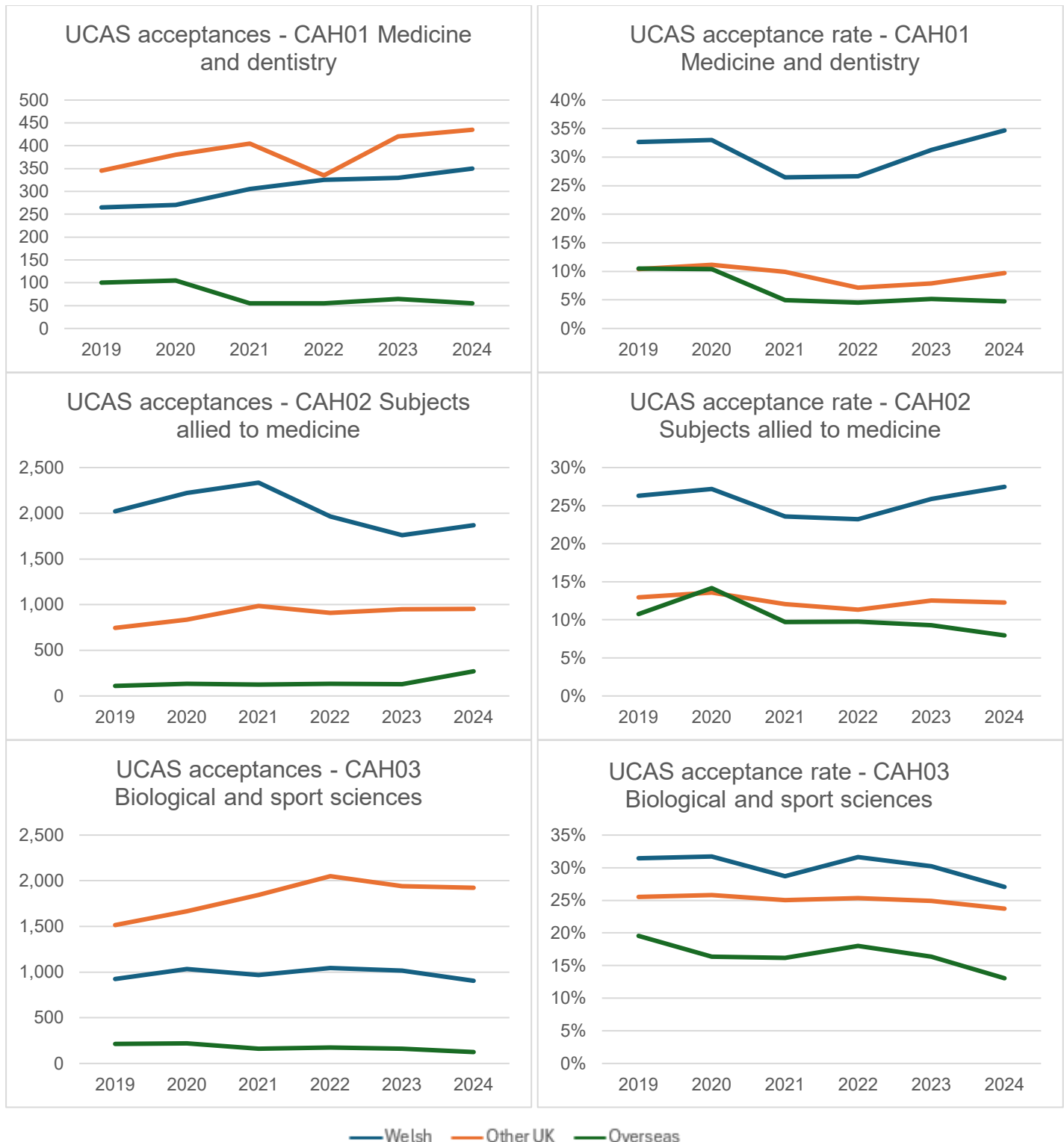
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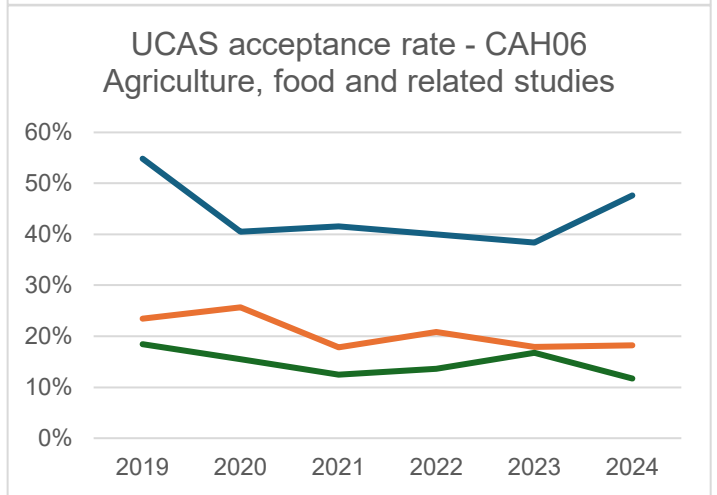
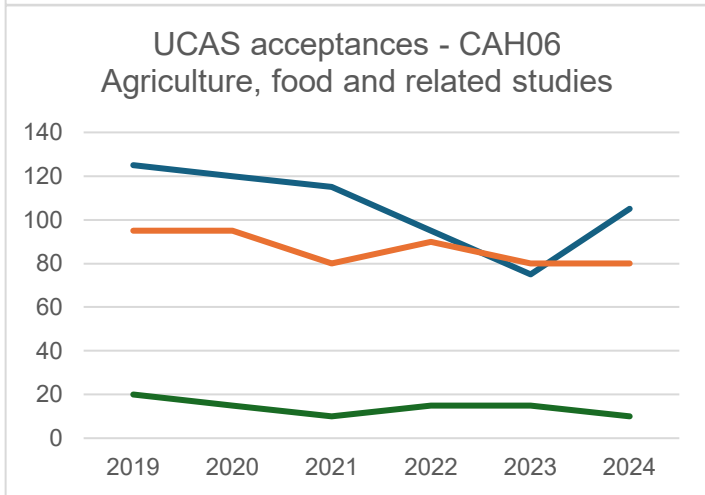
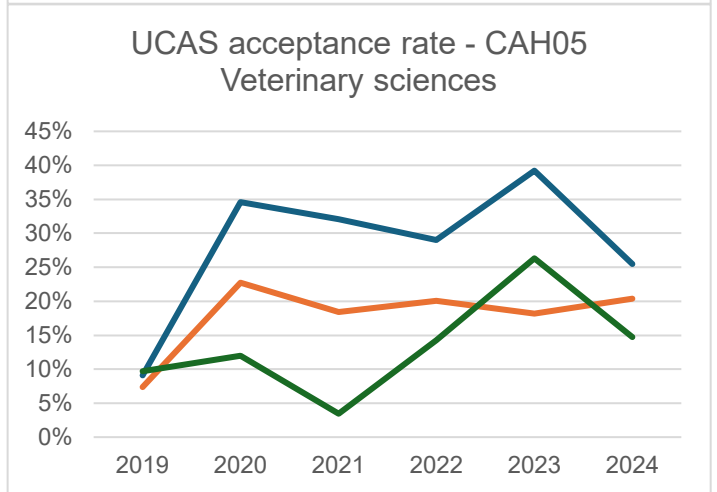
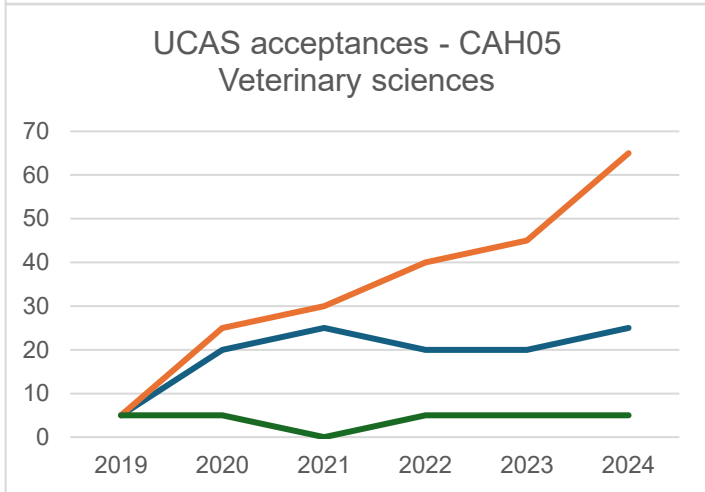
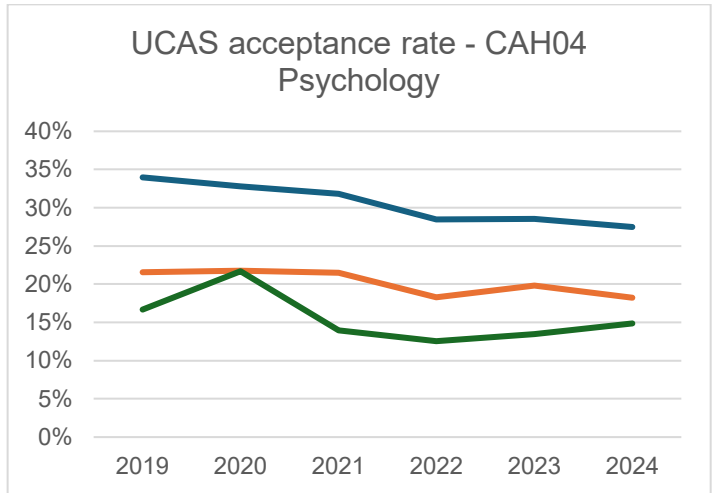
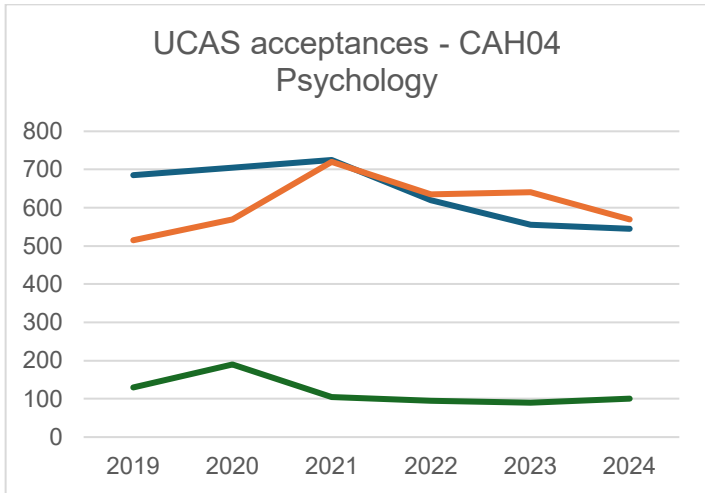
Source: LLWR and Post-16 Data Collection

Annex F – UCAS acceptances and acceptance rates for Welsh HEPs by CAH level 1 subject group 2019 to 2024

- The trend in the number of acceptances and the acceptance rates in each CAH level 1 subject group, by domicile, is shown in the following charts. Charts are not to the same scale for each subject group. Combined and general studies is not shown due to small numbers.

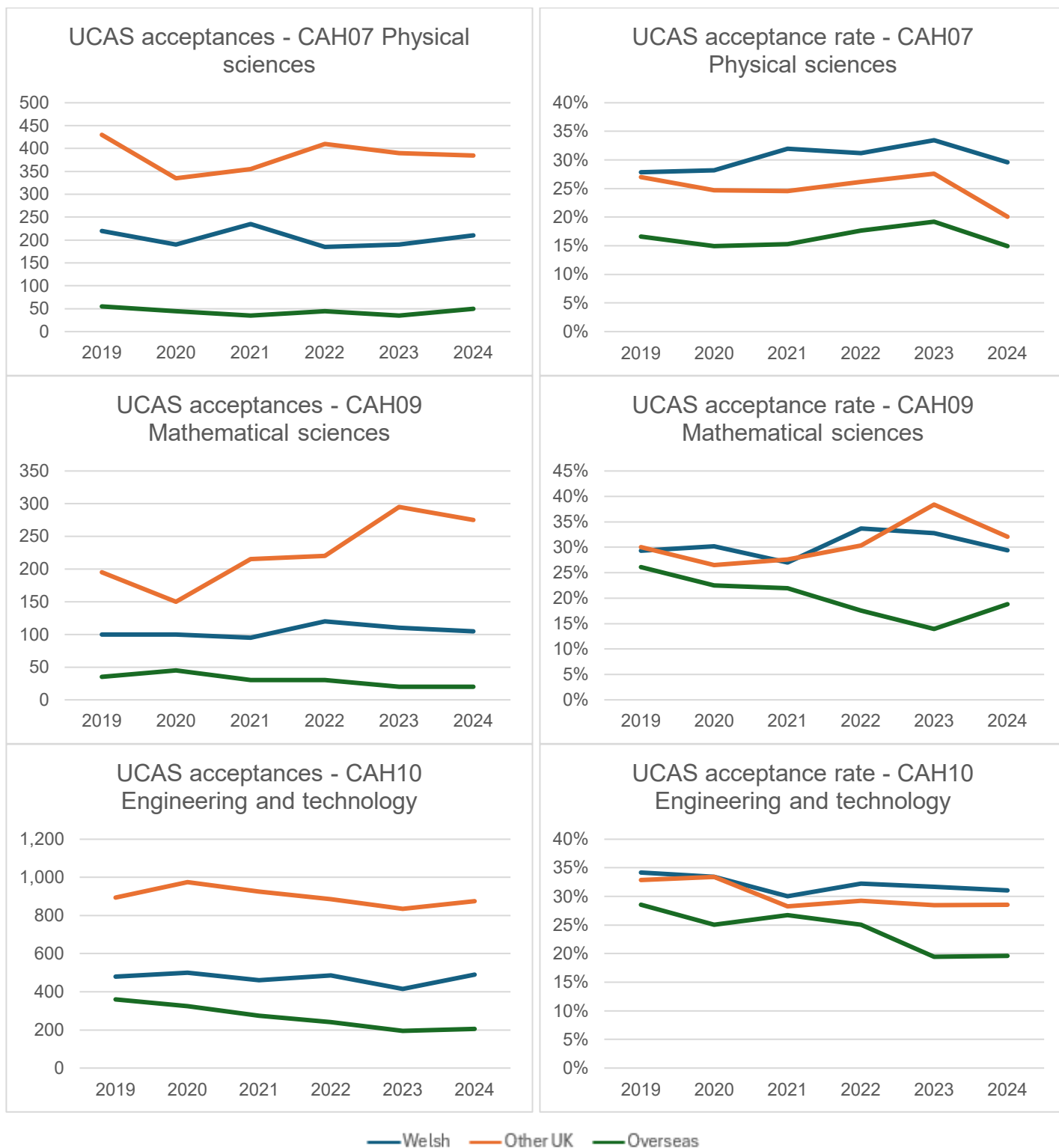


Source: UCAS

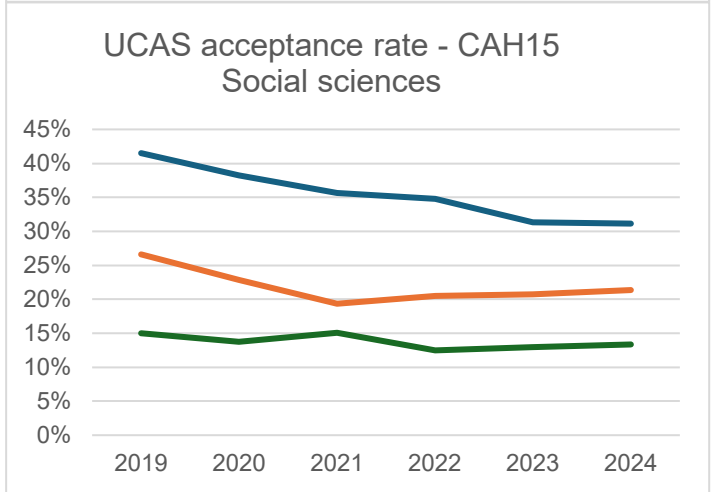
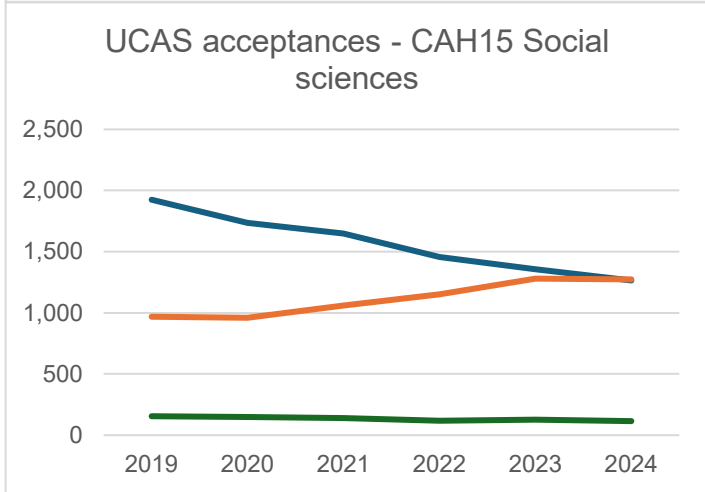
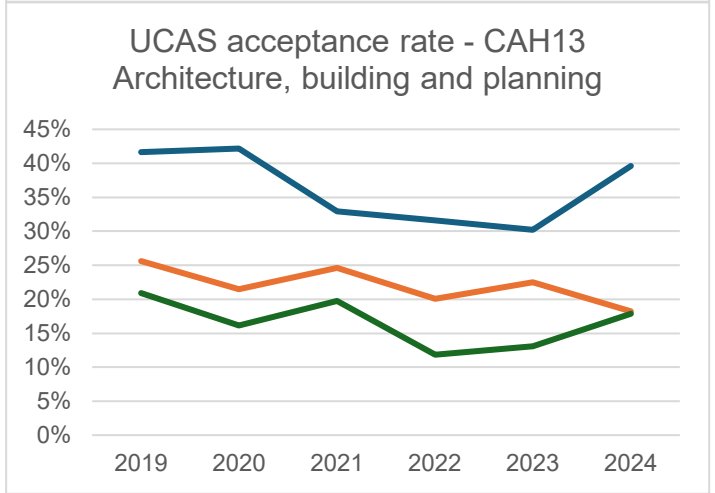
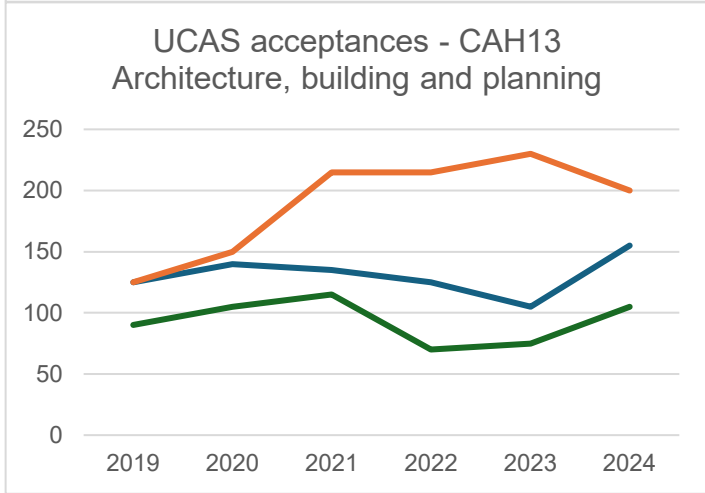
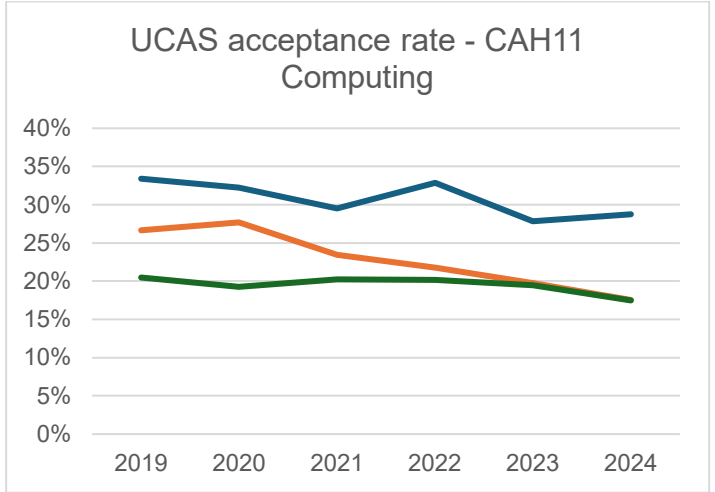
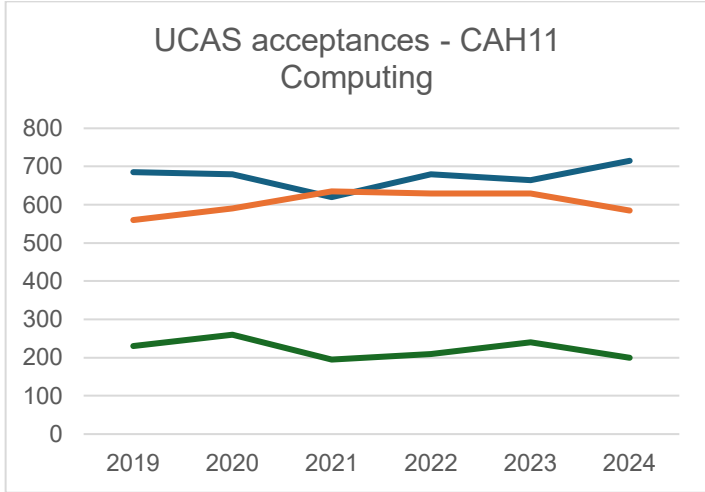


— Welsh — Other UK — Overseas

Source: UCAS

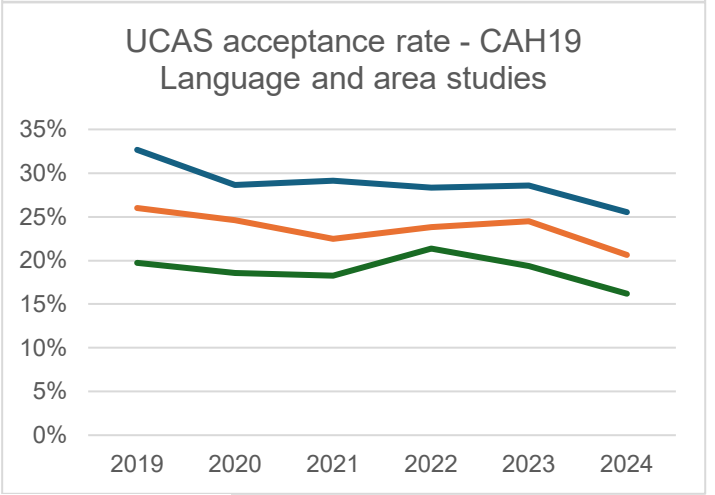
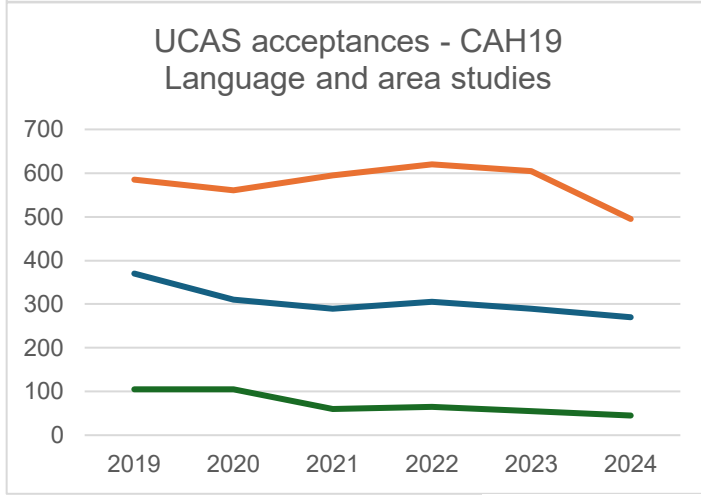
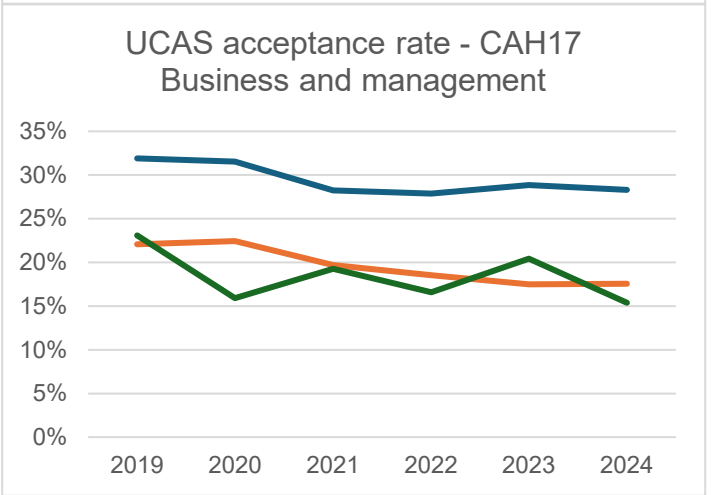
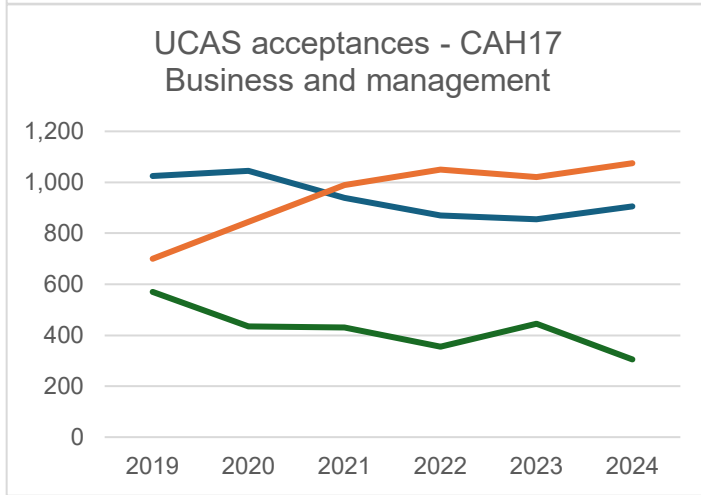
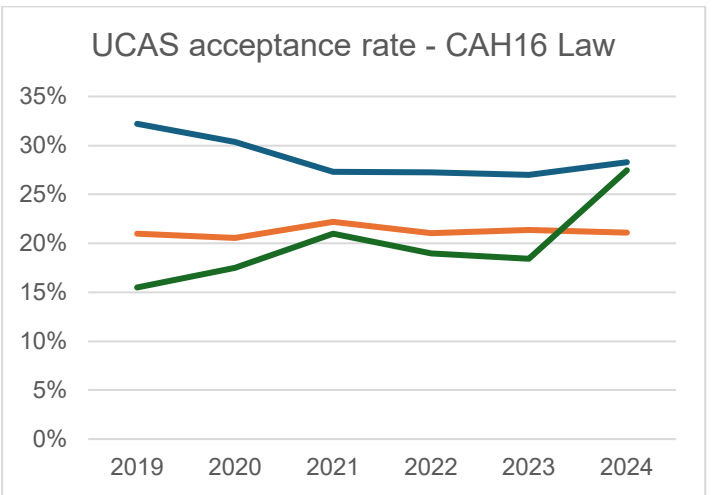
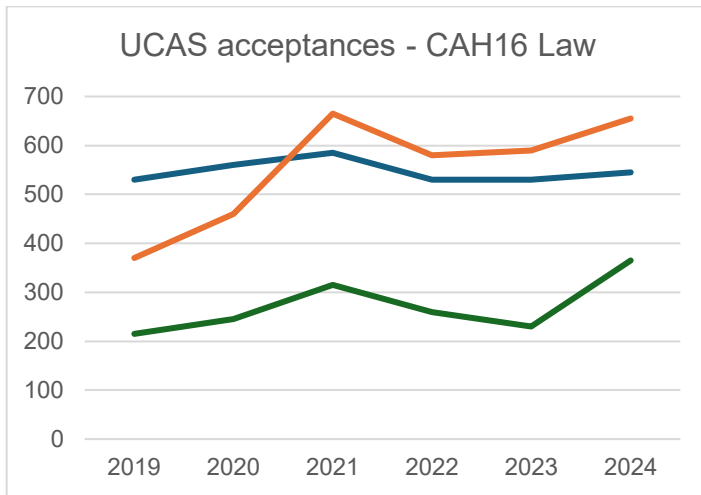


Source: UCAS



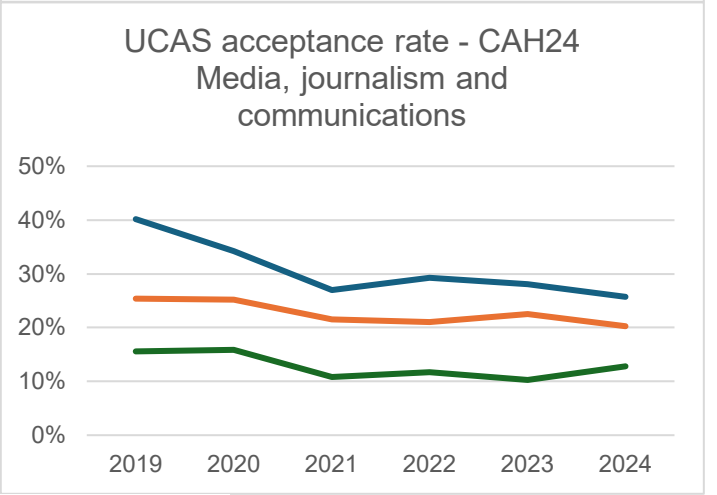
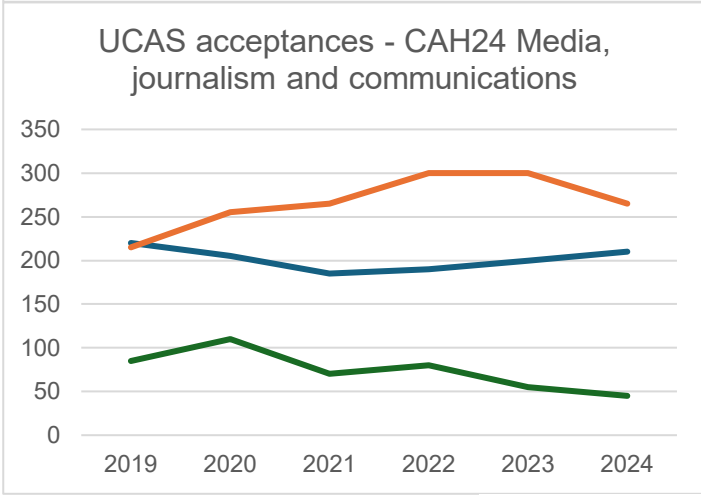
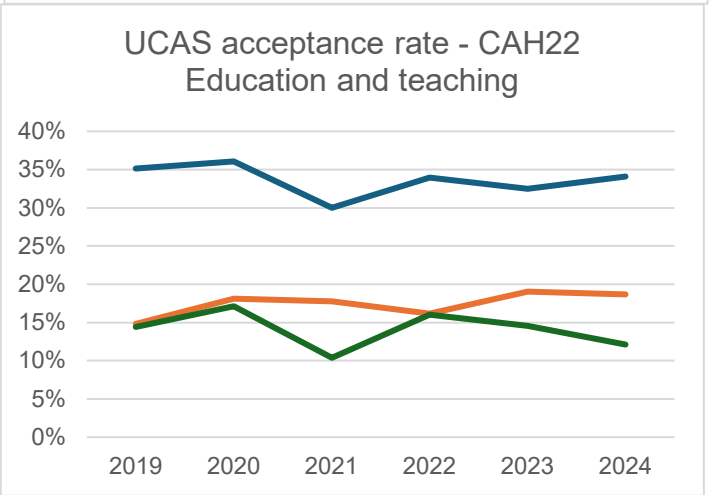
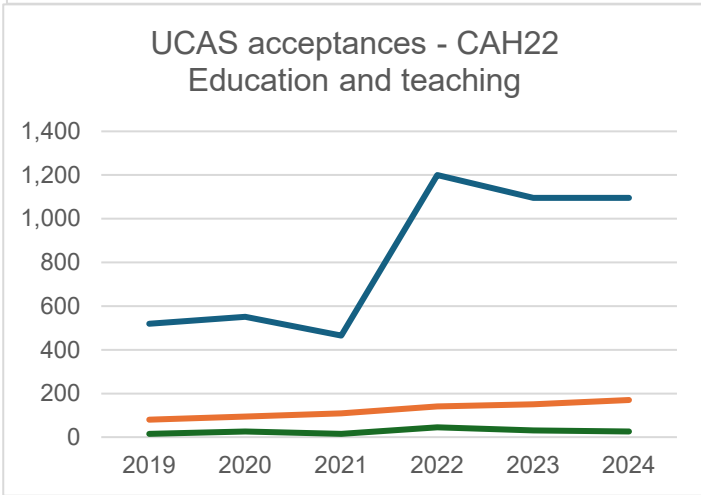
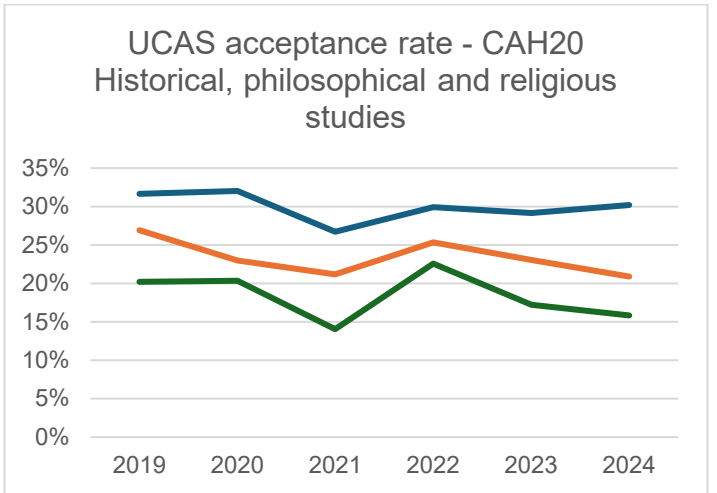
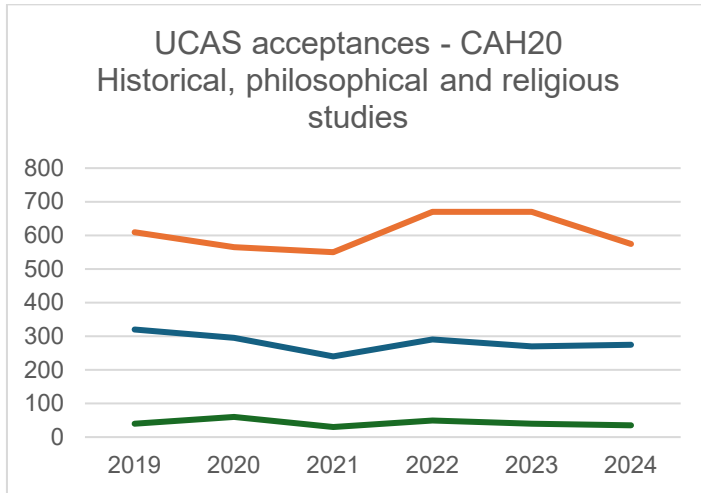
— Welsh — Other UK — Overseas

Source: UCAS



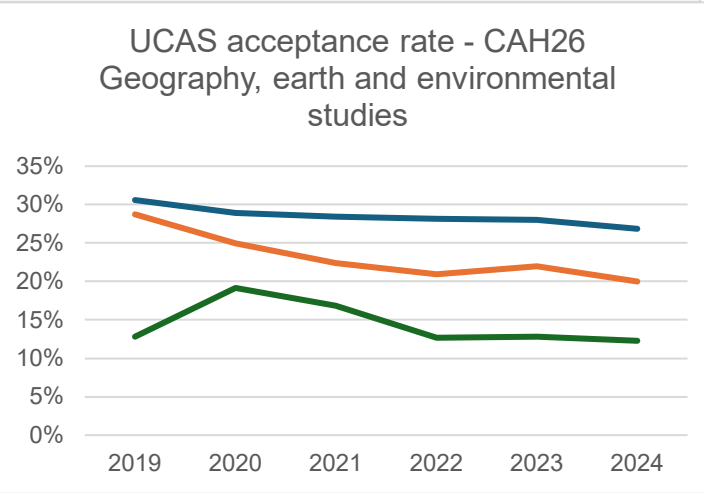
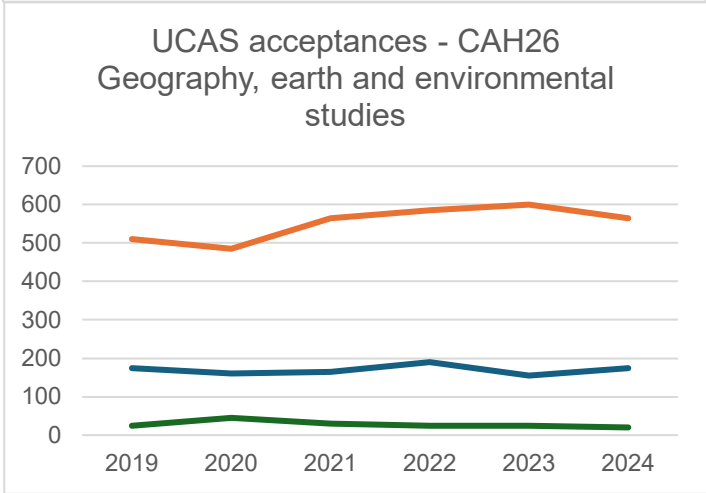
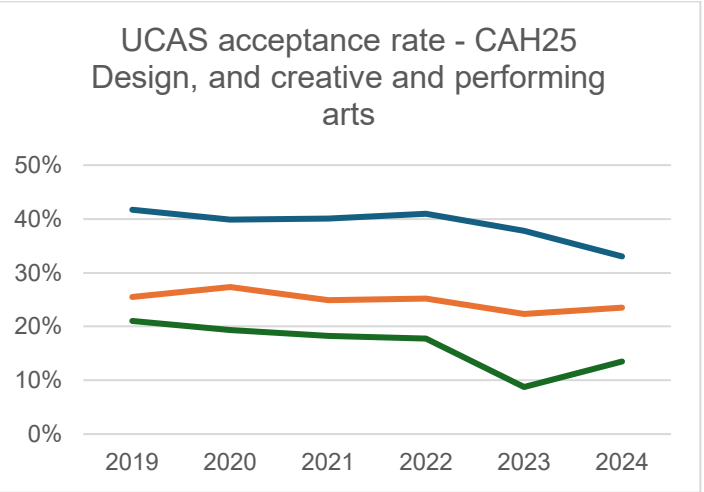
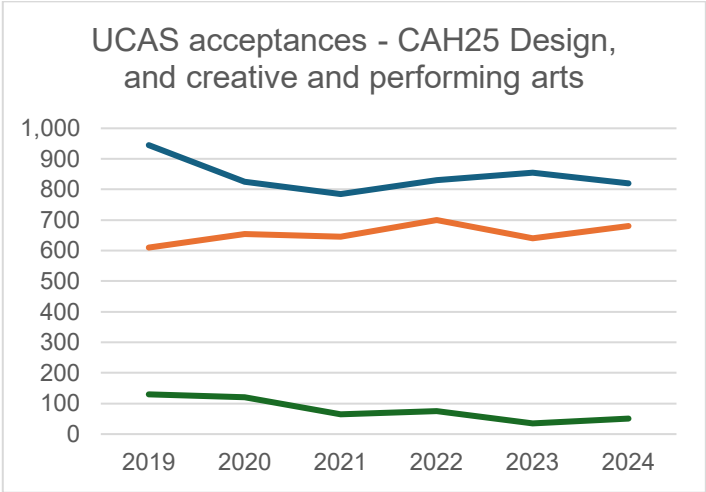
— Welsh — Other UK — Overseas

Source: UCAS



— Welsh — Other UK — Overseas

Source: UCAS



Welsh Other UK Overseas

Source: UCAS

Annex G – CAH level 1 subject groups – breakdown of enrolments at Welsh HEPs into CAH level 3 subject groups 2023/24, with results for associated REF 2021 units of assessment

1. This annex shows enrolments at Welsh HEPs for each CAH level 1 subject group in 2023/24 by the CAH level 3 subject groups within it and gives the proportion in each mode and level of study together with the proportion that that each CAH level 3 subject group is of the UK total in that group. Also included for each CAH level 1 subject group is a summary of the REF 2021 results for units of assessment (UoAs) associated with the group for Welsh HEPs.

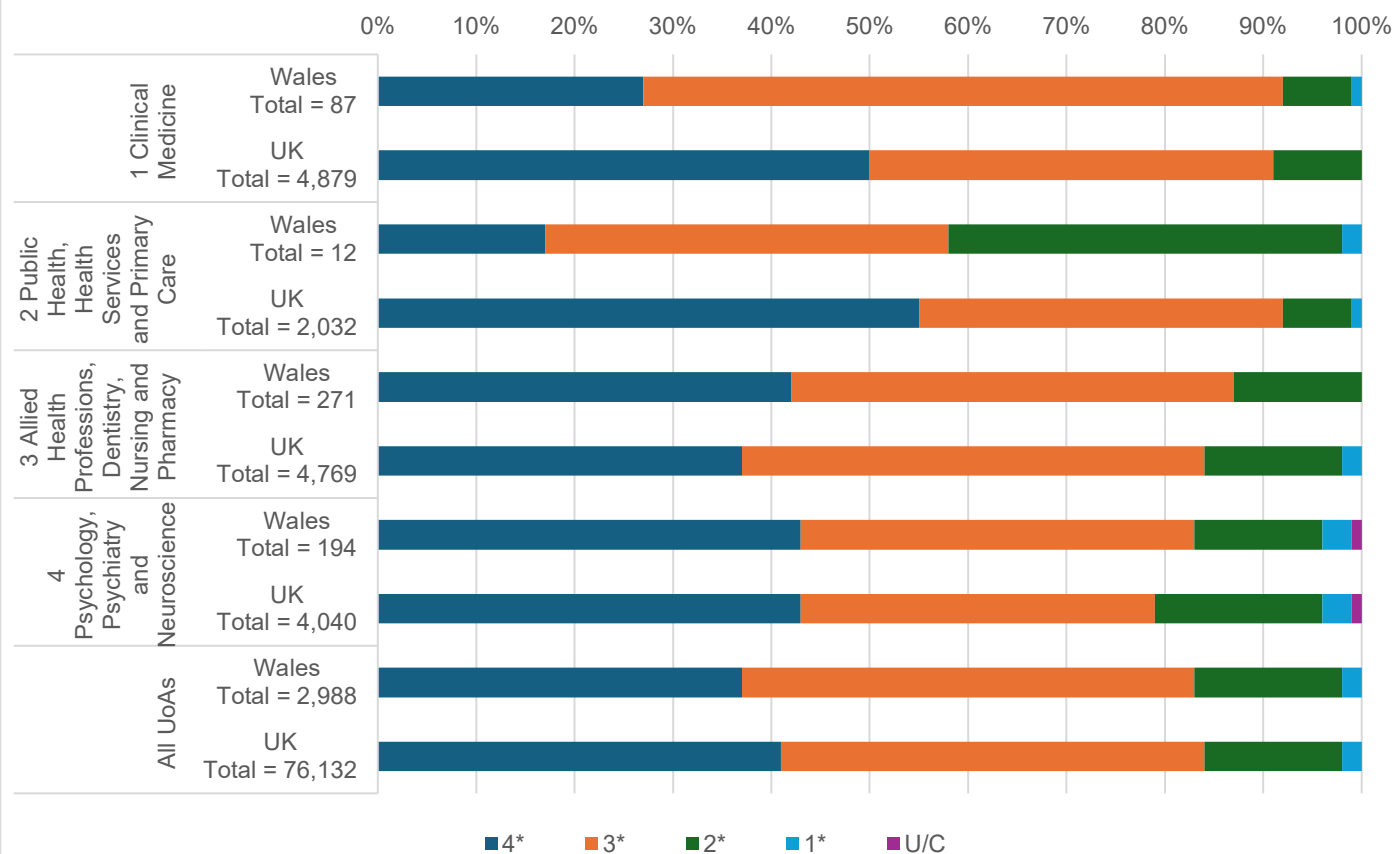
CAH01 Medicine and dentistry

Table A - Number of enrolments in Medicine and dentistry by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Medical Sciences (Non-Specific)	0	125	10	85	0	5	15	15	255	5.0%
Medicine (Non-Specific)	5	2,110	55	115	0	0	360	45	2,685	4.0%
Medicine By Specialism	0	0	75	0	0	0	110	0	190	4.7%
Dentistry	25	350	30	30	0	5	0	5	445	4.7%
Total	30	2,590	165	235	0	10	485	65	3,575	4.2%
Percentage of provision	1%	72%	5%	7%	0%	0%	14%	2%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart A - REF 2021 results - Medicine, Dentistry and Health related UoAs



Source: REF 2021

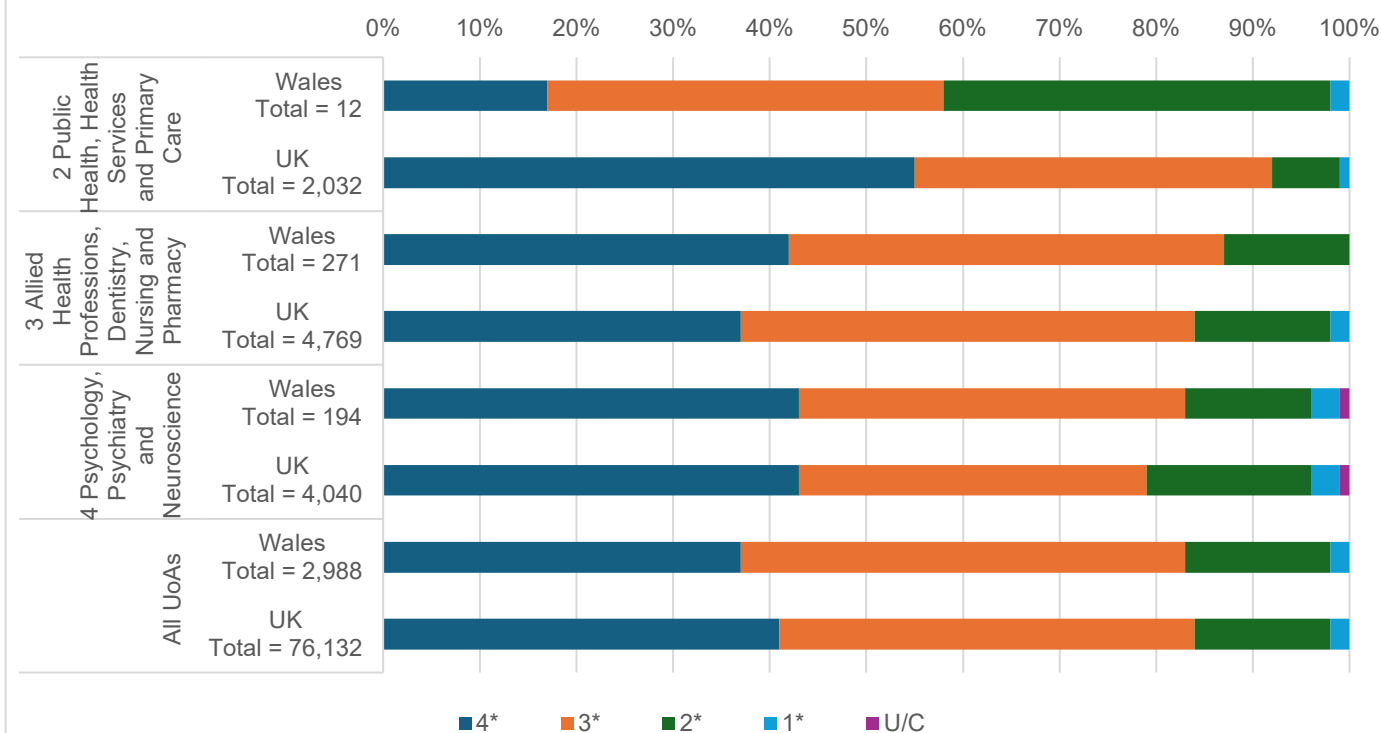
CAH02 Subjects allied to medicine

Table B - Number of enrolments in Subjects allied to medicine by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Pharmacology	0	235	0	0	0	0	0	0	235	2.7%
Toxicology	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	4.5%
Pharmacy	0	770	0	35	35	40	415	0	1,295	5.1%
Nursing (Non-Specific)	70	0	15	15	375	315	860	25	1,670	3.5%
Adult Nursing	5	2,815	45	0	30	430	0	0	3,325	5.5%
Community Nursing	15	5	60	0	110	10	275	0	470	13.5%
Midwifery	45	525	0	0	5	5	20	0	595	4.3%
Children's Nursing	0	435	0	0	0	20	0	0	455	3.9%
Dental Nursing	35	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	14.2%
Mental Health Nursing	0	715	55	0	0	70	0	0	840	4.3%
Learning Disabilities Nursing	0	115	0	0	0	10	0	0	125	6.4%
Others In Nursing	0	0	0	0	25	0	320	0	345	3.6%
Medical Technology	0	425	10	0	0	0	40	0	475	4.7%
Healthcare Science (Non-Specific)	10	105	15	30	135	0	770	15	1,080	15.0%
Biomedical Sciences (Non-Specific)	0	850	170	0	0	5	10	0	1,040	2.6%
Anatomy, Physiology And Pathology	0	100	10	0	0	0	0	0	110	2.0%
Health Sciences (Non-Specific)	0	815	100	15	175	285	60	30	1,480	4.6%
Nutrition And Dietetics	0	130	35	0	0	0	10	0	175	2.4%
Ophthalmics	0	365	40	10	0	20	565	0	1,000	18.0%
Environmental And Public Health	0	50	625	5	0	35	95	5	815	7.4%
Physiotherapy	0	385	180	0	20	35	20	0	635	4.3%
Complementary And Alternative Medicine	15	670	0	0	5	0	0	0	695	12.7%
Counselling, Psychotherapy And Occupational Therapy	30	550	205	0	220	125	375	0	1,500	6.3%
Total	215	10,095	1,555	110	1,145	1,400	3,840	80	18,445	5.0%
Percentage of provision	1%	55%	8%	1%	6%	8%	21%	0%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart B - REF 2021 results - Subjects allied to medicine related UoAs



Source: REF 2021

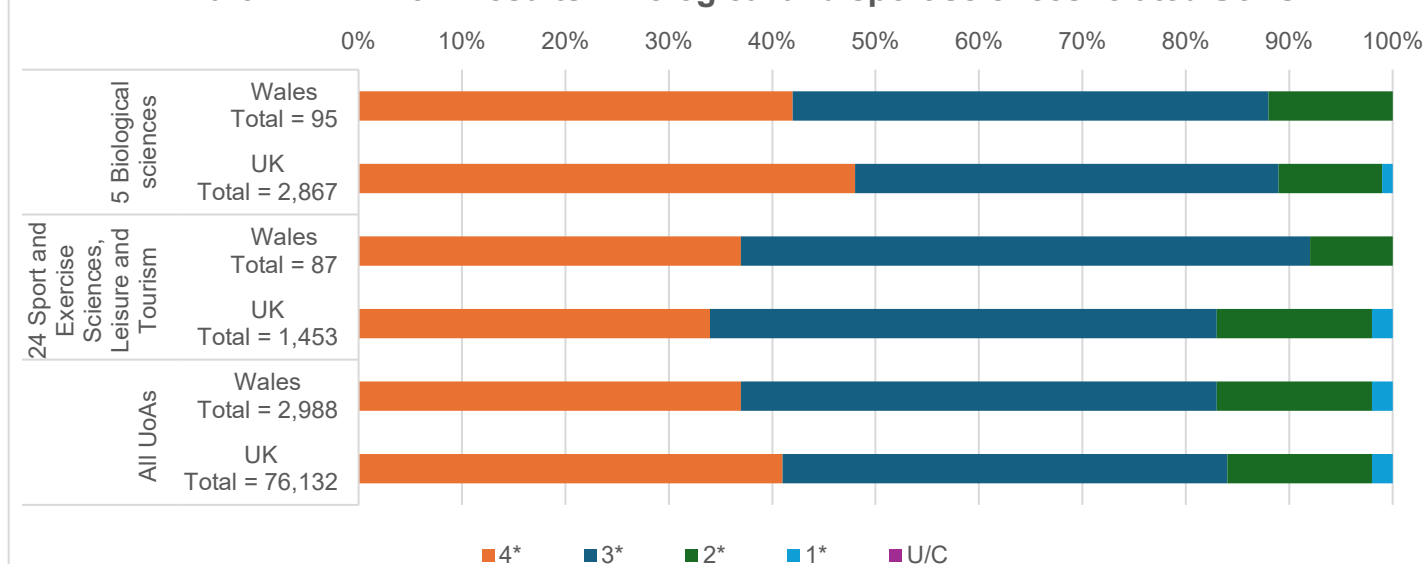
CAH03 Biological and sport sciences

Table C - Number of enrolments in Biological and sport sciences by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Biosciences (Non-Specific)	5	1,485	55	210	0	60	0	35	1,850	12.6%
Biology (Non-Specific)	0	465	30	0	0	100	0	0	600	4.2%
Ecology And Environmental Biology	10	835	80	5	65	15	90	5	1,100	13.6%
Microbiology And Cell Science	0	35	30	5	0	0	0	0	70	1.7%
Plant Sciences	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	6.7%
Zoology	0	1,240	5	50	15	25	0	10	1,345	20.8%
Genetics	0	175	10	0	0	0	110	0	300	9.2%
Molecular Biology, Biophysics And Biochemistry	0	255	20	0	0	0	0	0	280	2.1%
Others In Biosciences	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.2%
Sport And Exercise Sciences	610	3,340	270	110	230	225	140	50	4,980	10.4%
Total	625	7,855	500	380	315	435	340	100	10,550	9.2%
Percentage of provision	6%	74%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart C - REF 2021 results - Biological and sport sciences related UoAs



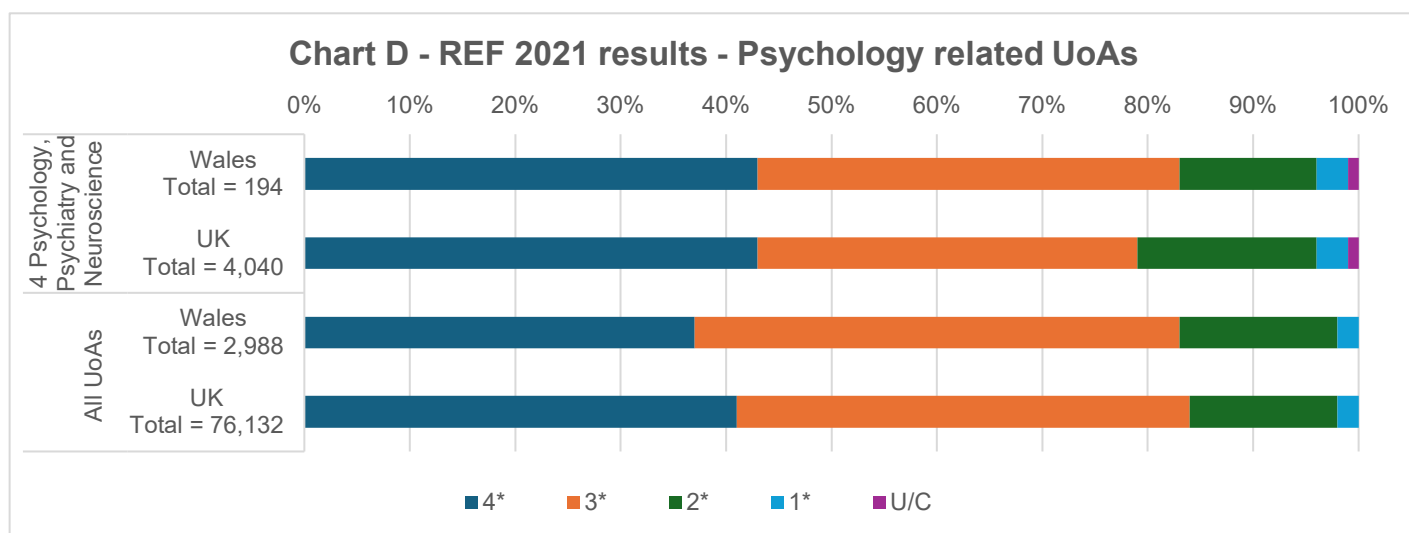
Source: REF 2021

CAH04 Psychology

Table D - Number of enrolments in Psychology by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Psychology (Non-Specific)	55	3,090	360	165	170	2,280	535	60	6,705	6.1%
Applied Psychology	0	660	225	5	0	5	145	5	1,040	7.9%
Developmental Psychology	0	120	10	40	0	0	80	0	250	7.0%
Psychology And Health	0	50	80	115	0	0	55	0	305	2.9%
Others In Psychology	0	0	30	0	0	0	50	0	85	2.7%
Total	55	3,920	710	320	170	2,285	865	65	8,385	6.0%
Percentage of provision	1%	47%	8%	4%	2%	27%	10%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



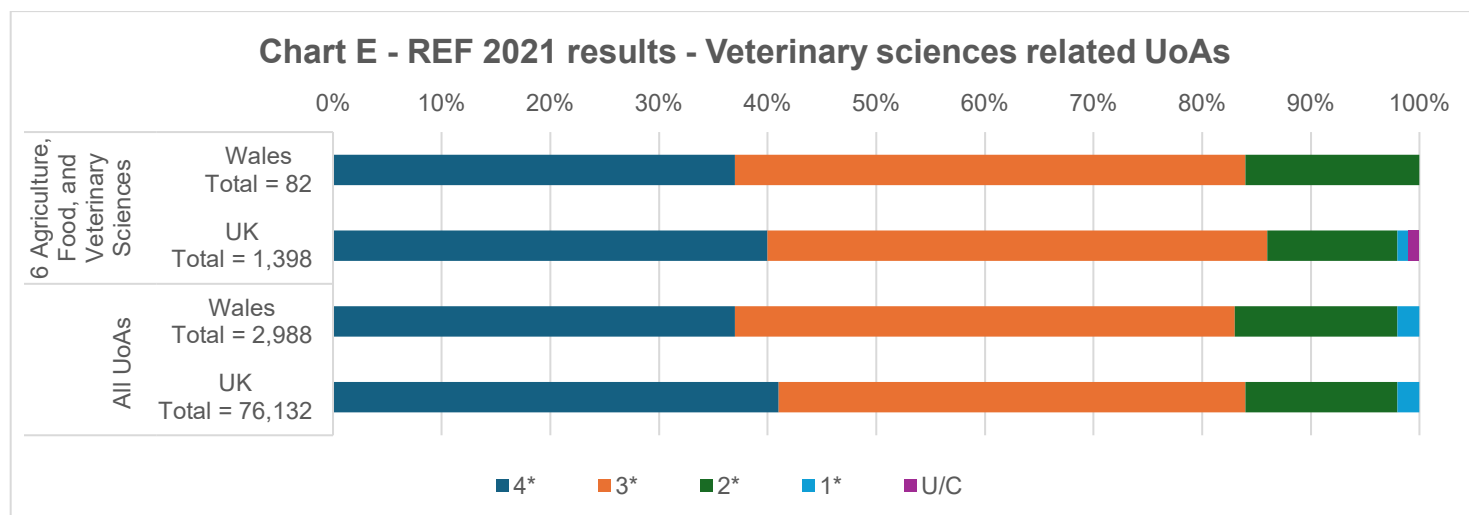
Source: REF 2021

CAH05 Veterinary sciences

Table E - Number of enrolments in Veterinary sciences by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Veterinary Medicine And Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Others In Veterinary Sciences	145	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	5.8%
Total	145	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	1.2%
Percentage of provision	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



Source: REF 2021

CAH06 Agriculture, food and related studies

Table F - Number of enrolments in Agriculture, food and related studies by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Animal Science	85	285	35	0	30	20	10	0	465	7.0%
Agricultural Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	1.3%
Agriculture	40	95	15	5	10	20	95	5	280	4.2%
Rural Estate Management	0	15	20	0	0	0	0	0	35	17.4%
Forestry And Arboriculture	0	70	35	10	0	0	95	5	210	44.0%
Food And Beverage Studies (Non-Specific)	10	5	0	0	5	0	15	0	35	3.5%
Food Sciences	0	45	75	0	0	0	5	0	125	4.8%
Food And Beverage Production	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	135	510	180	15	45	45	225	5	1,155	5.9%
Percentage of provision	12%	44%	15%	1%	4%	4%	19%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

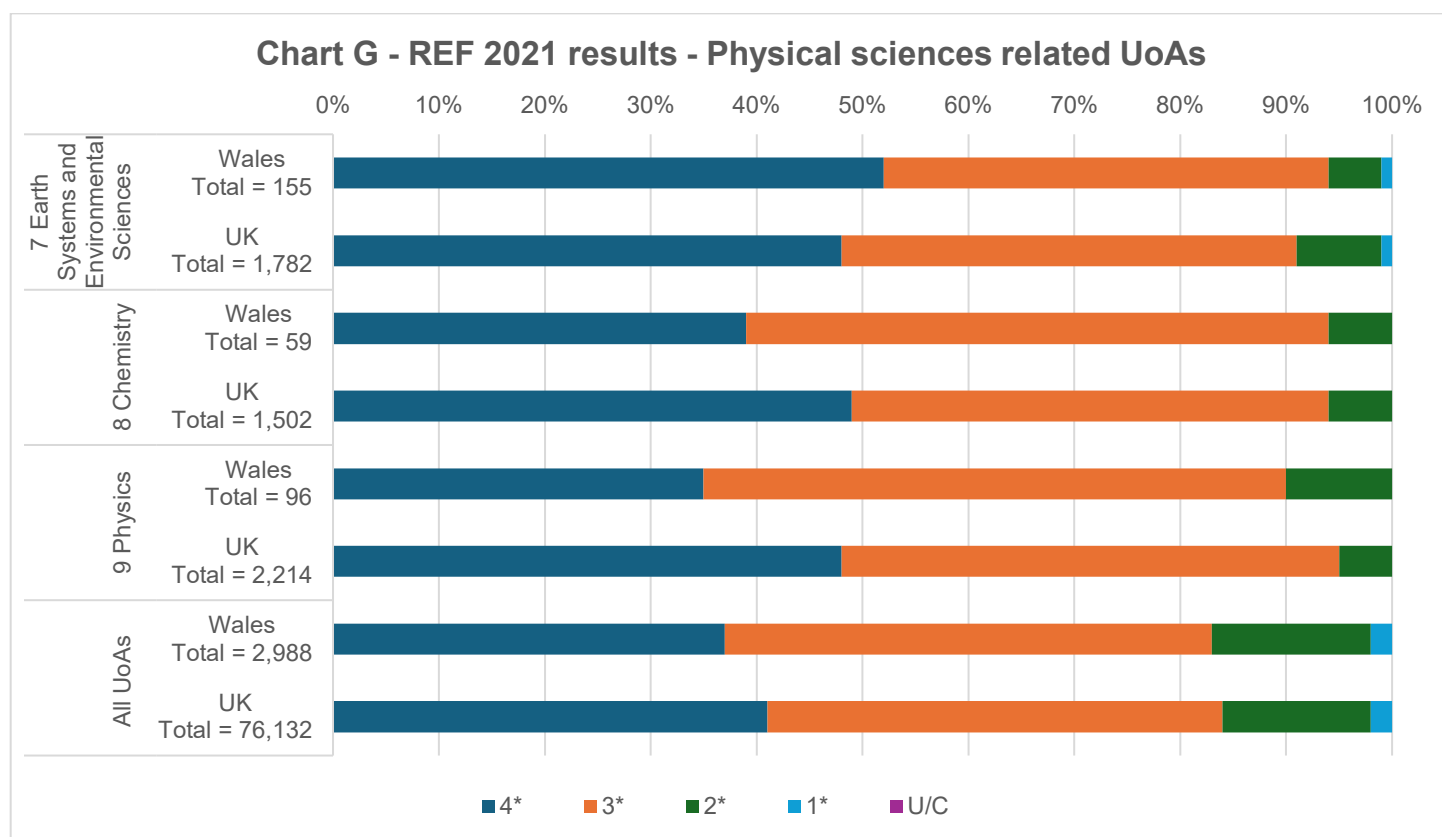
Chart F is equivalent to Chart E and so is not included again.

CAH07 Physical sciences

Table G - Number of enrolments in Physical sciences by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Physics	0	515	75	75	5	100	30	5	805	3.6%
Astronomy	0	260	35	45	0	10	5	0	355	9.8%
Chemistry	5	660	165	140	5	60	5	0	1,040	4.6%
Physical Sciences (Non-Specific)	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	50	3.9%
Forensic And Archaeological Sciences	0	235	60	10	25	0	70	5	405	4.4%
Sciences (Non-Specific)	10	0	0	10	5	45	0	5	70	2.7%
Natural Sciences (Non-Specific)	0	0	0	10	5	50	0	0	65	1.9%
Total	15	1,670	335	280	45	310	110	20	2,785	4.3%
Percentage of provision	0%	60%	12%	10%	2%	11%	4%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



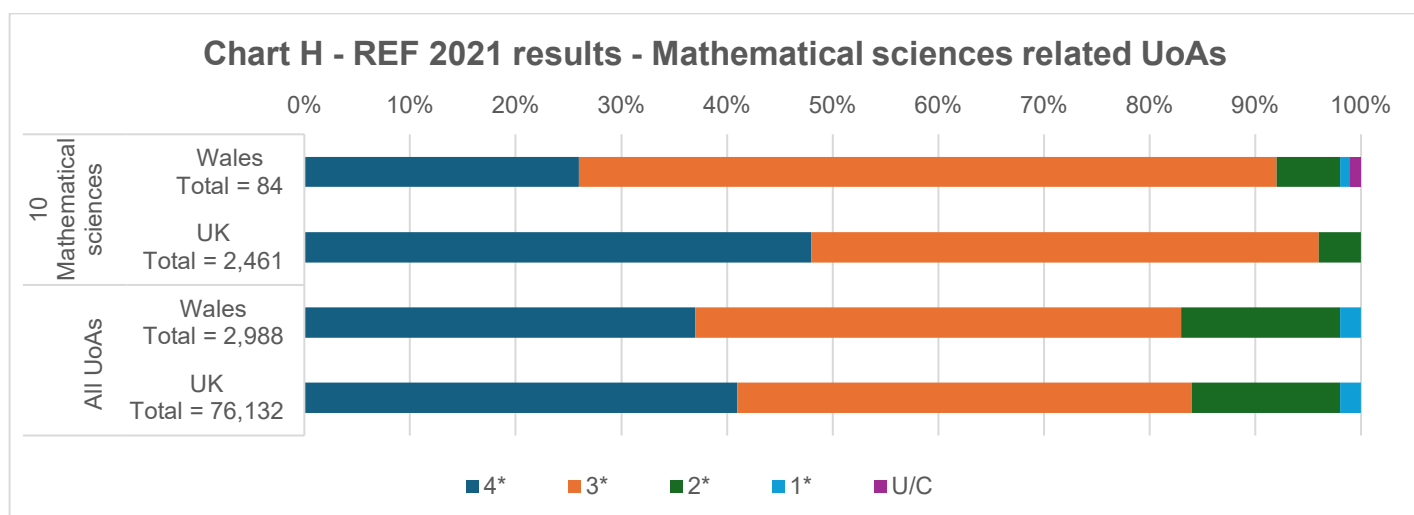
Source: REF 2021

CAH09 – Mathematical sciences

Table H - Number of enrolments in Mathematical sciences by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Mathematics	0	945	150	50	55	250	35	10	1,500	4.1%
Operational Research	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	25	2.3%
Statistics	0	5	85	0	5	50	5	0	150	1.9%
Total	0	950	260	50	60	300	35	10	1,675	3.7%
Percentage of provision	0%	57%	16%	3%	4%	18%	2%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



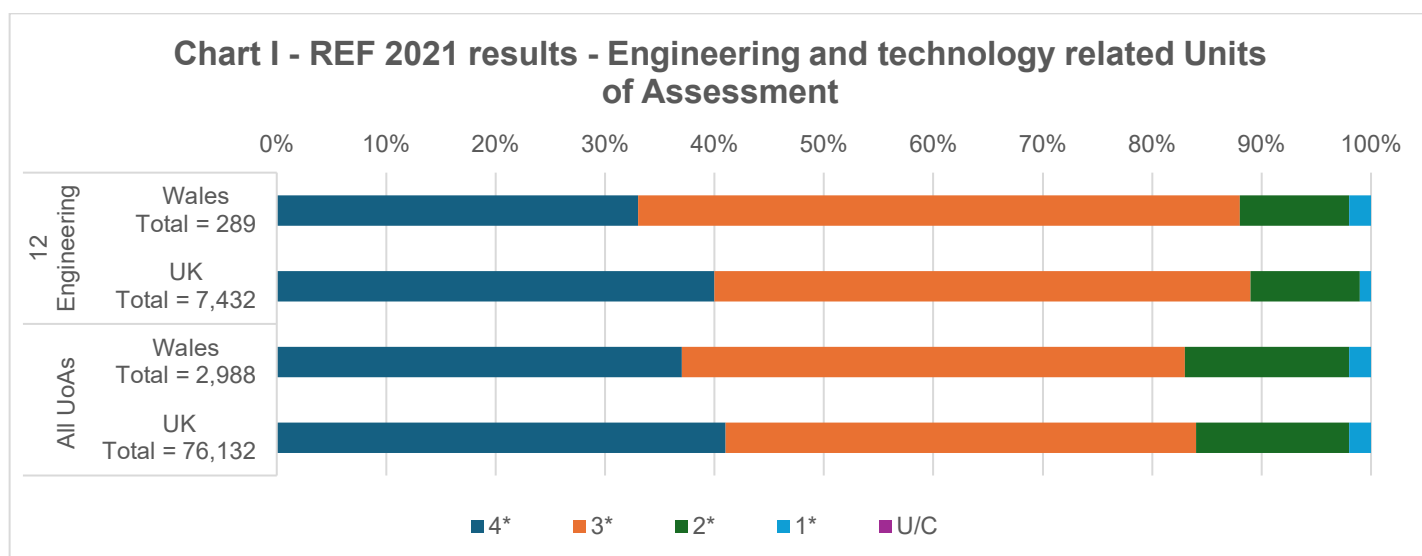
Source: REF 2021

CAH10 – Engineering and technology

Table I - Number of enrolments in Engineering and technology by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Engineering (Non-Specific)	55	160	10	195	315	415	30	15	1,195	4.7%
Mechanical Engineering	0	1,175	175	25	200	200	5	10	1,800	5.4%
Production And Manufacturing Engineering	25	380	65	0	50	110	70	10	715	5.2%
Aeronautical And Aerospace Engineering	15	1,055	80	10	0	15	10	0	1,185	7.8%
Naval Architecture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Bioengineering, Medical And Biomedical Engineering	0	290	50	10	45	10	25	10	440	6.1%
Civil Engineering	10	870	225	25	115	155	30	5	1,435	5.6%
Electrical And Electronic Engineering	45	590	210	35	310	335	5	10	1,540	5.3%
Chemical, Process And Energy Engineering	0	290	175	40	0	0	15	5	525	3.8%
Others In Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Minerals Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Materials Technology	0	105	10	145	75	0	0	5	335	13.2%
Polymers And Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Maritime Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Biotechnology	0	0	10	0	0	0	20	0	30	1.9%
Others In Technology	0	75	0	0	5	10	0	0	90	1.4%
Materials Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1%
Total	150	4,995	1,005	490	1,120	1,250	205	80	9,290	5.2%
Percentage of provision	2%	54%	11%	5%	12%	13%	2%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



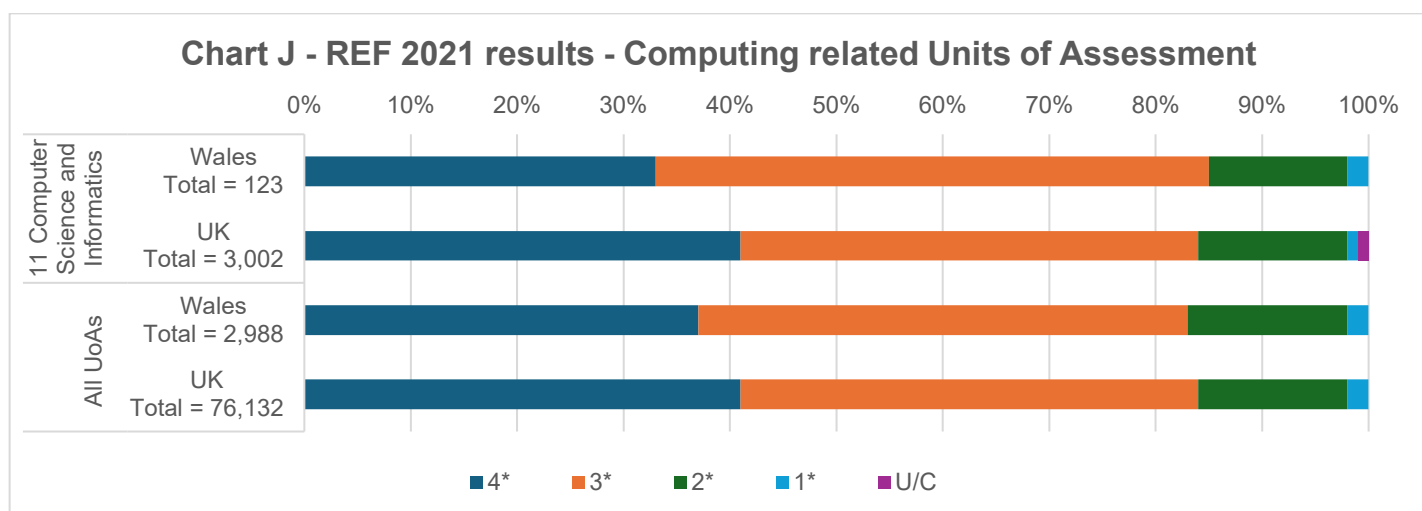
Source: REF 2021

CAH11 – Computing

Table J - Number of enrolments in Computing by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Computer Science	590	2,790	810	250	170	355	175	65	5,205	5.4%
Information Technology	15	10	155	0	145	690	5	0	1,020	5.7%
Information Systems	0	145	305	0	0	65	30	0	545	3.2%
Software Engineering	10	785	325	0	20	140	95	0	1,380	5.2%
Artificial Intelligence	0	85	170	0	0	0	10	0	265	2.9%
Computer Games And Animation	35	575	35	0	10	5	5	5	665	3.9%
Business Computing	0	35	145	0	0	0	5	0	185	4.2%
Others In Computing	0	125	295	0	10	5	15	0	455	12.1%
Total	650	4,555	2,240	255	350	1,260	335	70	9,715	5.1%
Percentage of provision	7%	47%	23%	3%	4%	13%	3%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

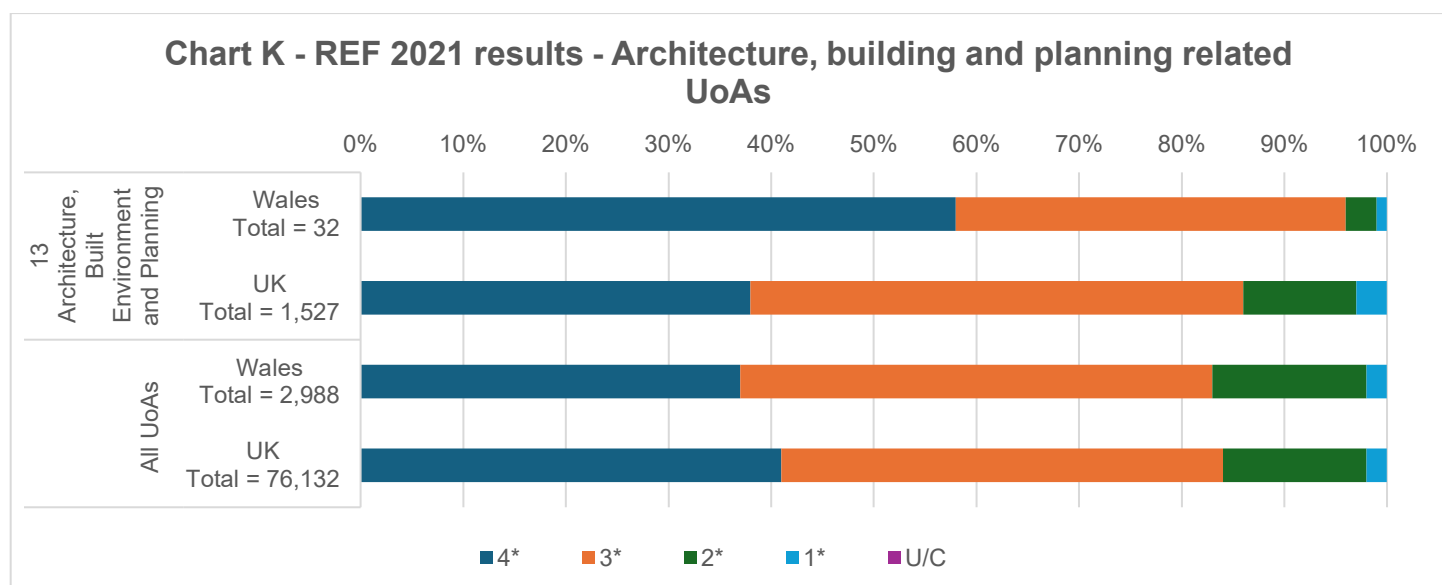


CAH13 – Architecture, building and planning

Table K - Number of enrolments in Architecture, building and planning by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Architecture	0	905	130	40	0	25	50	10	1,155	4.3%
Building	35	140	255	0	245	240	65	5	985	3.1%
Landscape Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Planning (Urban, Rural And Regional)	0	225	200	20	5	15	35	5	500	7.5%
Total	35	1,270	580	60	250	280	150	20	2,635	4.0%
Percentage of provision	1%	48%	22%	2%	9%	11%	6%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



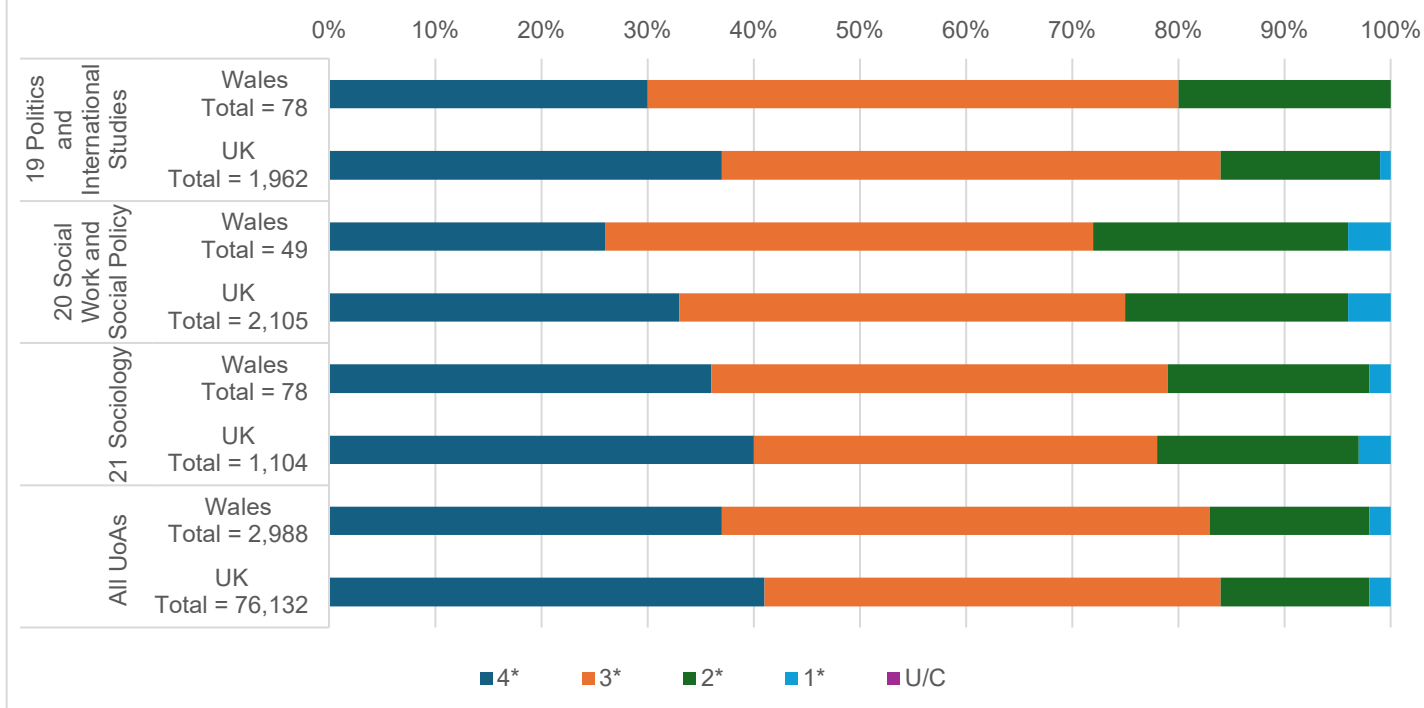
CAH15 – Social sciences

Table L - Number of enrolments in Social sciences by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Social Sciences (Non-Specific)	15	255	80	60	65	105	70	25	680	6.5%
Sociology	0	1,915	150	30	75	540	50	15	2,780	4.7%
Social Policy	35	300	120	15	25	5	125	20	630	5.3%
Anthropology	0	20	5	0	10	0	25	0	60	1.1%
Development Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.1%
Cultural Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1%
Economics	0	1,050	135	30	0	80	5	5	1,305	2.5%
Politics	30	1,455	185	35	0	80	35	15	1,840	3.9%
Social Work	5	480	175	5	395	355	65	15	1,500	5.6%
Childhood And Youth Studies	110	345	35	0	110	295	75	5	980	7.8%
Health Studies	1,870	1,205	380	15	850	650	370	15	5,355	10.9%
Total	2,065	7,025	1,260	190	1,535	2,115	825	115	15,135	5.4%
Percentage of provision	14%	46%	8%	1%	10%	14%	5%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart L - REF 2021 results - Social sciences related Units of Assessment



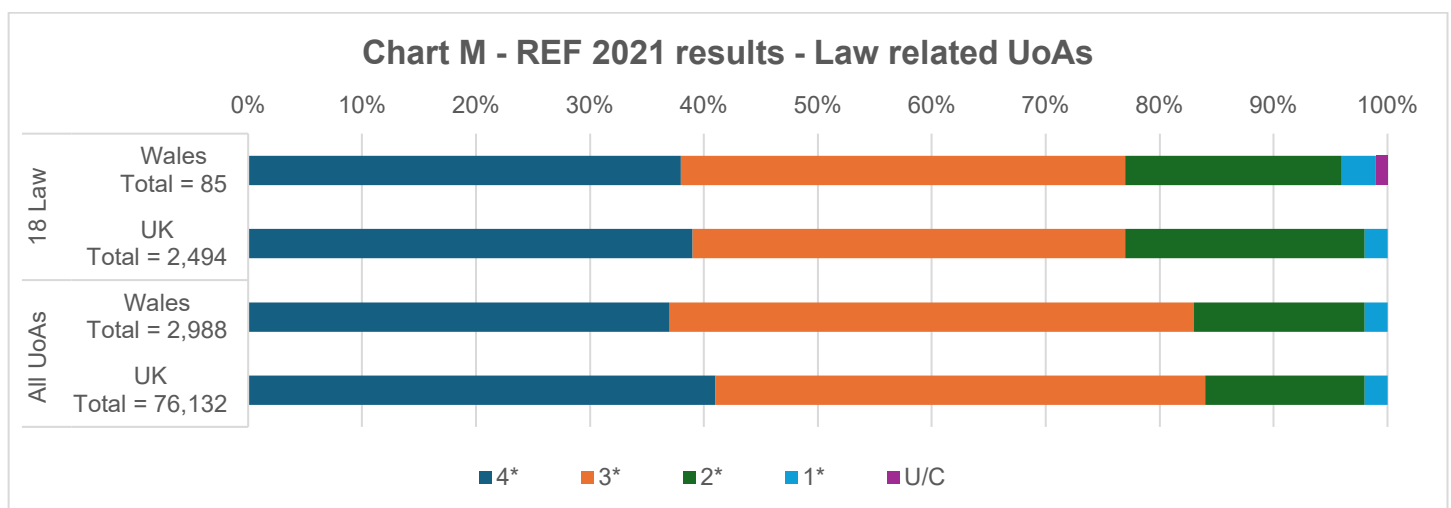
Source: REF 2021

CAH16 – Law

Table M - Number of enrolments in Law by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Law - Total	365	5,625	905	65	910	755	285	45	8,955	6.2%
Percentage of provision	4%	63%	10%	1%	10%	8%	3%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



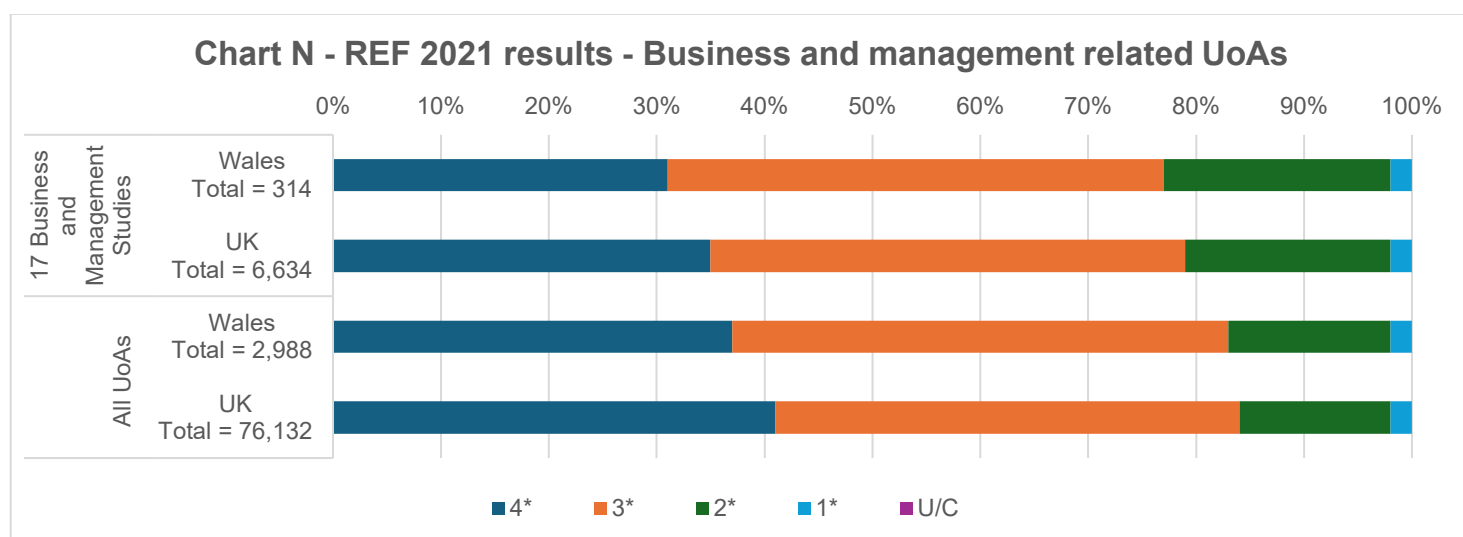
Source: REF 2021

CAH17 – Business and management

Table N - Number of enrolments in Business and management by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Business And Management (Non-Specific)	1,035	1,020	1,850	5	200	1,035	315	15	5,475	3.7%
Business Studies	65	1,275	2,850	80	85	20	280	25	4,685	2.9%
Marketing	0	720	510	0	0	10	30	0	1,270	2.9%
Management Studies	1,475	2,885	2,585	105	15	25	735	130	7,950	6.8%
Human Resource Management	0	90	410	0	0	10	95	0	605	5.3%
Tourism, Transport And Travel	115	1,430	110	0	0	5	10	0	1,670	5.9%
Finance	35	1,015	450	15	40	90	65	0	1,715	3.8%
Accounting	65	1,005	375	10	125	120	10	5	1,710	4.2%
Others In Business And Management	0	20	0	0	0	0	5	0	25	12.3%
Total	2,795	9,455	9,130	215	465	1,315	1,550	175	25,100	4.2%
Percentage of provision	11%	38%	36%	1%	2%	5%	6%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



Source: REF 2021

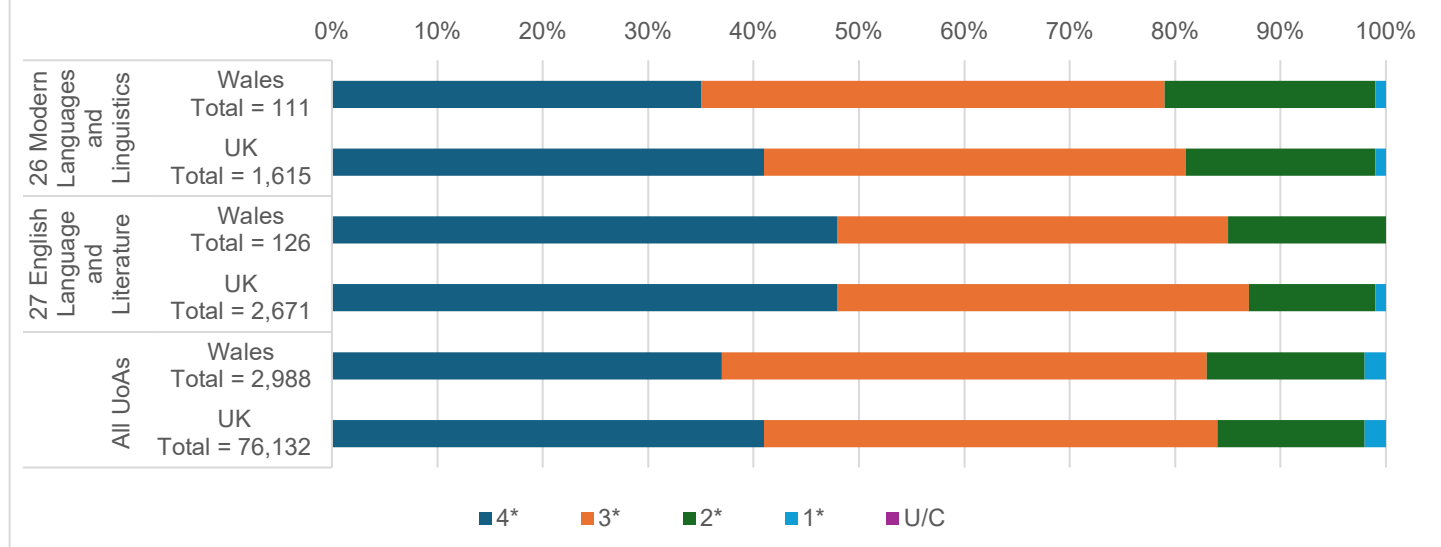
CAH19 – Language and area studies

Table O - Number of enrolments in Language and area studies by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
English Studies (Non-Specific)	5	95	15	45	180	5	10	20	375	2.7%
English Language	0	240	5	0	5	100	0	0	355	6.5%
Literature In English	0	955	50	35	0	175	40	15	1,275	8.2%
Studies Of Specific Authors	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.5%
Creative Writing	0	310	70	35	15	90	85	20	630	5.8%
Others In English Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.7%
Linguistics	0	140	60	40	0	0	10	15	265	4.5%
Celtic Studies (Non-Specific)	0	20	10	5	0	5	10	5	55	28.7%
Gaelic Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Welsh Studies	60	130	35	20	70	5	20	15	355	100.0%
Others In Celtic Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
French Studies	0	190	0	0	10	0	0	0	200	5.3%
German And Scandinavian Studies	0	70	0	0	5	0	0	0	75	5.4%
Italian Studies	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	7.0%
Iberian Studies	0	200	0	0	0	5	0	0	205	5.1%
Slavic Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Asian Studies	0	105	20	0	20	0	0	0	145	4.0%
African And Modern Middle Eastern Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
American And Australasian Studies	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	5	55	6.2%
Others In Language And Area Studies	0	200	55	25	360	55	20	10	730	6.6%
Total	70	2,755	310	205	665	445	200	110	4,760	5.9%
Percentage of provision	2%	58%	7%	4%	14%	9%	4%	2%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart O - REF 2021 results - Language and area studies related UoAs



Source: REF 2021

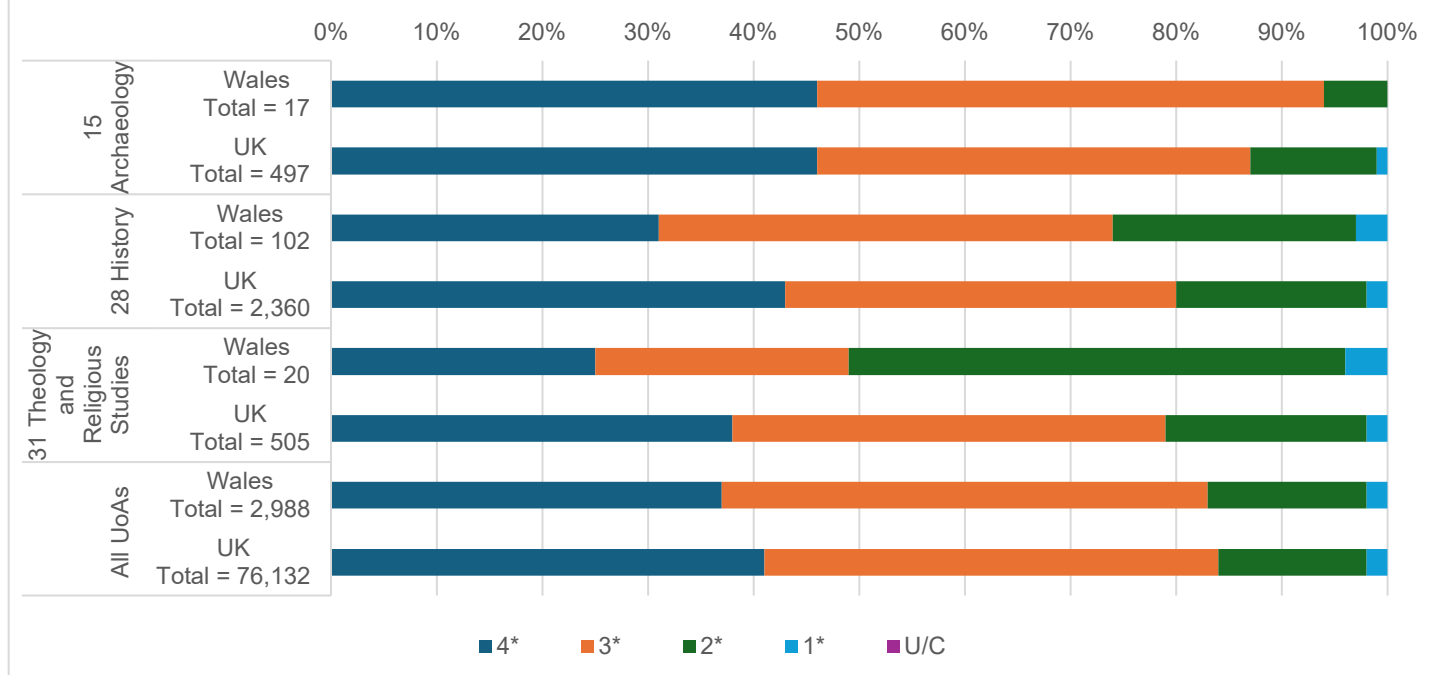
CAH20 – Historical, philosophical and religious studies

Table P - Number of enrolments in Historical, philosophical and religious studies by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
History	5	1,610	120	60	30	315	90	55	2,285	5.9%
History Of Art, Architecture And Design	0	35	0	5	5	20	15	5	80	1.4%
Archaeology	0	200	20	25	0	10	30	20	300	6.5%
Heritage Studies	0	30	10	0	0	0	0	0	40	5.4%
Classics	0	175	5	5	0	90	20	0	295	5.2%
Philosophy	0	370	10	20	5	65	25	10	510	3.7%
Theology And Religious Studies	15	135	15	20	145	60	200	35	625	7.7%
Total	20	2,560	185	130	180	560	375	125	4,135	5.3%
Percentage of provision	0%	62%	4%	3%	4%	14%	9%	3%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart P - REF 2021 results - Historical, philosophical and religious studies related UoAs



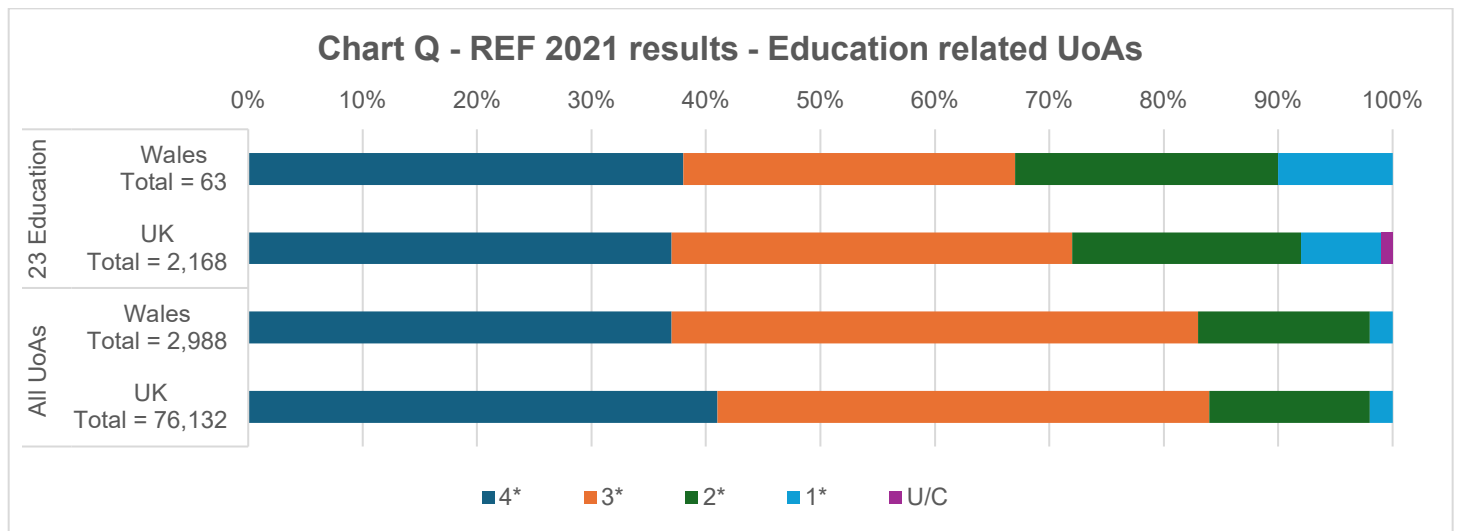
Source: REF 2021

CAH22 – Education and teaching

Table Q - Number of enrolments in Education and teaching by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Education	45	1,070	365	25	1,915	555	840	90	4,895	8.0%
Teacher Training	85	780	970	10	360	0	735	50	2,990	5.2%
Total	125	1,850	1,330	40	2,275	555	1,575	135	7,885	6.6%
Percentage of provision	2%	23%	17%	0%	29%	7%	20%	2%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



CAH23 – Combined and general studies

Table R - Number of enrolments in Combined and general studies by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Combined, General Or Negotiated Studies	0	0	0	0	2,415	955	85	0	3,455	11.6%
Personal Development	0	40	165	0	100	0	20	0	325	5.0%
Humanities (Non-Specific)	0	0	0	5	20	320	0	10	355	6.9%
Liberal Arts (Non-Specific)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	0	40	165	5	2,535	1,275	105	10	4,135	9.2%
Percentage of provision	0%	1%	4%	0%	61%	31%	3%	0%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

There is no chart R as there is no associated REF 2021 unit of assessment for Combined and general studies

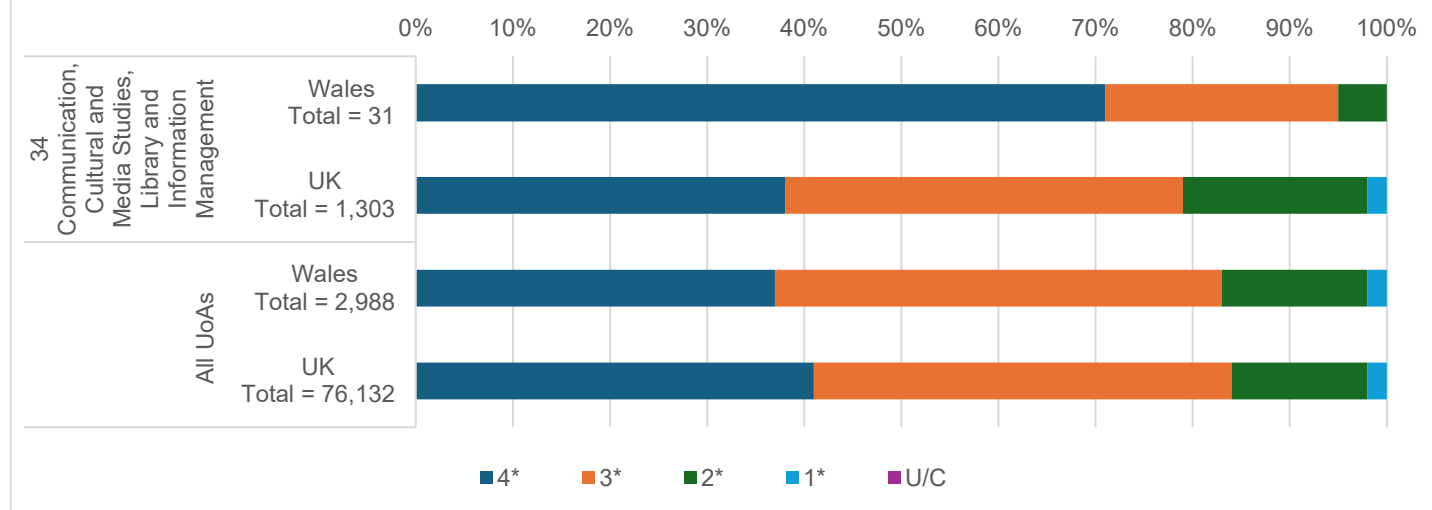
CAH24 – Media, journalism and communications

Table S - Number of enrolments in Media, journalism and communications by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Information Services	0	0	120	0	10	30	315	5	480	12.2%
Publicity Studies	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	120	6.3%
Publishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Journalism	0	615	255	25	0	5	5	5	915	9.2%
Media Studies	30	905	235	15	0	10	15	5	1210	3.9%
Total	30	1,520	730	45	10	45	335	15	2,720	5.7%
Percentage of provision	1%	56%	27%	2%	0%	2%	12%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record

Chart S - REF 2021 results - Media, journalism and communications related UoAs



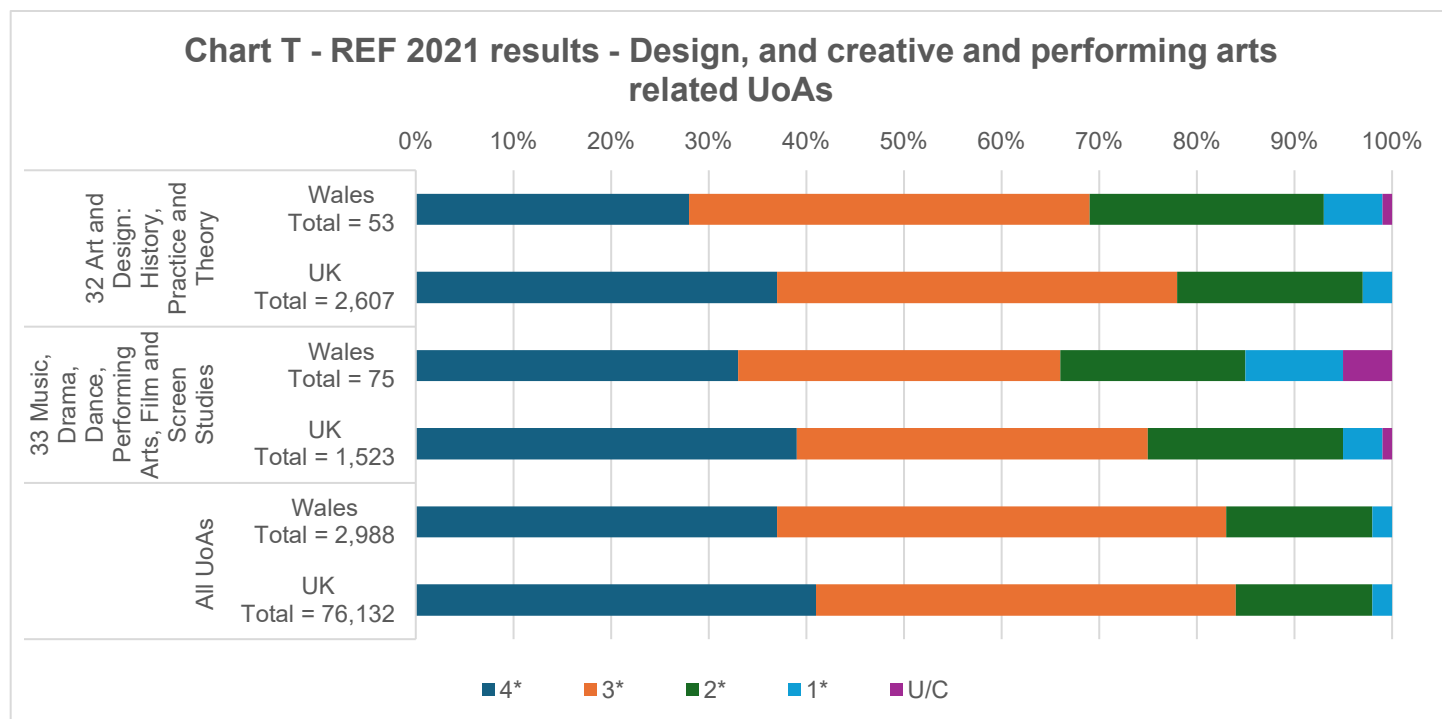
Source: REF 2021

CAH25 – Design, and creative and performing arts

Table T - Number of enrolments in Design, and creative and performing arts by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Creative Arts And Design (Non-Specific)	55	15	5	10	110	5	60	0	265	6.7%
Art	0	365	30	5	20	35	30	5	485	3.0%
Design Studies	75	1575	110	75	105	165	30	15	2155	3.2%
Cinematics And Photography	60	655	70	0	0	40	45	0	870	2.8%
Others In Creative Arts And Design	0	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	7.9%
Performing Arts (Non-Specific)	20	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	2.2%
Music	45	900	175	30	10	55	150	10	1370	3.9%
Drama	15	640	120	10	0	0	15	15	815	4.5%
Dance	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0.3%
Total	270	4,320	505	125	245	305	330	45	6,155	3.4%
Percentage of provision	4%	70%	8%	2%	4%	5%	5%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



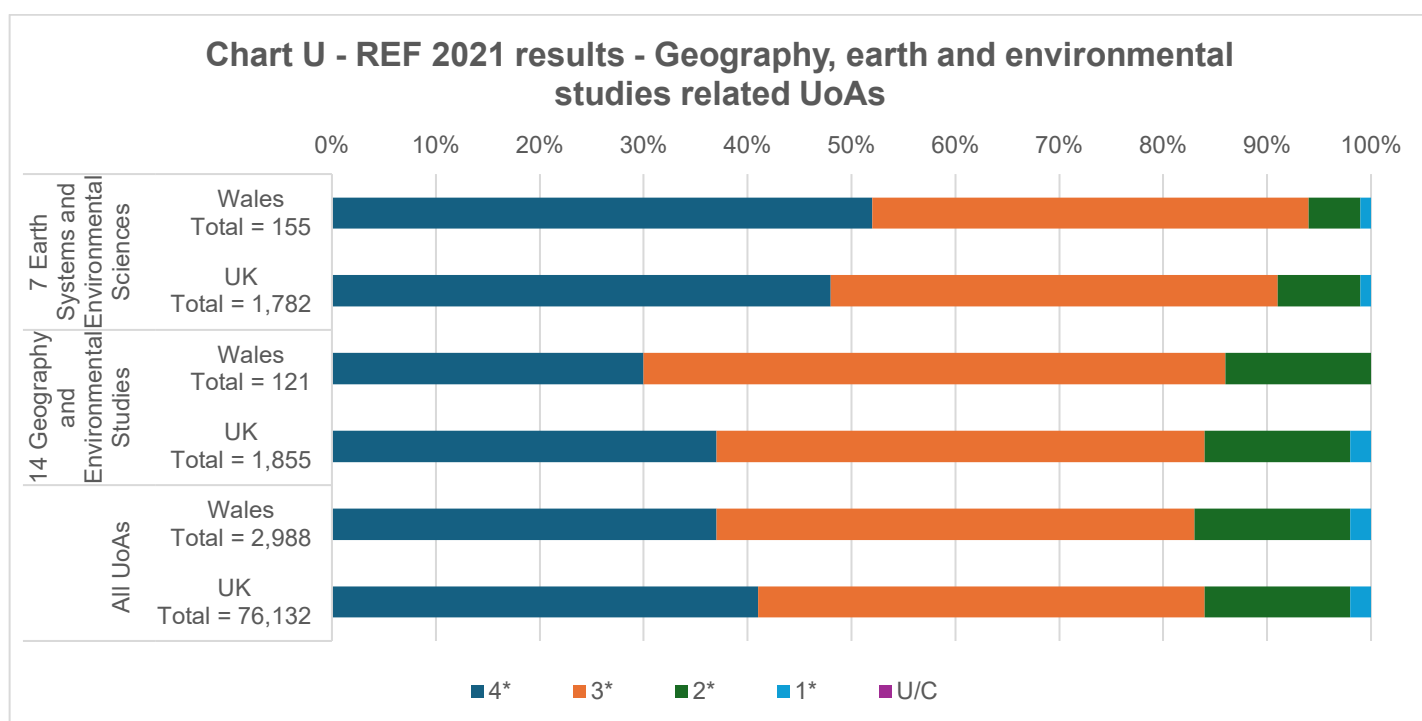
Source: REF 2021

CAH26 – Geography, earth and environmental studies

Table U - Number of enrolments in Geography, earth and environmental studies by CAH level 3 subject group, by mode and level, 2023/24

CAH level 3 subject group	Full-time				Part-time				Total	% of UK total
	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR	UG non-degree	UG degree	PGT	PGR		
Geography (Non-Specific)	0	15	0	5	0	30	0	0	50	1.1%
Physical Geographical Sciences	0	860	30	20	5	75	45	0	1,035	10.8%
Human Geography	10	625	50	35	10	5	55	10	800	6.5%
Environmental Sciences	5	350	75	25	15	240	95	5	810	8.0%
Others In Geographical Studies	0	0	20	0	0	0	5	0	25	3.0%
Earth Sciences	0	400	55	85	10	50	0	10	610	7.3%
Total	10	2,255	230	165	40	405	200	25	3,330	7.3%
Percentage of provision	0%	68%	7%	5%	1%	12%	6%	1%	100%	

Source: HESA student record



Source: REF 2021

Welsh providers did not submit to units of assessment 16, 22, 25, 29 and 30 and so those UoAs are not shown in this annex

Annex H – Data sources and definitions

Section 1 and Annexes A to D and G

1. The analysis in Section 1 and in Annexes A to D and G uses data from the [HESA student record](#) for 2023/24 and earlier years, and for UK analysis prior to 2022/23, the [HESA student alternative record](#). A [new HESA student record](#) was introduced in 2022/23 under the [Data Futures programme](#) and this include providers that returned data to either the HESA student record or the HESA student alternative record previously.
2. Up to 2016/17, only Welsh universities, including the Open University in Wales, returned data on the HESA student record. From 2016/17, Welsh further education colleges that were funded for their HE provision by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) also returned data on the HESA student record, and accounted for 1.1% of all enrolments at Welsh HE providers returned to HESA in 2016/17. From 2023/24, further education colleges and alternative providers in Wales that had specifically designated course provision were also required to return data on the HESA student record. These accounted for 0.7% of the total enrolments at Welsh HE providers returned to HESA in 2023/24.
3. HESA have outlined any data quality issues found in the data in their [published open data](#), and Medr have outlined any Wales specific quality issues in their official statistics publications (latest: [Sta/Medr/09/2025: Students in Higher Education, 2023/24](#)).
4. The population used in the analysis is the HESA standard registration population (2022/23 and 2023/24: [Definitions: Students](#), prior to 2022/23: [Definitions: Students 2007/08 to 2021/2](#)) and for 2022/23 and 2023/24 data, information for the latest [student course session](#) recorded is used.
5. Throughout the analysis, the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) is used to classify subjects studied on a course into subject groups. Subject studied is returned using HECoS codes (from 2019/20) and JACS codes (pre-2019/20). Three levels of the CAH are used, with level 1 being the least detailed and level 3 the most detailed. In the CAH level 2 subject group analyses, 'Performing arts' is split into 'Music' and 'Other performing arts', to reflect area of interest for Wales. CAH26, Geography, earth and environmental studies, is included as one group at the CAH level 1 and 2 subject groups in this analysis, and is not split into two groups (social sciences and natural sciences) as is done in the HESA open data for the purposes of providing a sum of science and non-science subjects.
6. More information about the CAH can be found [here](#). Also throughout the analysis, the Open University in Wales is included as a Welsh HEP, with the other parts of the Open University included in any UK HEP figures.

Latest enrolment data by mode and level of study, subject group and domicile/Proportion of enrolments that are part-time

7. For the 2023/24 analysis the following derived fields were used:
 - Mode of study: [Z_MODEGRP1](#)

- Level of study: [Z_LEVELGRP2](#).
- Subject group: [Z_SUBJCAHGRP1](#) and [Z_SUBJCAHGRP2](#).
- Enrolment count: the sum of [Z_SUBJFPE](#) divided by 100.
- Domicile: [Z_PERMADDGRP4](#).
- Standard registration population and latest student course session: [Z_POPSR_CYC](#) and [Z_LATESTSCSMRK](#).

Trends in enrolments/Trends in full-time enrolments/Trends in part-time enrolments/Annexes A, B and C

- For 2022/23 and 2023/24, the definitions above were used to categorise students. For 2014/15 to 2021/22 the following derived fields were used:
 - Mode of study: [XMODE01](#)
 - Level of study: [XLEV501](#)
 - Subject group 2019/20 to 2021/22: CAH level 1 subject group [XCAH01](#)
 - Subject group 2014/15 to 2018/19: [XJACS01](#) mapped to CAH level 1 subject group using the JACS to CAH mapping available on the [HESA website](#) under 'HECoS-Archived-Documents' – 'Download the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (version 1.3.4)'
 - Enrolment count: the sum of [XFPE01](#) (2019/20 to 2021/22) or [XFPE01](#) (2014/15 to 2018/19), divided by 100
 - Standard registration population: [XPSR01](#)
- In addition, for 2014/15, for CAH level 1 subject group CAH03, Biological and sport sciences, for part-time undergraduate non-degree provision at Welsh HEPs, 1,350 enrolments were removed from the analysis. These were associate student enrolments which were not included in the return in subsequent years and were therefore removed to enable a better comparison across years.

Comparison with the UK

- Chart 9 contains 2023/24 HESA student record data about English, Welsh and Northern Irish HEPs with ≥ 200 full-time equivalent (FTE). [Z_POPSES_CYC](#) is used to extract the population. FTE is counted in total for each engagement using [Z_STULOAD_CYC](#) divided by 100. Scottish providers are excluded as the FTE was returned differently to the rest of the UK. They are excluded using [Z_PROVIDERGRP1](#).
- For 2014/15 and 2023/24, enrolments at UK providers are counted in the same way as for Welsh providers described above. The [HESA alternative provider student record](#) has been included in the analysis for 2014/15, as well as the HESA student record, to determine the UK figures, and the latest fixed database available for the UK data has been used. [XMODE02](#) has been used to determine mode of study for alternative providers in 2014/15. For 2023/24, in line with the HESA open data, a small number of FE enrolments at Scottish HEPs have been removed ([Issue ID 22056053](#)).
- Figures for Chart 12 are counted as for other trends analysis above. In addition, CAH level 2 subject group for 2019/20 to 2021/22 has been determined using [XCAH02](#)

Subject supply and demand – full-time undergraduate

13. In this analysis, the number of home student enrolments at Welsh HEPs is compared to the number of Welsh domiciles at UK HEPs, for 2023/24. Population, mode and level of study and subject group are determined as described above. Home students are those assumed to be eligible to pay home fees, categorised using [FEELIG](#) = 01, 03, and using [Z_PERMADDGRP4](#) to determine Welsh domicile.

Regional analysis

14. The population, mode and level of study and subject classification of enrolments have been determined for 2023/24 as described above. Classification into region has been carried out using the following:
- Distance learning enrolments: identified using [DISTANCE](#) = 01, 02 and location determined using [Z_PERMADDUC](#) for enrolments based in Wales, otherwise classified as 'Outside Wales/Unknown'.
 - Partnership arrangements: identified where [MDRHESAIID](#) is not blank. Categorised into region using the location of the provider [UKPRN](#) returned in MDRHESAIID. Where additional information is provided in [VENUENAME](#), that is used to refine the mapping.
 - At provider enrolments: identified where the enrolment is not categorised as distance learning or part of a partnership arrangement. Students on a placement are also included ([PLACEMENT](#) = 01, 02). Location is determined using [INSTID](#) and [VENUENAME](#).

Spread of provision amongst providers/Annex D

15. For 2023/24, the categorisation by mode and level of study and subject group is as described above.

Welsh medium provision and Welsh language proficiency

16. The HESA standard registration population was used for this analysis for 2023/24. The latest student course session information was used to determine Welsh speaking ability. For Welsh medium provision, all non-duplicate modules taken through the medium of Welsh for any active student course session have been included. Enrolments in this section have been categorised by mode and level of study, domicile and subject group according to the criteria used for other analyses above.
17. Welsh language ability is categorised using the fields [LANGUAGEPROFICIENCYID](#), to identify that the language is Welsh, [PROFICIENCYTYPE](#), to determine the type of proficiency in Welsh and [PROFICIENCYLEVEL](#), to determine the level of proficiency in spoken Welsh.
18. For Welsh medium provision, for taught courses and optionally postgraduate research courses, modules are identified as being available through the medium of Welsh at least in part, using [MODLANGID](#). The percentage that a student is studying through the medium of Welsh is identified using [LANGPCNT](#) and this is applied to the number of credits for the module in [CRDTPTS](#) to determine the number of credits taken through the medium of Welsh, summed for all modules for

each student. For postgraduate research enrolments that do not have module information optionally returned, [PGRLANGID](#) and [PGRLANGPCNT](#) are used instead and the number of credits is estimated using the [Z_STULOADSCS](#) field.

Annex G

19. The tables in Annex G that show enrolments for 2023/24 by CAH level 3 subject group use derived field [Z_SUBJCAHGRP3](#). Other definitions and categorisations used in Annex G for the enrolments analysis match those used in other sections and annexes. The REF 2021 results data is from the same source as Section 4.

Section 2 - Pipeline to higher education – A level completions/Annex E

20. The data about A level completions has been taken from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record and the Post-16 Data Collection. Some subjects have been combined where qualification titles have been assumed to be replaced over time and represent the same subject area of study. Learners can take more than one A level and so will be counted against each A level they complete. Double awards are counted as two A level completions. A completion represents the learner completing all taught components of the A2 level learning activity and only completions at the A2 level are included.

Section 3 - UCAS applications and acceptances/Annex F

21. The UCAS data analysis used data that UCAS supplied directly to Medr. Data was supplied at each CAH level and is presented at CAH levels 1 and 2. More information about UCAS data and analysis can be found on the [UCAS website](#).

Section 4 - REF 2021 results

22. The results of the REF 2021 exercise can be found on the [REF 2021 website](#) and the data used in this report are Medr's analysis of those results by unit of assessment for Wales and the UK. Staff FTE figures do not have the Medr data disclosure control methodology applied as data are published on the REF website without rounding to the nearest 5.

Data disclosure control methodology

23. Figures taken from the HESA student record, A level completions and UCAS applications and acceptances are rounded to the nearest 5 in line with Medr's data disclosure control methodology.
24. Totals are calculated using unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest 5 so may not equal the sum of the constituent parts. Percentages are calculated using unrounded figures. If a percentage is calculated where the denominator is less than 22.5 then the percentage is suppressed.

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