

Personal Information Report:

Data on gender identity, sexual orientation and religious belief

1. This report is the second report on LSE student numbers under some of the “new” protected characteristics, notably gender identity, sexual orientation and religious belief
2. Previously, universities in England had legal obligations in relation to the protected characteristics of race, disability and gender. From 5 April 2011, the following additional protected characteristics were added to the list:
 - Sex (previously Gender);
 - Gender identity;
 - Sexual orientation;
 - Religious belief.

Reporting for the 2013/4 academic session

3. **Table 1.1** below shows a population of 11633. This number includes all students which are due to be included in the 2013/4 HESA return. It includes students who withdrew from their studies, students who are on a break, newly registered students, students continuing their studies and students on repeat tuition. It also includes students who are registered on a full time or part time basis, students doing fieldwork and students who are studying part or full duration of a year abroad. It excludes students who are unregistered and with a status of “Unregistered, awaiting results”.

Table 1.1 Student Population

| 2013/4 | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Row Labels | Total number of students | Total Students who Submitted Details | % of Total students ¹ |
| EMSc | 428 | 232 | 54.21% |
| Exchange | 140 | 122 | 87.14% |
| Occasional | 7 | 7 | 100.00% |
| PG MBA | 90 | 5 | 5.56% |
| PG Research | 970 | 221 | 22.78% |
| PG Taught | 5403 | 4888 | 90.47% |
| PG VRS | 10 | 7 | 70.00% |
| UG Degree | 4253 | 4038 | 94.94% |
| UG General Course | 332 | 329 | 99.10% |
| Grand Total | 11633 | 9849 | 84.66% |

4. The information in Tables 2.1 to 2.4 represents the self-declared information provided by the total number of students detailed above. This means that it is not necessarily definitive, as some students may have chosen to mis-represent themselves for whatever reason. Students were given the option to refuse the information and, in table 2.1, to select *Other* as sex (this is an acceptable response for the Student HESA statutory return). Where (blank) appears in the tables below (consistently at 8.25%), this shows the number of students who did not fill in the form.

5. Sex

¹ Percentage of students who submitted the form in relation to the number of students who were invited to fill it in.

We asked students “What is your sex?”

Table 2.1 Sex

| Sex | 2013/4 | | 2012/3 | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Total number of students | % of Total number of students | Total number of students | % of Total number of students |
| Female | 5969 | 51.31% | 6004 | 52.26% |
| Male | 5643 | 48.51% | 5445 | 47.40% |
| Other | 21 | 0.18% | 39 | 0.34% |
| Grand Total | 11633 | 100.00% | 11488 | 100.00% |

Comment: this breakdown between female and male students is broadly consistent with other analyses we have done recently. In those other analyses we have benchmarked the breakdown against the sector and against peer institutions, including with regard to the School’s distinctive disciplinary profile.

The figure for ‘Other’ is interesting but statistically irrelevant.

6. Gender Identity

We asked students “Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were originally assigned at birth?”

Table 2.2 Gender Identity

| Gender Identity | 2013/4 | | 2012/3 | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Total number of students | % of Total number of students | Total number of students | % of Total number of students |
| Information refused | 508 | 4.37% | 579 | 5.04% |
| No | 25 | 0.21% | 25 | 0.22% |
| Yes | 10140 | 87.17% | 9142 | 79.58% |
| (blank) | 960 | 8.25% | 1742 | 15.16% |
| Grand Total | 11633 | 100.00% | 11488 | 100.00% |

Comment: it is difficult to know what weight to attach to the ‘no’ figure. As stated in 5, self-declaration may lead to mis-representation.

Although the numbers for ‘information refused’ and the ‘blank’ have come down significantly, there has been no increase in the number answering ‘no’.

7. Sexual Orientation

We asked students “What is your sexual orientation?”

Table 2.3 Sexual Orientation

| Sexual Orientation | 2013/4 | 2012/3 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
|--------------------|--------|--------|

| | Total number of students | % of Total number of students | Total number of students | % of Total number of students |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bisexual | 139 | 1.19% | 124 | 1.08% |
| Gay man | 125 | 1.07% | 105 | 0.91% |
| Gay woman/lesbian | 14 | 0.12% | 20 | 0.17% |
| Heterosexual | 8686 | 74.67% | 7766 | 67.60% |
| Information refused | 1561 | 13.42% | 1617 | 14.08% |
| Other | 148 | 1.27% | 114 | 0.99% |
| (blank) | 960 | 8.25% | 1742 | 15.16% |
| Grand Total | 11633 | 100.00% | 11488 | 100.00% |

Comment: on the face of it, the proportions for bisexual and gay students are lower than might be expected. However, it is possible that the students who have refused information may include significant number of bisexual and gay students who prefer not to reveal this information to the School, for whatever reason.

As the numbers for 'information refused' and the 'blank' have come down significantly, the only category to have gone up significantly is 'heterosexual'.

8. Religious Belief

We asked students "What is your religion?"

Table 2.4 Religious Belief

| Religious Belief | 2013/4 | | 2012/3 | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Total number of students | % of Total number of students | Total number of students | % of Total number of students |
| Any other religion or belief | 164 | 1.41% | 144 | 1.25% |
| Buddhist | 394 | 3.39% | 397 | 3.46% |
| Christian | 2861 | 24.59% | 2483 | 21.61% |
| Hindu | 710 | 6.10% | 620 | 5.40% |
| Information refused | 1076 | 9.25% | 1171 | 10.19% |
| Jewish | 191 | 1.64% | 187 | 1.63% |
| Muslim | 678 | 5.83% | 662 | 5.76% |
| No religion | 4397 | 37.80% | 3891 | 33.87% |
| Sikh | 102 | 0.88% | 109 | 0.95% |
| Spiritual | 100 | 0.86% | 82 | 0.71% |
| (blank) | 960 | 8.25% | 1742 | 15.16% |
| Grand Total | 11633 | 100.00% | 11488 | 100.00% |

Comment: the most immediately striking figure is the low proportion of Jewish students – roughly half the population of Buddhist students, for example, or a quarter of the population of Hindu students.

As the numbers for 'information refused' and the 'blank' have come down, there have been significant increases in Christian, Hindu and 'no religion', but not under any of the other categories.

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