Chemical, process and energy engineering

In 2020/21 there were 5,435 entrants studying chemical, process and energy engineering in higher education, comprised of 2,845 undergraduate students (first degree and other undergraduate) along with 2,590 postgraduate students.

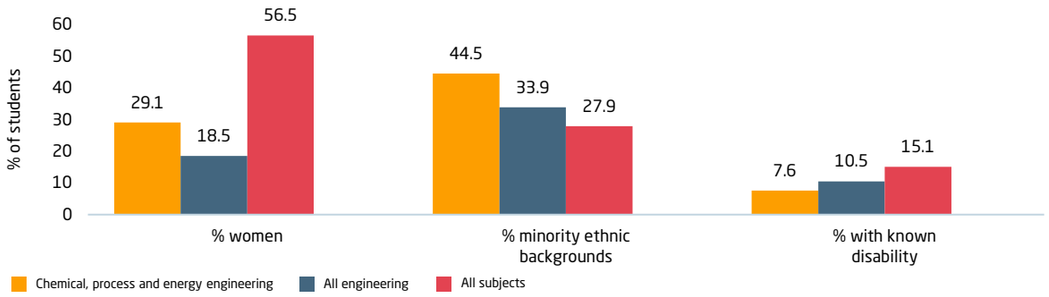
Undergraduate first degree entrants

Chemical, process and energy engineering courses were the 6th most popular choice for undergraduate degrees in engineering and technology in 2020/21, representing 7.1% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 29.1% were women
- 44.5% were from minority ethnic groups
- 7.6% had a known disability
- 10.7% were from low HE participation areas (POLAR 4 quintile 1)
- 69% were UK domiciled, 6.1% from EU countries and 25% from the rest of the world

FIGURE 45:

Characteristics of first year undergraduate degree entrants, 2020/21

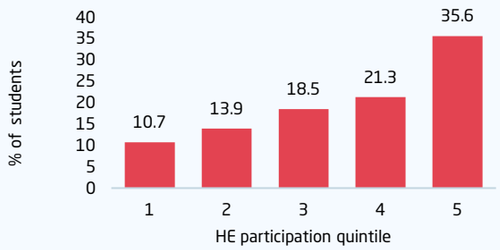


Source: HESA student record 2020/21
Note ethnicity is only recorded for UK students, others are excluded from the analysis

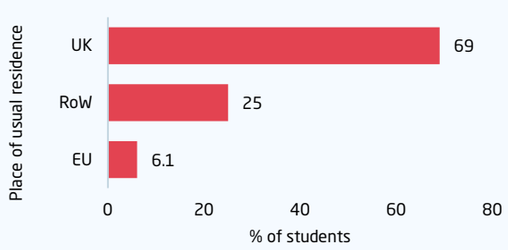
FIGURE 46:

Background characteristics of first year undergraduate degree entrants on chemical, process and energy engineering courses, 2020/21

a) By HE participation quintile (POLAR4)



b) By place of usual residence



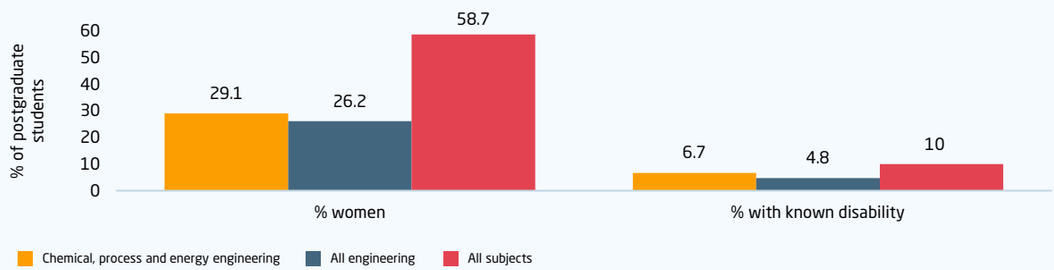
Source: HESA student record 2020/21

Postgraduate degree entrants

Of the chemical, process and energy engineering postgraduate entrants, 29.1% were women, compared to 26.2% of all engineering and technology entrants and 58.7% of postgraduate entrants studying any subject. 6.7% of chemical, process and energy engineering postgraduate entrants were known to have a disability which is higher than all engineering and technology entrants but remains lower than the overall average of 10%.

FIGURE 47:

Characteristics of first year postgraduate degree students, 2020/21



Source: HESA student record 2020/21
Note ethnicity is only recorded for UK students, others are excluded from the analysis

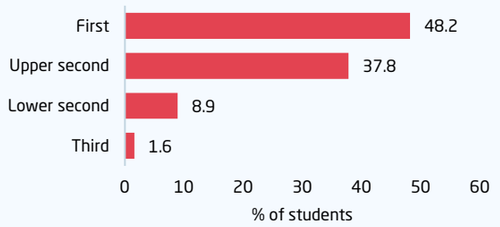
Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

48.2% of students qualifying with a first degree in chemical, process and energy engineering did so with first class honours, one of the highest among engineering subjects.

Additionally, more than a third (37.8%) obtained upper second class honours.

FIGURE 48:

Chemical, process and energy engineering results, 2020/21



Source: HESA student record 2020/21

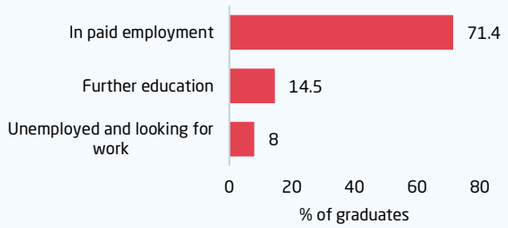
Graduate destinations

71.4% of students who graduated chemical, process and energy engineering degrees in 2019/20 were in paid employment 15 months after graduation. Of these, 58.9% were working for engineering companies.

14.5% of graduates from these courses had gone on to further education, and around 8% were unemployed and looking for work.

FIGURE 49:

Chemical, process and energy engineering graduate outcomes



Source: HESA student record 2020/21