In 2020/21 there were 5,275 entrants studying aeronautical and aerospace engineering in higher education, comprised of 3,945 undergraduate students (first degree and other undergraduate) along with 1,330 postgraduate students.

**Undergraduate first degree entrants**

Aeronautical and aerospace engineering courses were the 5th most popular choice for undergraduate degrees in engineering and technology in 2020/21, representing 10% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 13.9% were women
- 41.8% were from minority ethnic groups
- 10.2% had a known disability
- 11.5% were from low HE participation areas (POLAR 4 quintile 1)
- 75.9% were UK domiciled, 7.5% from EU countries and 16.5% from the rest of the world

**FIGURE 40:** Characteristics of first year undergraduate degree entrants, 2020/21

**Postgraduate degree entrants**

Of the aeronautical and aerospace engineering postgraduate entrants, 17.2% were women. This is low compared to 26.2% of all engineering and technology entrants and 58.7% of postgraduate entrants studying any subject. 5% of aeronautical and aerospace engineering postgraduate entrants were known to have a disability which is similar to all engineering and technology entrants but remains lower than the overall average of 10%.

**FIGURE 42:** Characteristics of first year postgraduate degree students, 2020/21

**Undergraduate first degree qualifiers**

45.5% of students qualifying with a first degree in aeronautical and aerospace engineering did so with first class honours. Additionally, more than a third (37.4%) obtained upper second class honours. This is average compared to other subjects in engineering and technology.

**Graduate destinations**

Two thirds of students who graduated aeronautical and aerospace engineering degrees in 2019/20 were in paid employment 15 months after graduation (67.0%). Of these, 57.3% were working in engineering companies. Furthermore, 16.5% of graduates from these courses had gone on to further education, and 10.6% were unemployed and looking for work.