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

**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

**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.

**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.