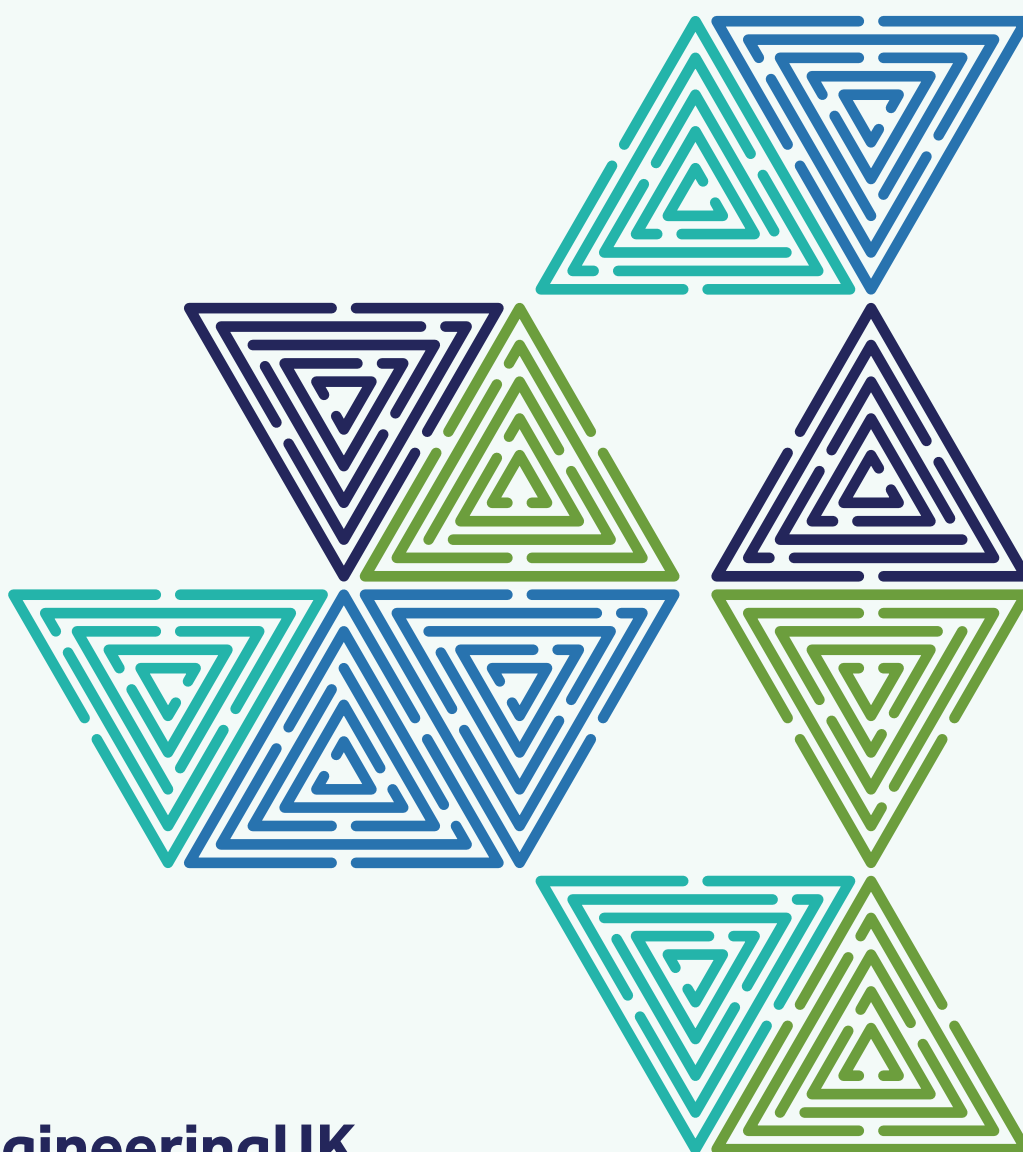


# ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Software engineering



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In 2023/24, 12,230 entrants studied software engineering<sup>1</sup>. This was made up of 6,790 first degrees and 180 other undergraduate students and 5,260 postgraduate entrants (research and taught).

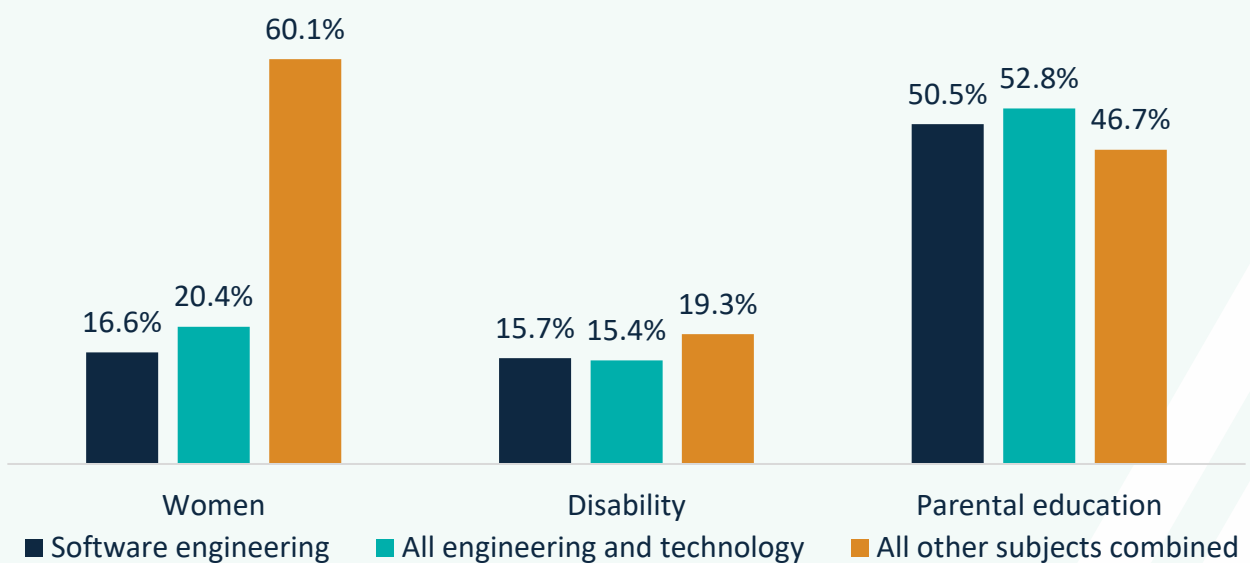
## Undergraduate first degree entrants

The number of first degree software engineering entrants has increased steadily from 2019/20, up from 4,215. Software engineering was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular subject amongst first degree entrants in 2023/24, equivalent to 8.5%. Of these:

- 16.2% were women
- 27.1% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 15.7% had a known disability
- 13.8% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 76.7% were from the UK, 2.4% from the EU and 20.9% were from the rest of the world (figure 1)

**Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants**

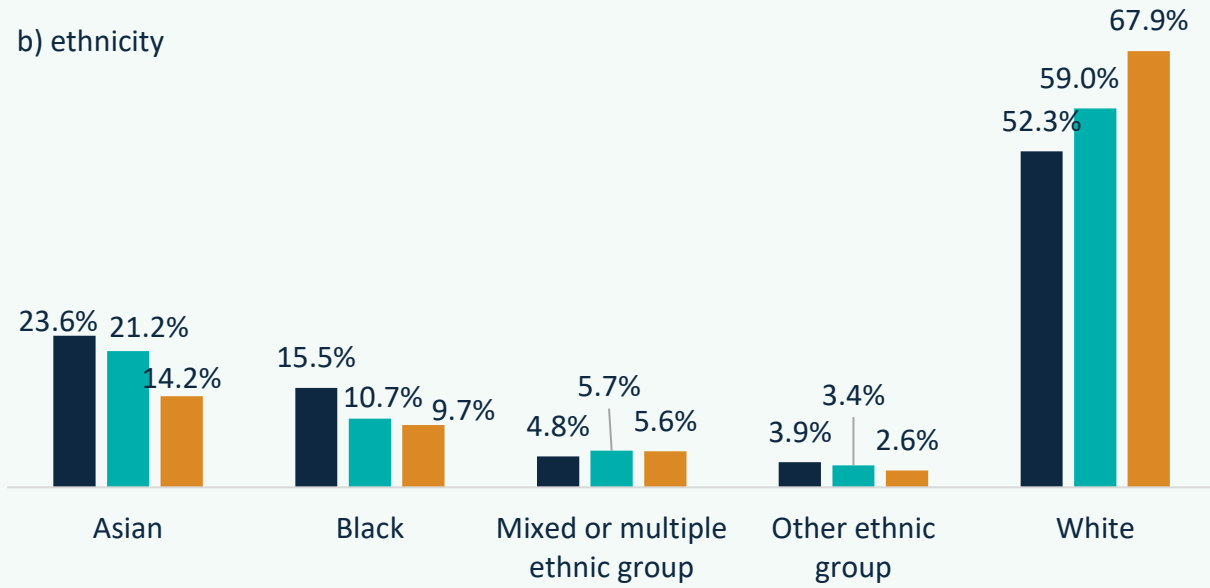
a) gender, disability and parent with higher education qualification



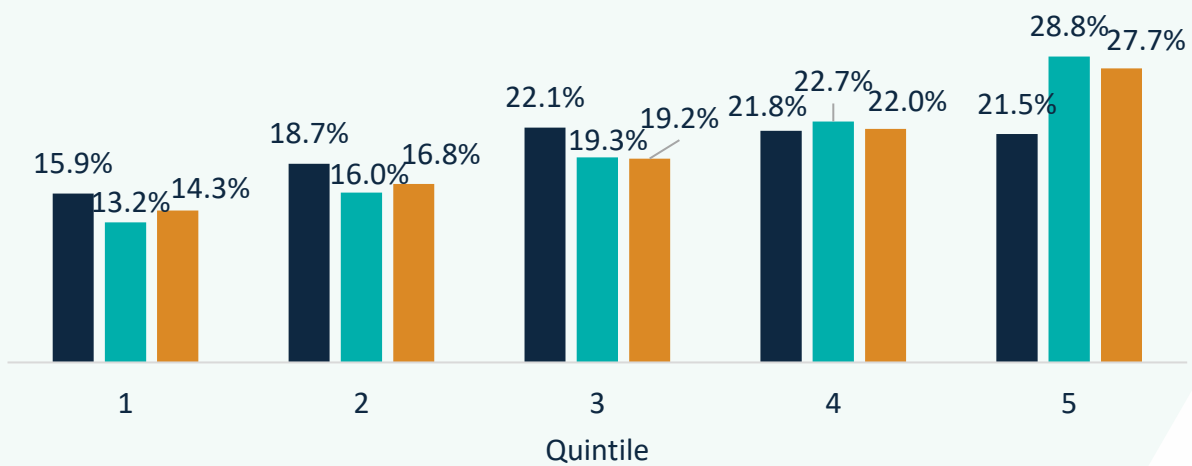
<sup>1</sup> Please see our [‘Engineering and tech in Higher Education’](#) report for more details on our methodology and definitions.

■ Software engineering   ■ All engineering and technology   ■ All other subjects combined

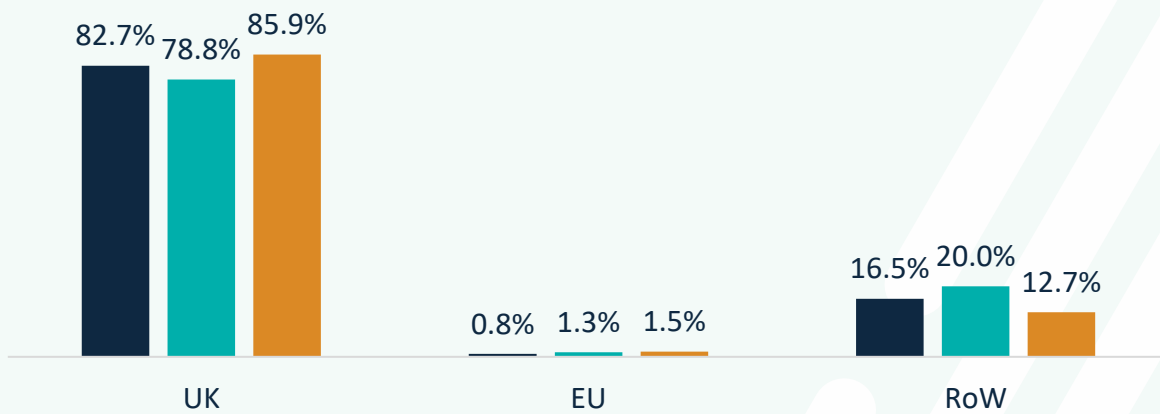
b) ethnicity



c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)



d) permanent address



## Postgraduate degree entrants

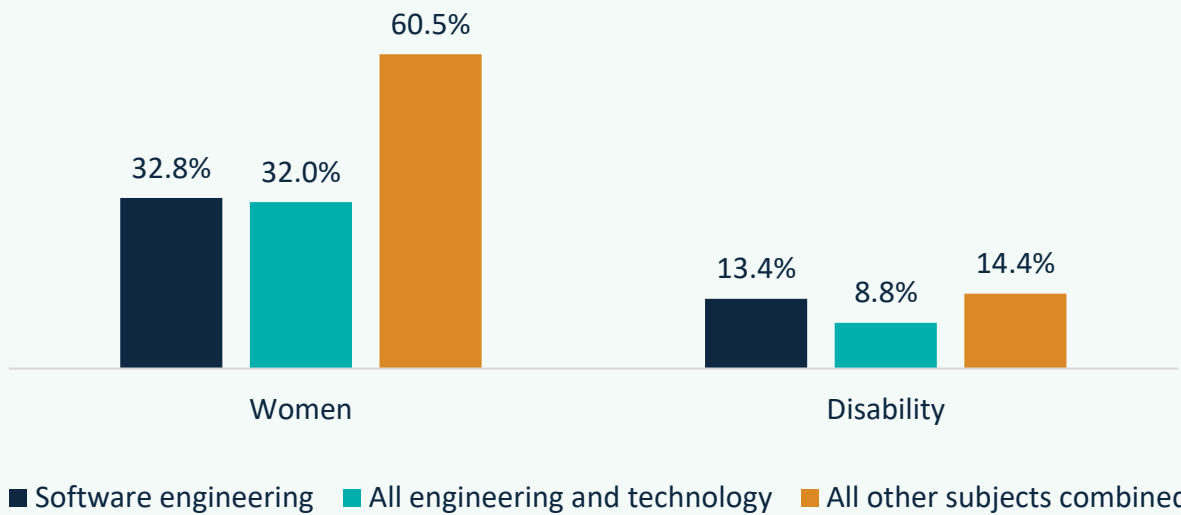
The number of software engineering postgraduates has nearly doubled since 2019/20 from 2,880 up to 5,260 in 2023/24. Software engineering was not as popular amongst postgraduates as it was for undergraduate first degrees in 2023/24 at 9<sup>th</sup> place. This was equivalent to 4.6%. Of these:

- 32.8% were women
- 13.4% had a known disability
- 29.7% were from a UKME group

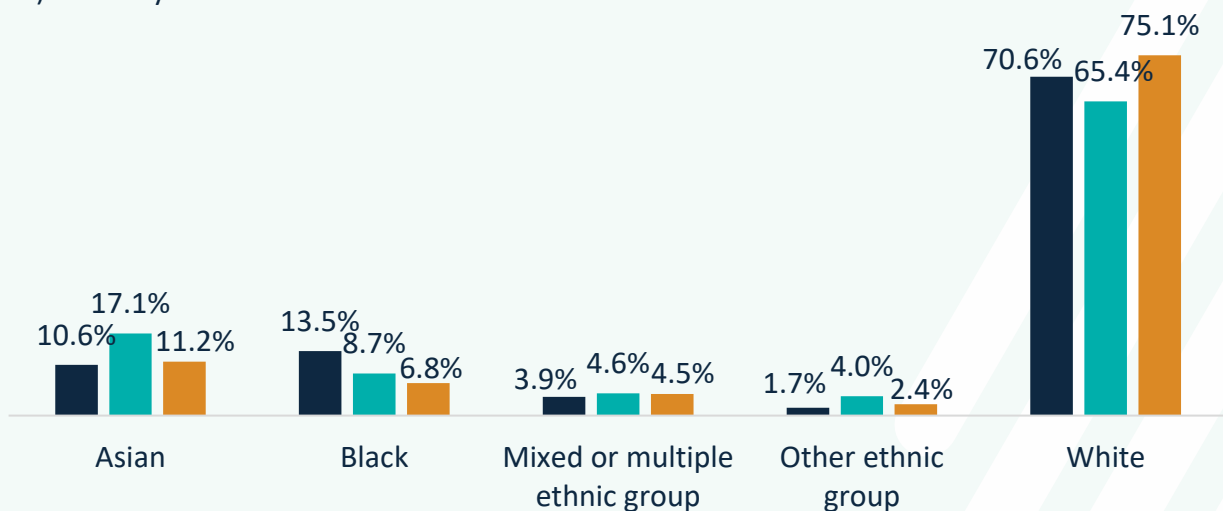
Software engineering at the highest percentage of Black students at postgraduate level at 13.5%. This is compared to 8.7% for all engineering and technology subjects (figure 2).

**Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants**

### a) gender and disability



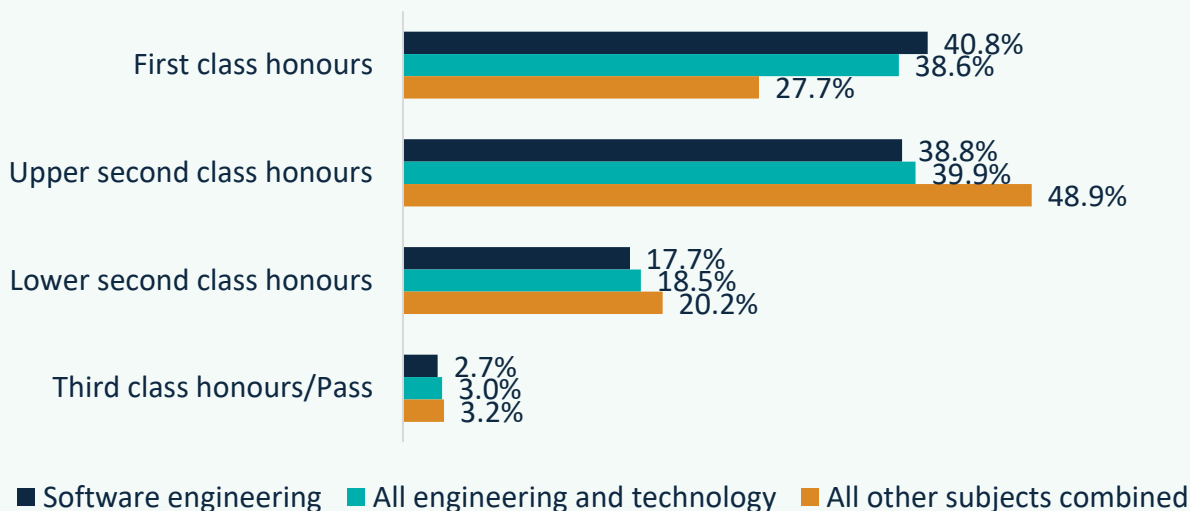
### b) ethnicity



## Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

The majority of software engineering first degree qualifiers obtained a first class honours at 4 in 10. A further 38.8% obtained an upper second class honours and only 17.7% obtained a lower second class honours (figure 3).

**Figure 3: Software engineering results, 2023/24**



## Graduate outcomes

Exactly three-quarters of software engineering graduates were in paid work 15 months after graduation. Of these, two-thirds were working in engineering and technology occupations (66.9%) which is above average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%). More than 1 in 10 were unemployed at 11.3% and only 5.6% were doing further studies. An additional 8.1% were also doing something else (figure 4).

**Figure 4: Outcomes for software engineering graduates**

