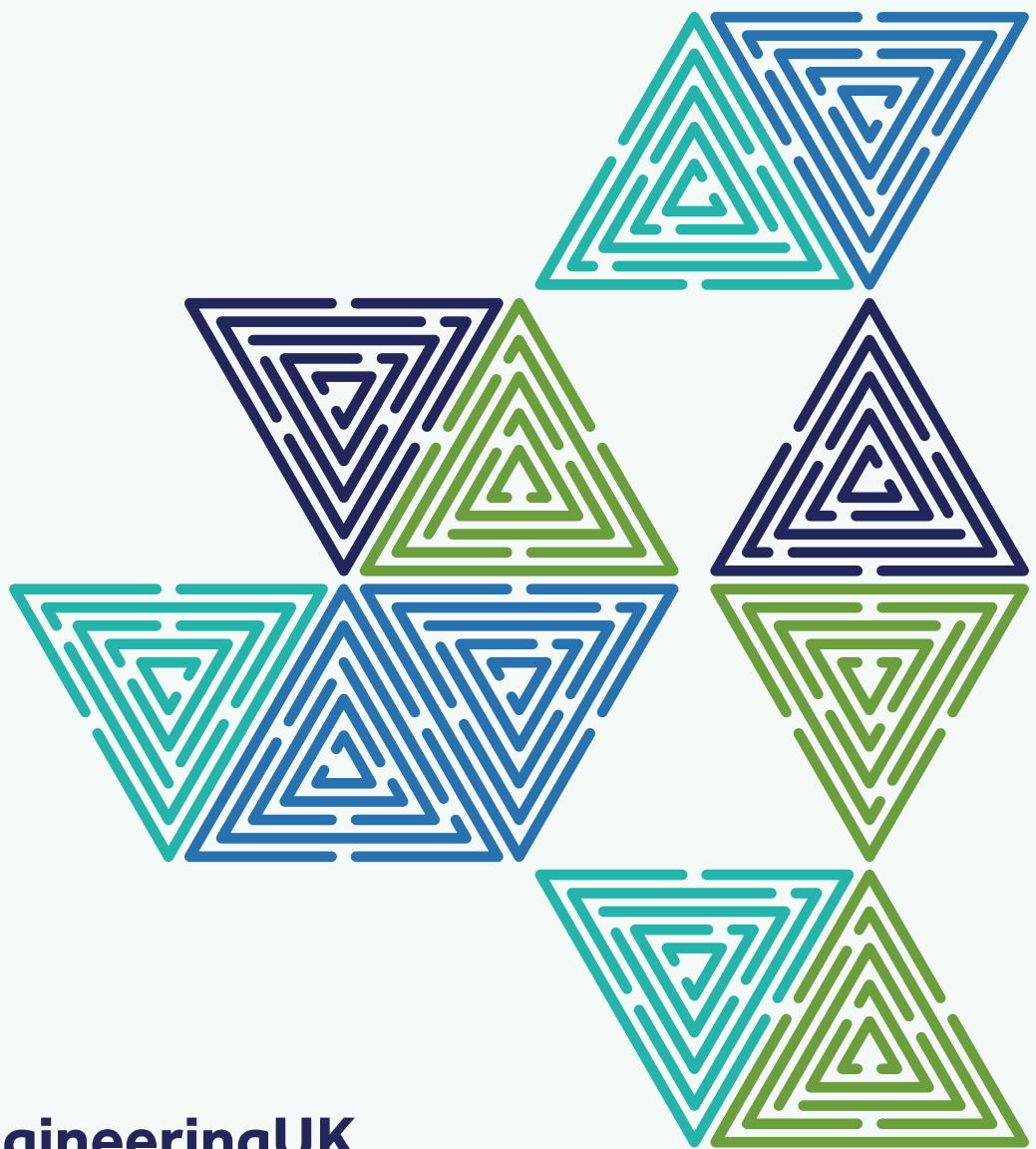


ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Aeronautical and aerospace engineering



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In 2023/24, there were 5,340 entrants studying aeronautical and aerospace engineering in higher education¹. This was made up of 3,945 first degree undergraduates, 105 other undergraduate students, along with 1,290 postgraduate students (taught and research).

Undergraduate first degree entrants

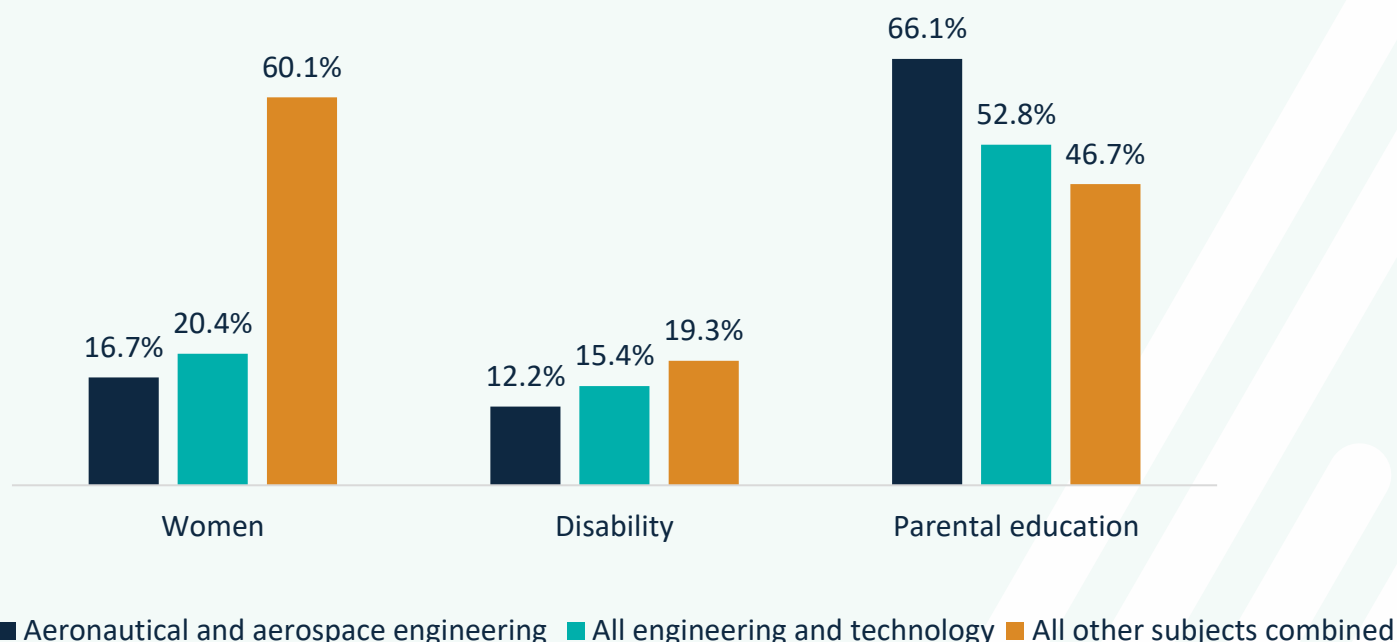
The number of aeronautical and aerospace first degree entrants has increased slightly from 2019/20, up from 3,745. Aeronautical and aerospace engineering was the 9th most popular choice for undergraduate first degrees in engineering and technology in 2023/24. This was equivalent to 4.9% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 16.7% were women
- 44.8% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 12.2% had a known disability
- 11.1% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 79.4% were from the UK, 2.9% from the EU and 17.6% were from the rest of the world

Aeronautical and aerospace engineering had the highest percentage of first degree students with a parent who also had a higher education qualification. At two-thirds (66.1%), this was 13.3pp higher than the average for all engineering and technology subjects and 19.4 pp above all other subjects (figure 1).

Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants

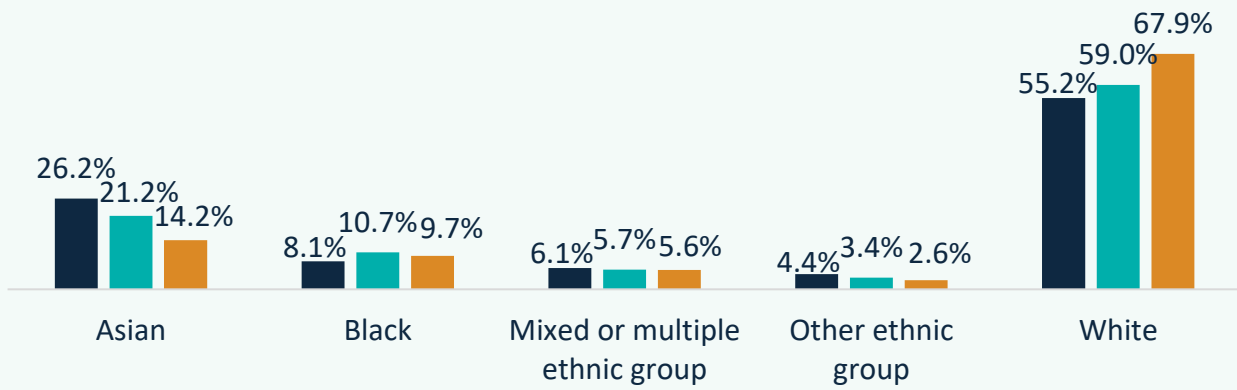
a) gender, disability and parent with higher education qualification



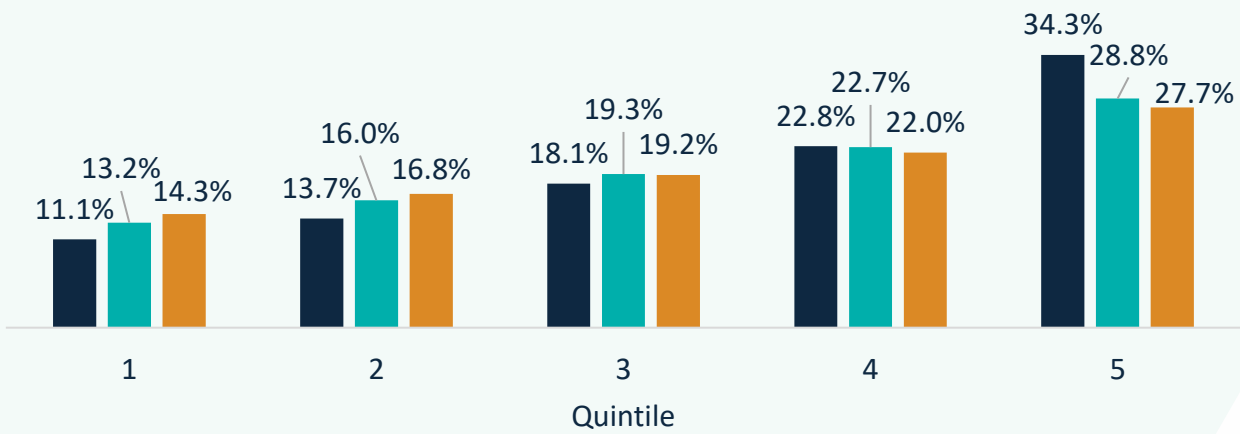
¹ Please see our [‘Engineering and tech in Higher Education’](#) report for more details on our methodology and definitions.

■ Aeronautical and aerospace engineering
 ■ All engineering and technology
 ■ All other subjects combined

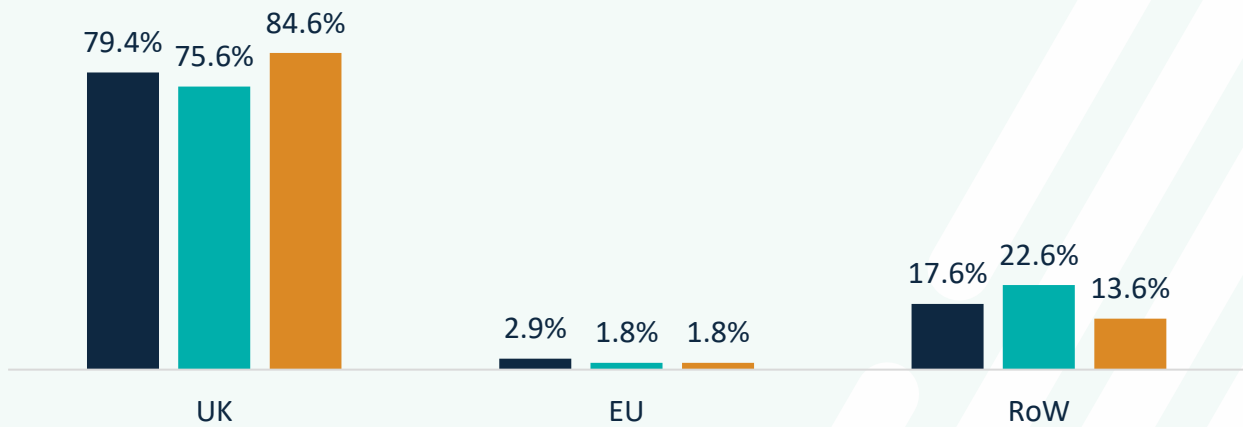
b) ethnicity



c) Socioeconomic status (POLAR4)



d) permanent address



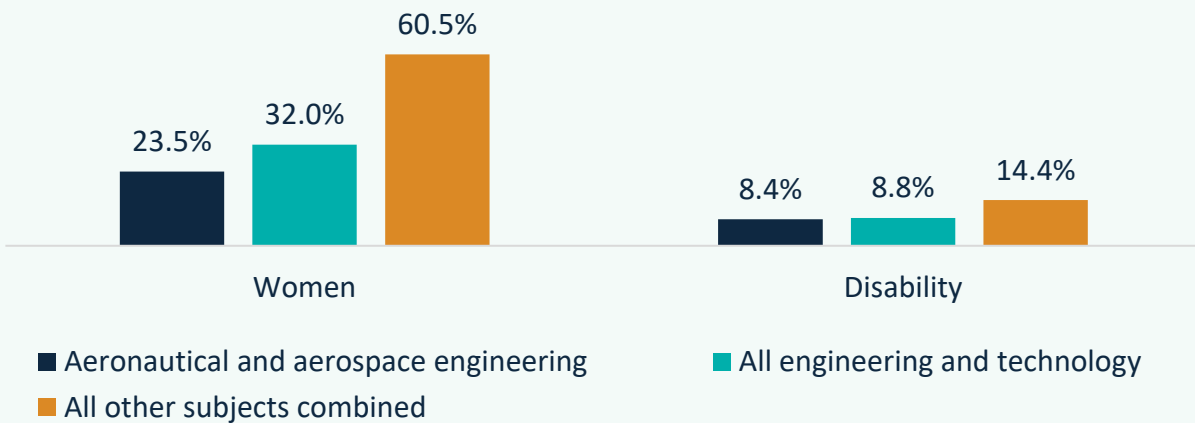
Postgraduate degree entrants

The number of postgraduate entrants in aeronautical and aerospace engineering has remained the same since 2019/20. Aeronautical and aerospace engineering was the 12th most popular postgraduate degree among engineering and technology subjects in 2023/24. Of these:

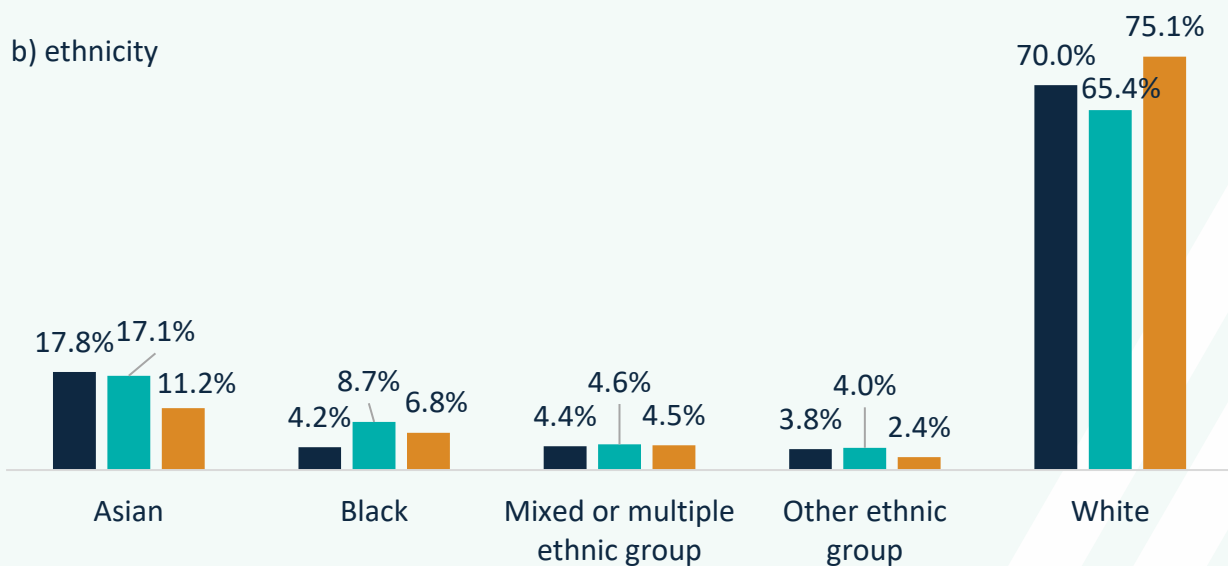
- 23.5% were women
- 8.4% were known to have a disability
- 30.1% were from a UKME group (figure 2)

Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants

a) gender and disability



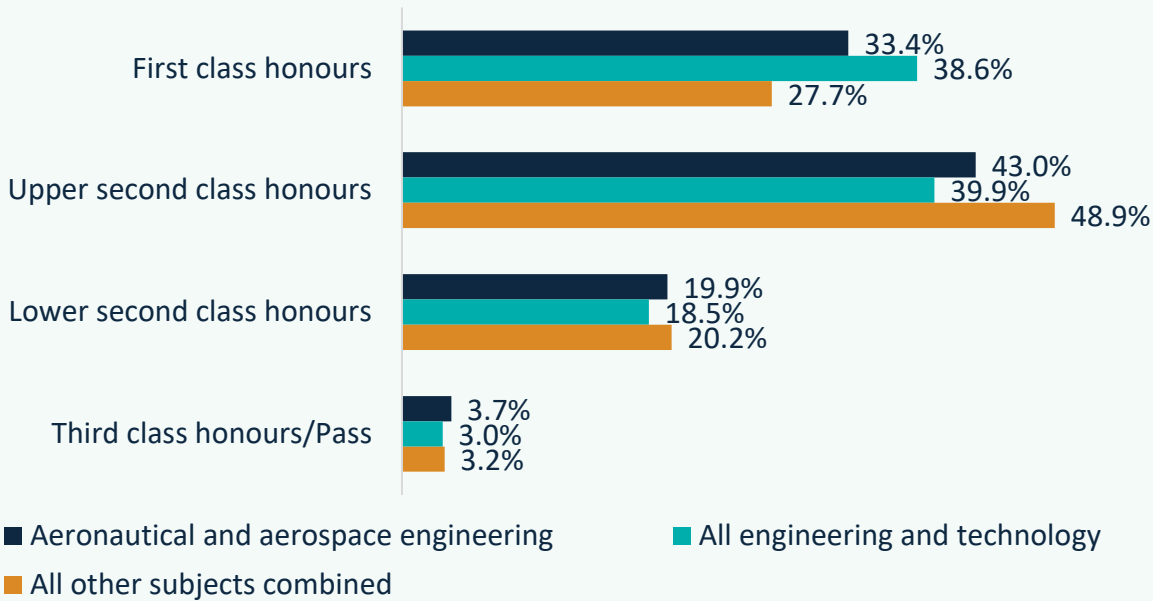
b) ethnicity



Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

Aeronautical and aerospace engineering first degree qualifiers were the least likely to obtain a first class honours at a third (33.4%) compared to the other engineering and technology subjects included in this report. The majority obtained an upper second class honours (43.0%), which was above the average for all engineering and technology at 39.9% (figure 3).

Figure 3: Aeronautical and aerospace engineering results, 2023/24



Graduate outcomes

73.3% of students who graduated from aeronautical and aerospace engineering degrees in 2022/23 were in employment 15 months after graduating. Of these, 63.6% were working in an engineering and technology occupation, which is above average for engineering and technology graduates (59.7%).

Aeronautical and aerospace graduates were the most likely to be in further studies at over 1 in 10 (11.7%). 8.2% were unemployed and looking for work. For unemployment, this is slightly below average for all engineering and technology graduates (9.1%) (figure 4).

Figure 4: Outcomes for aeronautical and aerospace graduates

