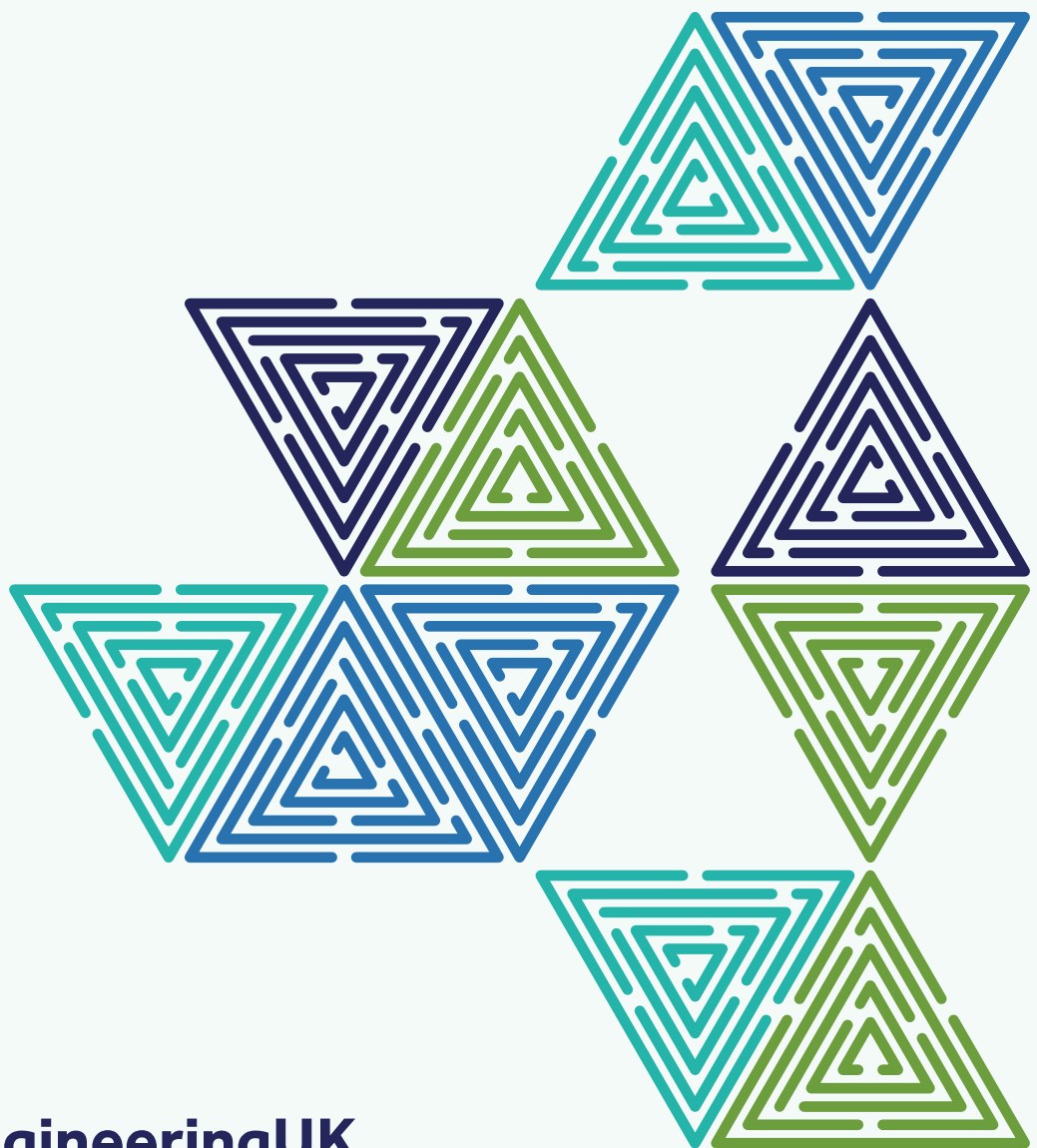


ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Chemical, process and energy engineering



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In 2023/24, there were 5,250 entrants studying chemical, process and energy engineering in higher education¹. This was made up of 2,510 first degree undergraduates, 110 studying other undergraduate courses and 2,630 postgraduate students (taught and research).

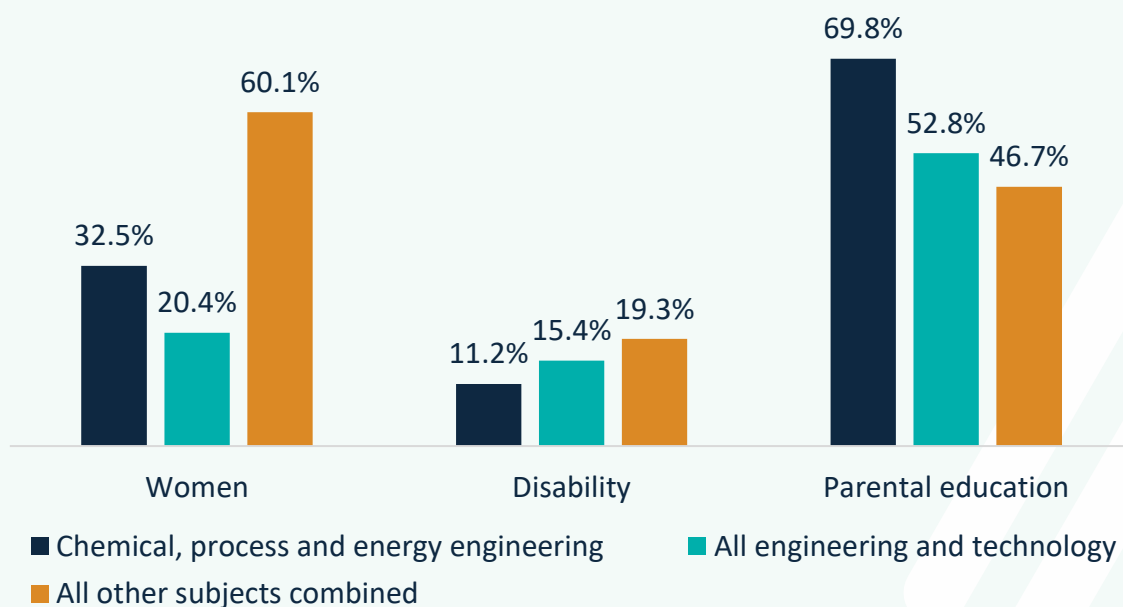
Undergraduate first degree entrants

There has been a slight decline in the number of first degree entrants from 2,925 in 2019/20 to 2,510 in 2023/24. Chemical, process and energy engineering was the 11th most popular choice for undergraduate degrees in engineering and technology in 2023/24. This was equivalent to 3.1% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 32.5% were women
- 48.9% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 11.2% had a known disability
- 10.3% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 71.5% were from the UK, 3.4% from the EU and 25.1% were from the rest of the world

Alongside civil engineering and compared to other engineering and technology subjects, ‘chemical, process and energy engineering’ had the lowest percentage of disabled students at this level. Only 1 in 10 (11.2%) had a disability. It also had the smallest proportion of students from the least advantaged areas of the UK, also at 1 in 10 (10.3%). It did, however, have the highest percentage of women at nearly a third. It also had the highest percentage of Asian and Mixed or multiple ethnic group students at over a quarter (27.4%) and 6.7% respectively. This is compared to 21.2% and 5.7% for all engineering and technology subjects (respectively) (figure 1).

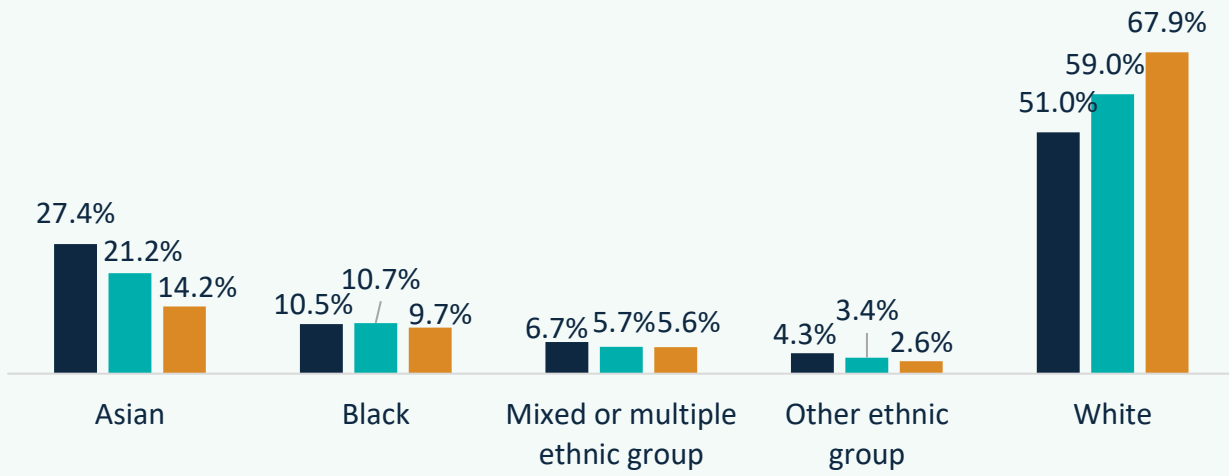
Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants



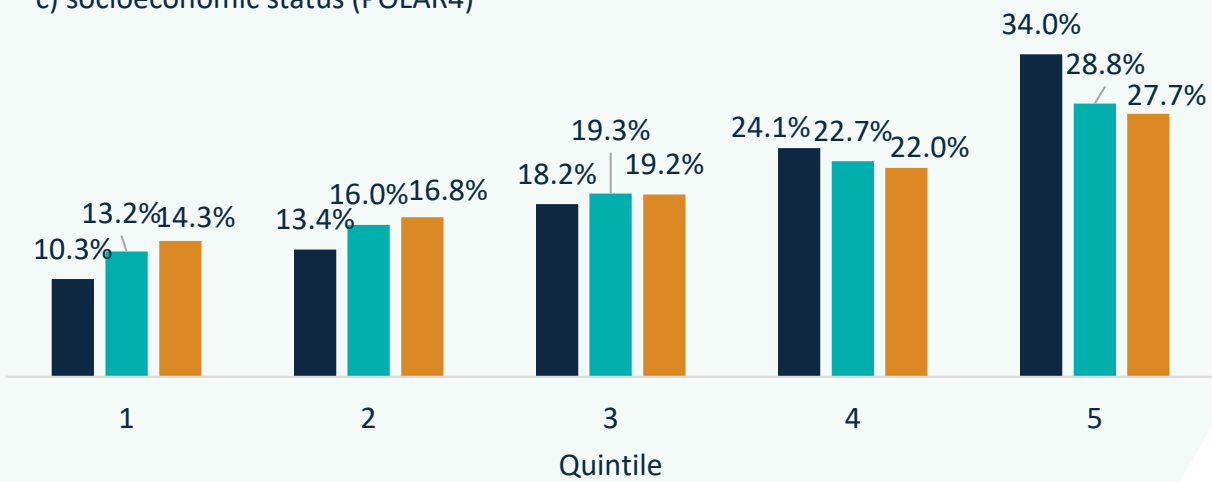
¹ Please see our [‘Engineering and tech in Higher Education’](#) report for more details on our methodology and definitions.

■ Chemical, process and energy engineering
 ■ All engineering and technology
 ■ All other subjects combined

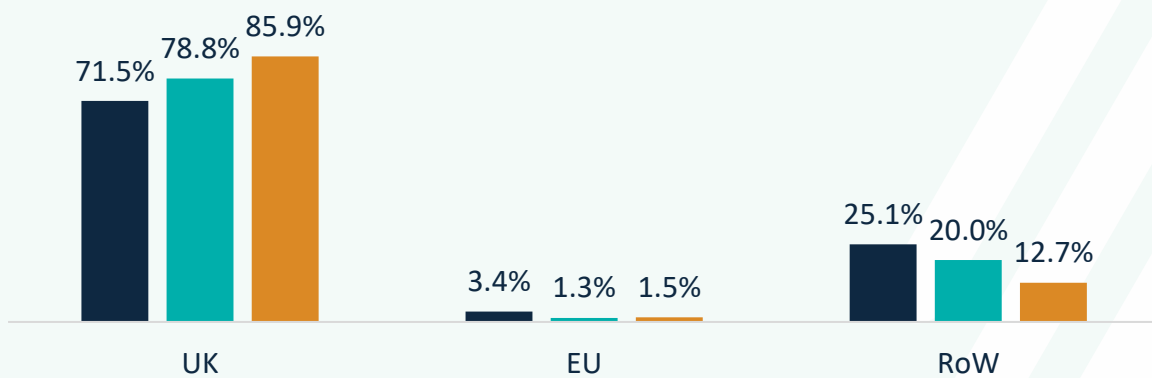
b) ethnicity



c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)



d) permanent address



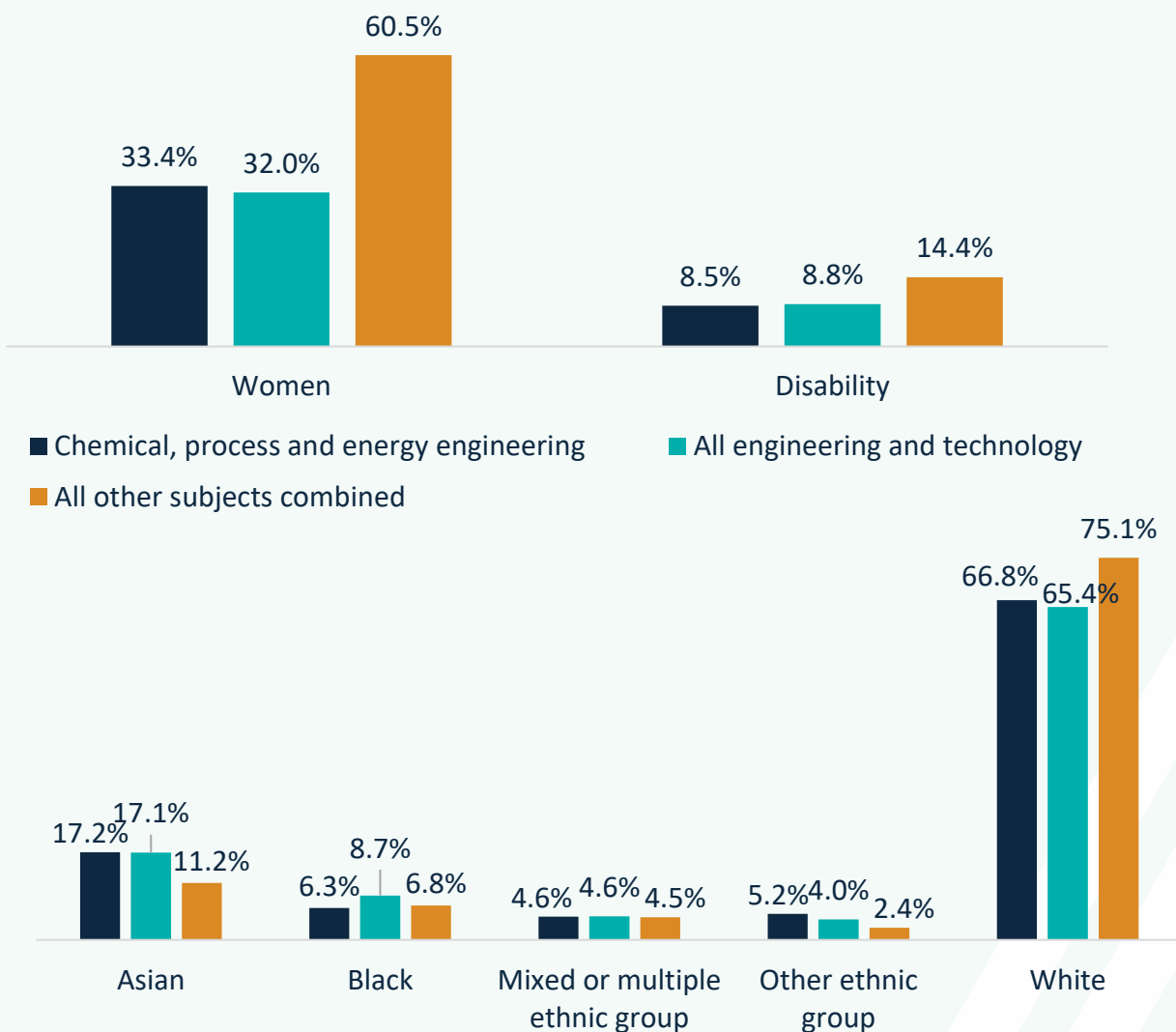
Postgraduate degree entrants

The number of postgraduate degree entrants has remained steady since 2019/20 when there were 2,535 entrants. In 2023/24, chemical, process and energy engineering was the 6th most popular engineering and technology subject amongst postgraduate entrants. Of these:

- 33.4% were women
- 8.5% were known to have a disability
- 33.3% were from a UKME group.

At postgraduate level, chemical, process and energy engineering had the highest percentage of students from an 'other ethnic group' at 5.2%. This is compared to the average of 4.0% for all engineering and technology subjects (figure 2).

Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants

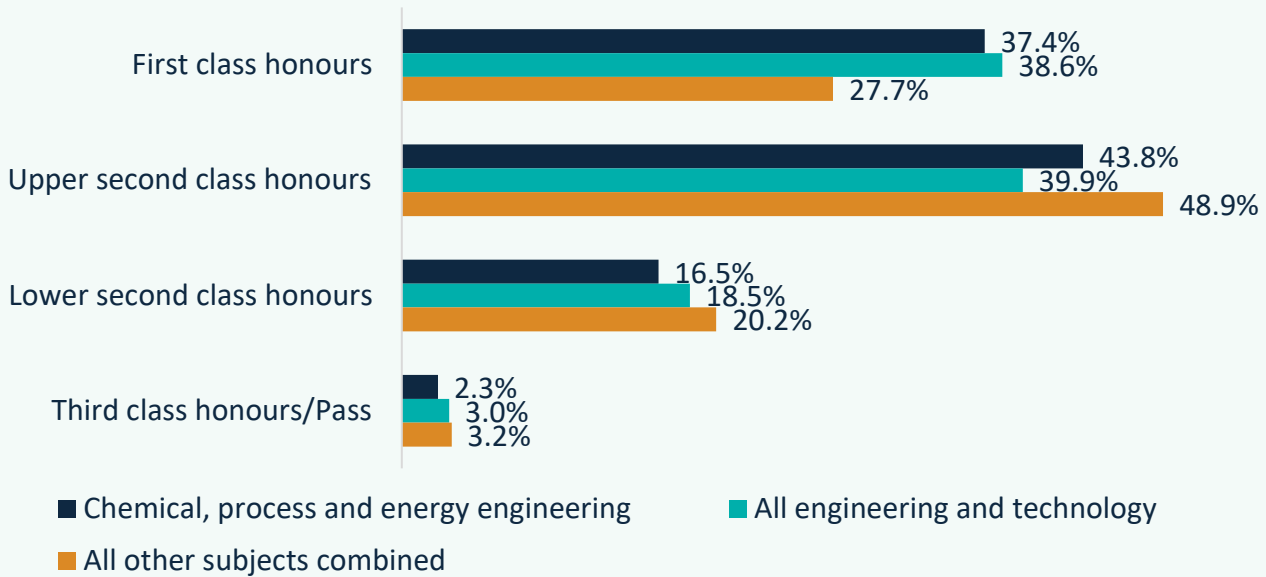


Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

37.4% of chemical, process and energy first degree qualifiers achieved a first class honours. Chemical, process and energy first degree qualifiers were the most likely to achieve an upper

second class honours at 43.8%, compared to other engineering and technology subjects. This was 3.9 pp higher than the average for all engineering and technology (figure 3).

Figure 3: Chemical, process and energy results, 2023/24



Graduate outcomes

Over three-quarters of students who graduated from chemical, process and energy engineering degrees were in employment 15 months after graduating (77.6%). This is above the average for all engineering and technology graduates combined (74.7%). Over half were working in an engineering and technology occupation (57.3%) which is below average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%). 7.5% were unemployed and looking for work (figure 4).

Figure 4: Outcomes for chemical, process and energy engineering

