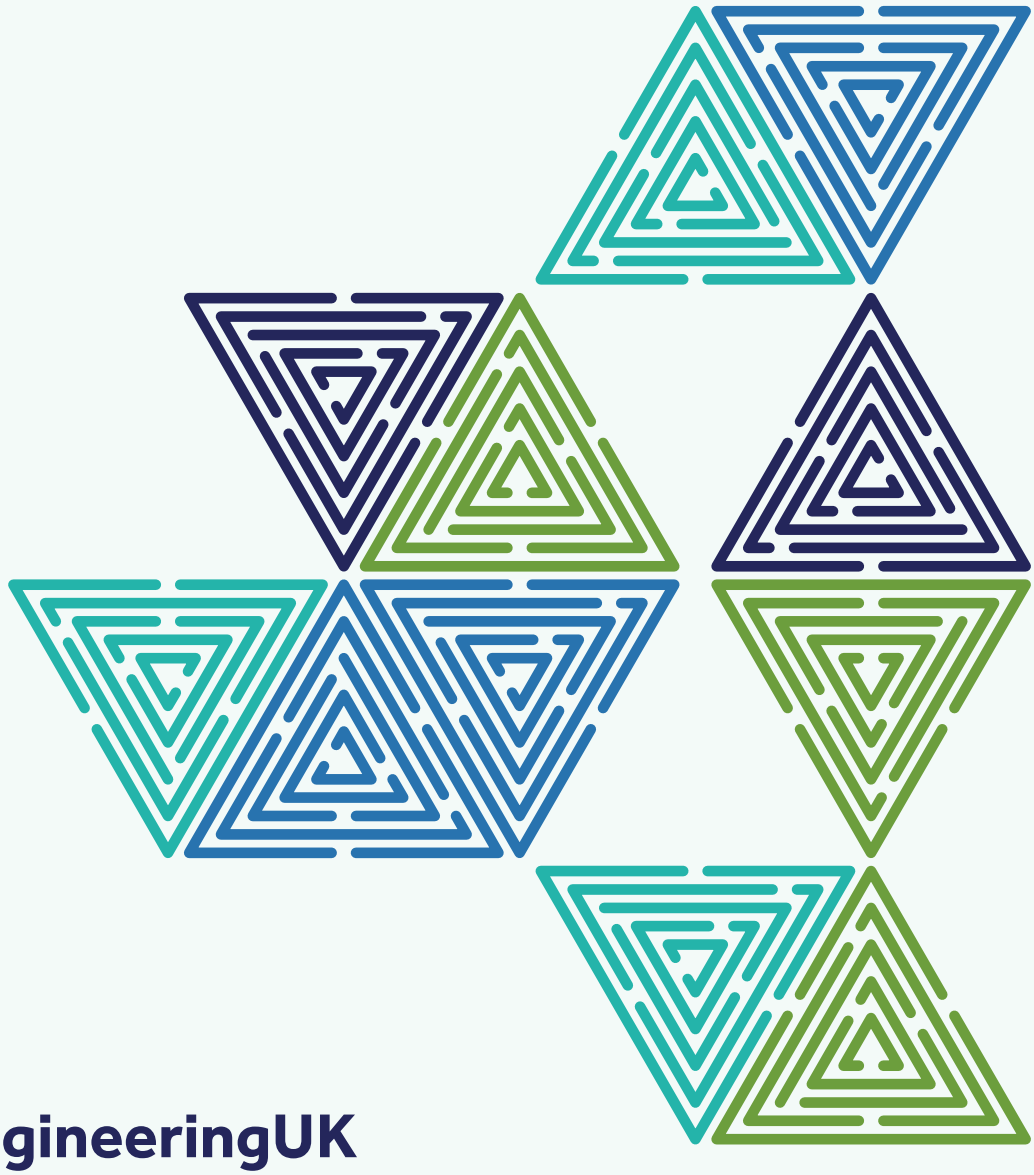
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Electrical and electronic engineering



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In 2023/24, there were 12,115 entrants studying electrical and electronic engineering in higher education[1]. This was made up of 5,760 first degree and 850 other undergraduate students, and 5,505 postgraduate students (taught and research).

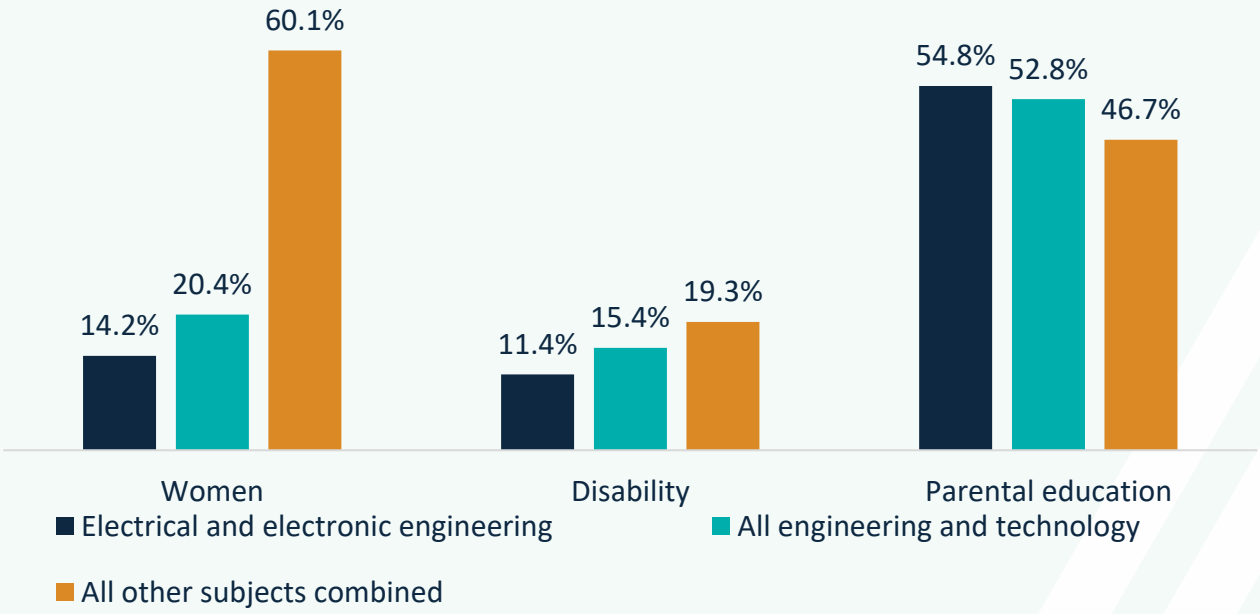
Undergraduate first degree entrants

The number of electrical and electronic engineering first degree students has declined slightly since 2019/20, down from 6,175. Electrical and electronic engineering was the 4th most popular engineering and technology subject for first degree undergraduate entrants. For undergraduates this was equivalent to 7.2% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

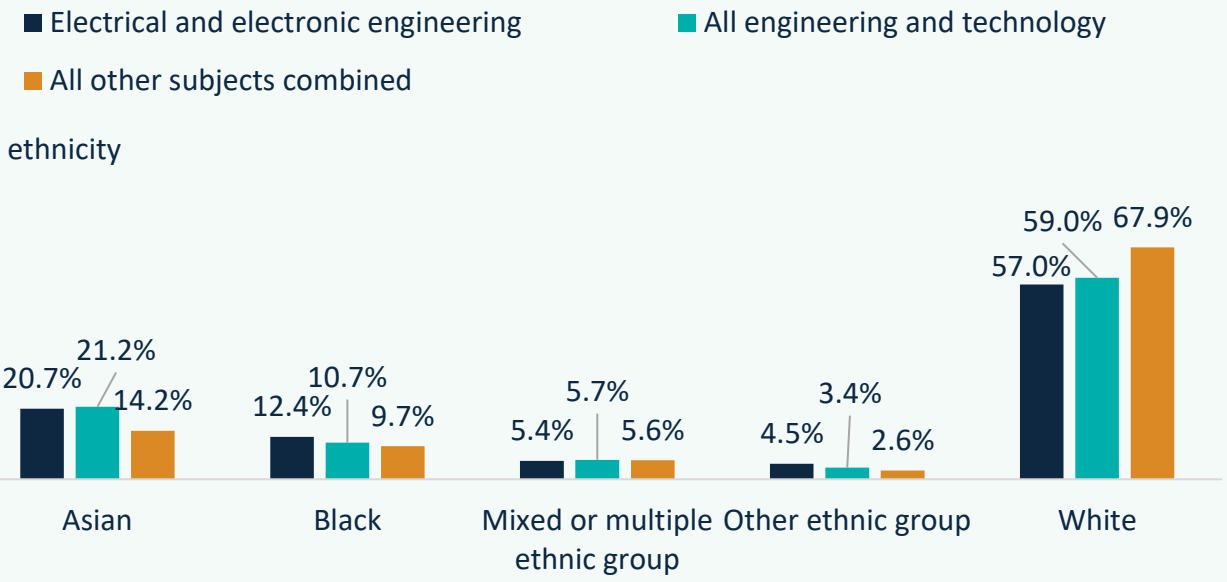
- 14.2% were women
- 43.0% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 11.4% had a known disability
- 11.5% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 63.6% were from the UK, 2.0% from the EU and 34.4% were from the rest of the world (figure 1)

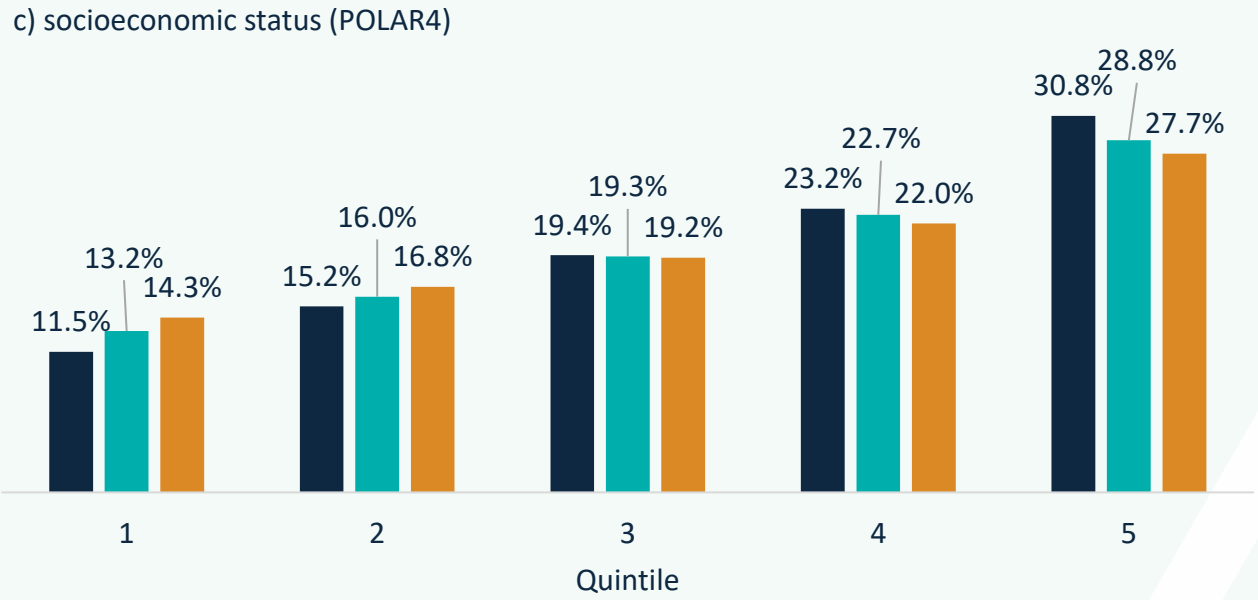
Figure 1: Characteristics of entrant undergraduate entrants

a) gender, disability and a parent with higher education qualification



[1] Please see our 'Engineering and tech in Higher Education' report for more details on our methodology and definitions.


Electrical and electronic engineering
All engineering and technology
All other subjects combined
b) ethnicity
20.7%
21.2%
14.2%
12.4%
10.7%
9.7%
5.4%
5.7%
5.6%
4.5%
3.4%
2.6%
57.0%
59.0%
67.9%
Asian
Black
Mixed or multiple ethnic group
Other ethnic group
White


c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)
11.5%
13.2%
14.3%
15.2%
16.0%
16.8%
19.4%
19.3%
19.2%
23.2%
22.7%
22.0%
30.8%
28.8%
27.7%
1
2
3
4
5
Quintile


d) permanent address
63.6%
78.8%
85.9%
2.0%
1.3%
1.5%
34.4%
20.0%
12.7%
UK
EU
RoW

Postgraduate degree entrants

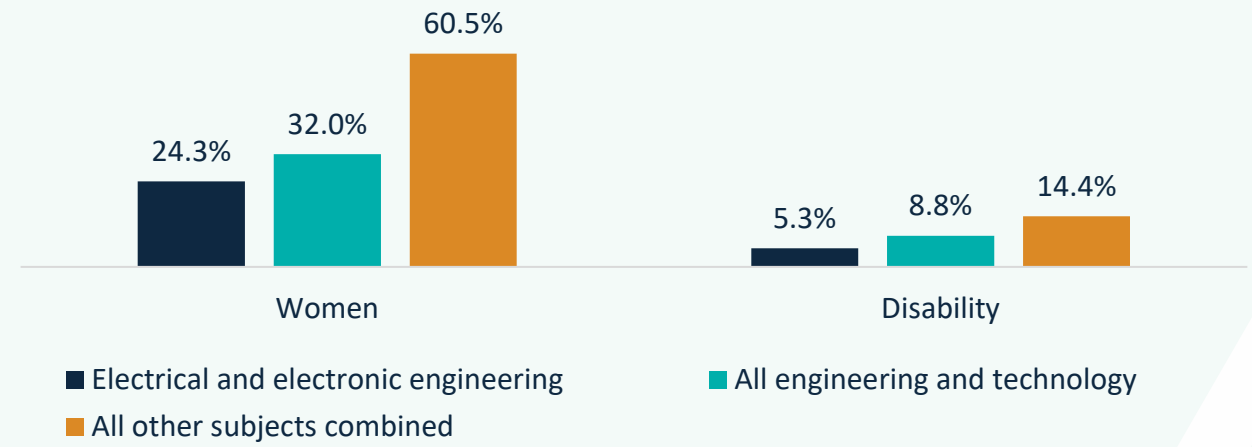
The number of postgraduate students has increased slightly from 4,950 in 2019/20 to 5,505 entrants in 2023/24. Electrical and electronic engineering was the 2nd most popular engineering and technology subject amongst postgraduate entrants in 2023/24. Of these:

- 24.3% were women
- 5.3% had a known disability
- 34.6% were from a UKME group

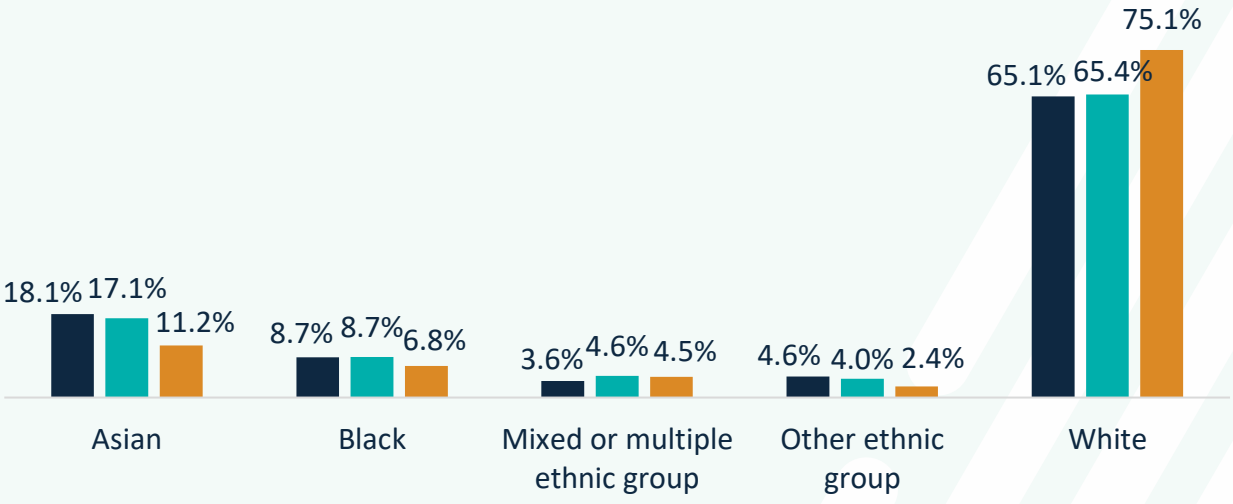
Electrical and electronic engineering had the lowest percentage of disabled postgraduates entrants at only 5.3%. This 3.5 pp below the average for all engineering and technology subjects at 8.8%. It also had the highest percentage of postgraduates from the rest of the world at three-quarters (75.8%). This is 12.0 pp higher than the average for all engineering and technology subjects (figure 2).

Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants

a) gender and disability



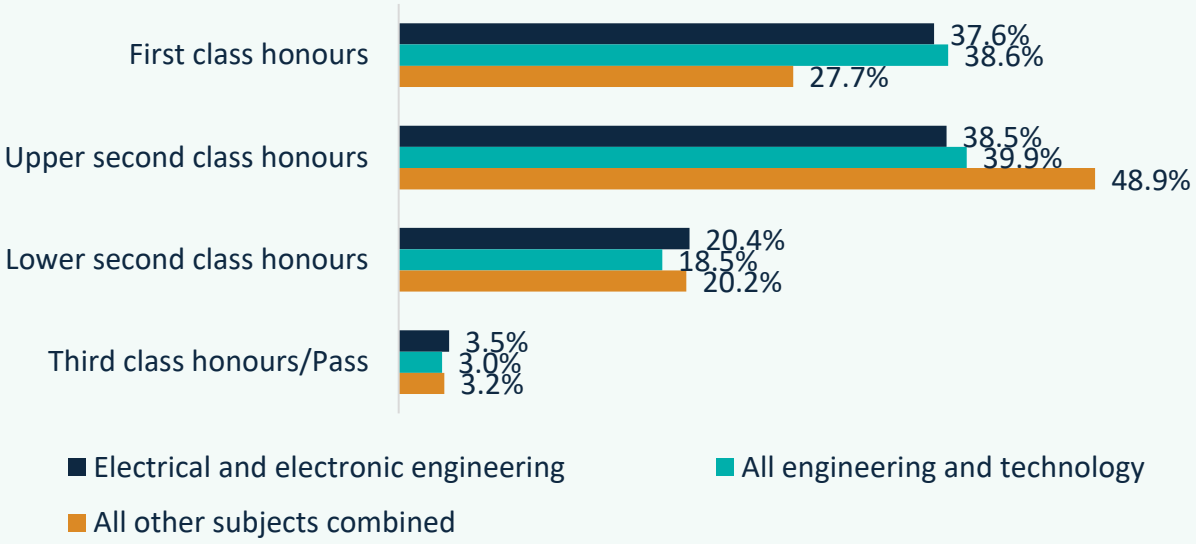
b) ethnicity



Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

Nearly the same proportion of electrical and electronic engineering qualifiers achieved a first class honours (37.6%) as an upper second class honours (38.5%). A further 20.4% achieved a lower second class honour (figure 3).

Figure 3: Electrical and electronic engineering results, 2023/24



Graduate outcomes

Over three-quarters of electrical and electronic engineering graduates were in paid employment (76.9%). Of this, 7 in 10 were working in engineering and technology occupations (70.3%), which is above average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%). Only 6.6% were unemployed and nearly 1 in 10 were in further study (9.5%) (figure 4).

Figure 4: Outcomes for electrical and electronic engineering