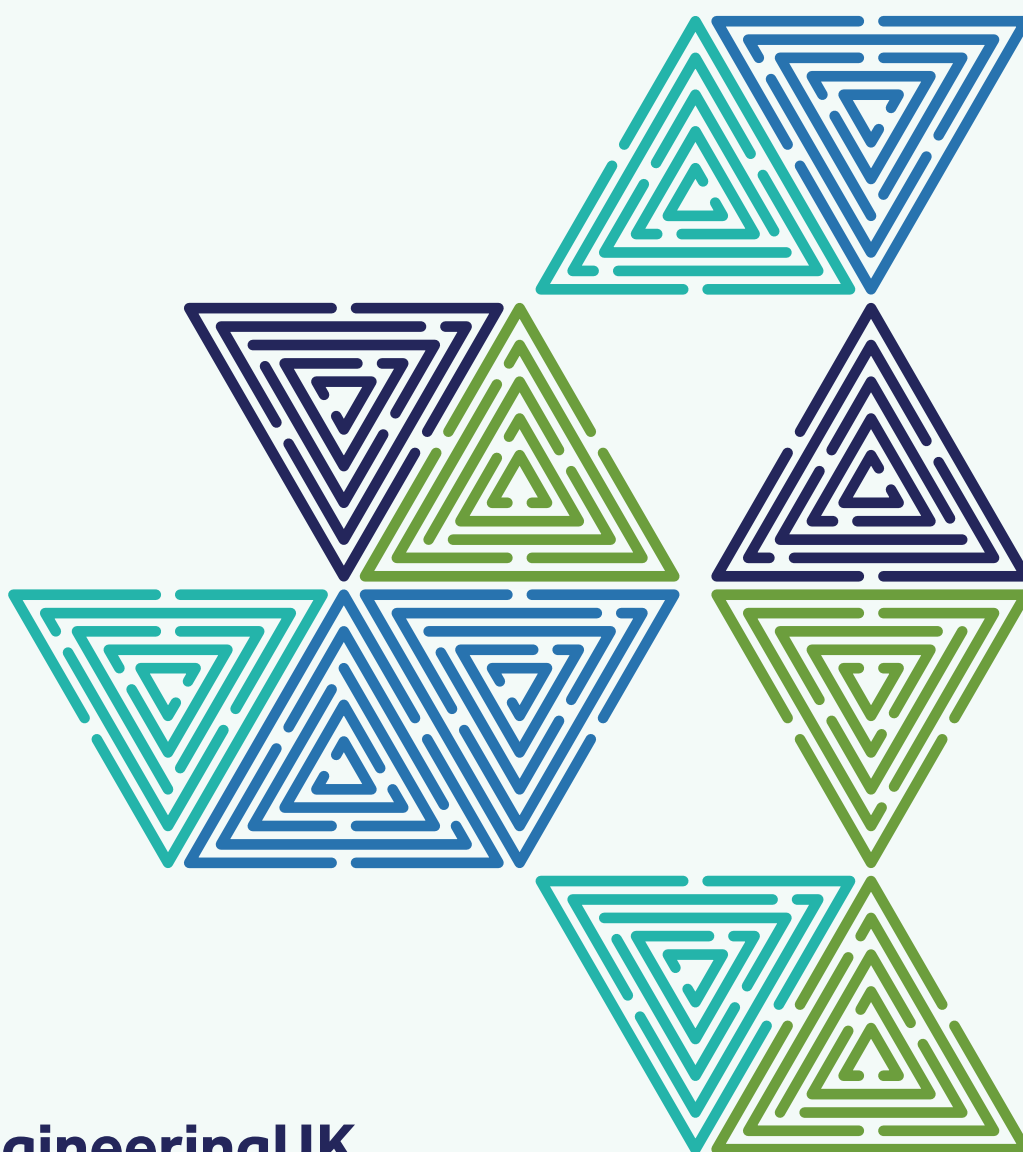


# ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Computer science



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Computer science was the most popular engineering and technology subjects at all levels of study<sup>1</sup>. In 2023/24, there were 44,270 entrants studying computer science in higher education. This was made up of 24,275 first degree and 1,755 other undergraduates students, and only 18,240 postgraduate students (taught and research).

## Undergraduate first degree entrants

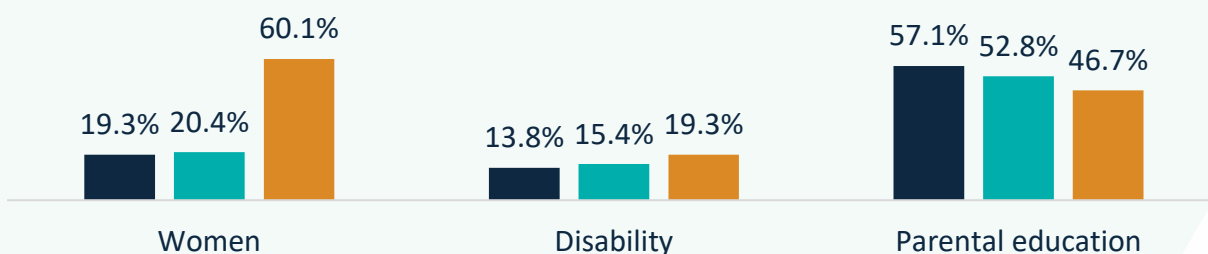
The number of first degree computer science students has increased by 32% since 2019/20, up from 18,360. Computer science was the most popular engineering and technology subject for first degree undergraduate entrants, equivalent to 30.2% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 19.3% were women
- 50.2% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 13.8% had a known disability
- 12.2% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 71.1% were from the UK, 1.6% from the EU and 27.3% were from the rest of the world

Computer science had the highest percentage of students from a UKME group. All UKME groups were overrepresented compared to the average for all engineering and technology subjects (figure 1).

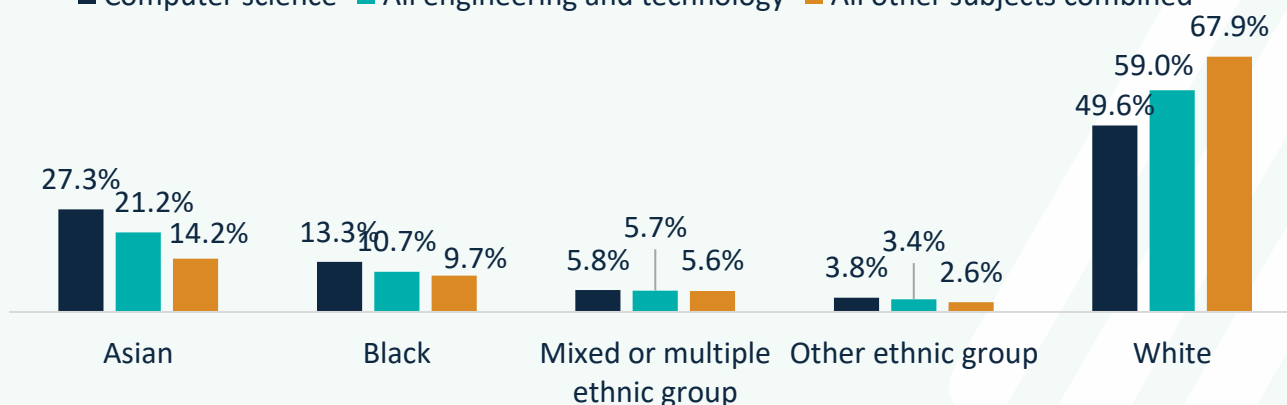
**Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants**

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



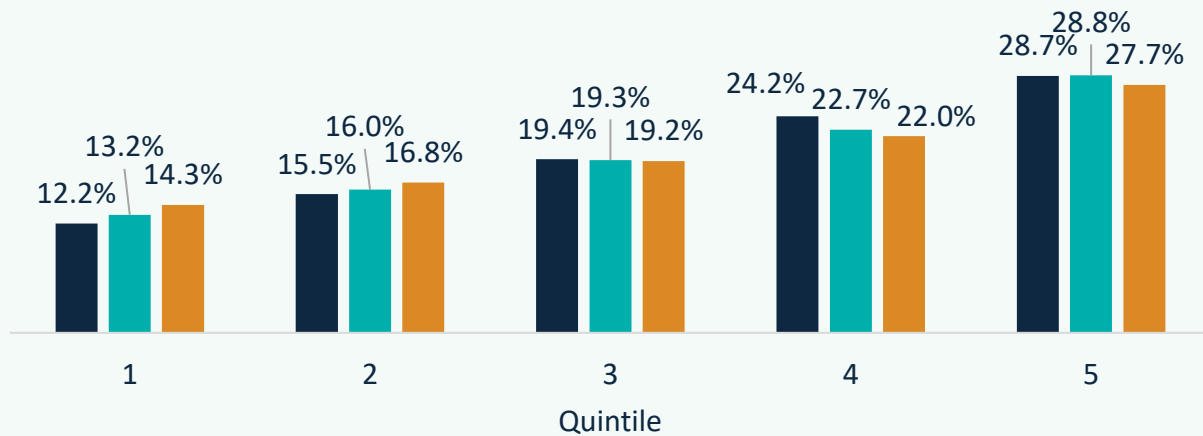
b) ethnicity

■ Computer science ■ All engineering and technology ■ All other subjects combined



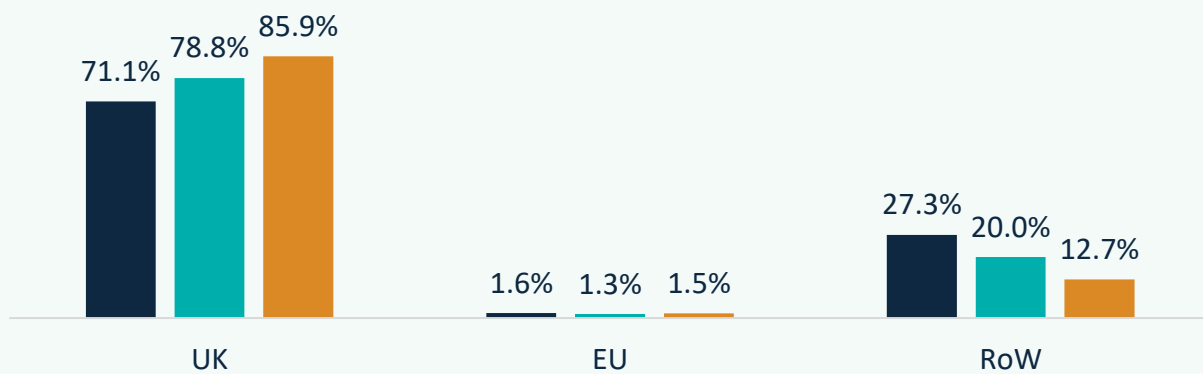
<sup>1</sup> Please see our [‘Engineering and tech in Higher Education’](#) report for more details on our methodology and definitions.

c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)



■ Computer science ■ All engineering and technology ■ All other subjects combined

d) permanent address



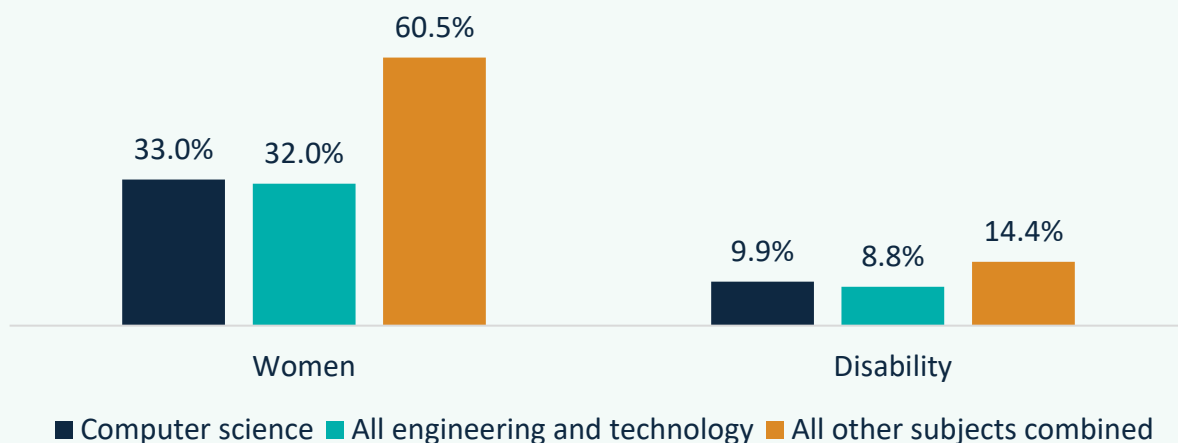
## Postgraduate degree entrants

The number of postgraduate computer science entrants has also increased from 2019/20 from 11,295 up to 17,240. In 2023/24, computer science was the most popular engineering and technology subject amongst postgraduate entrants. Of these:

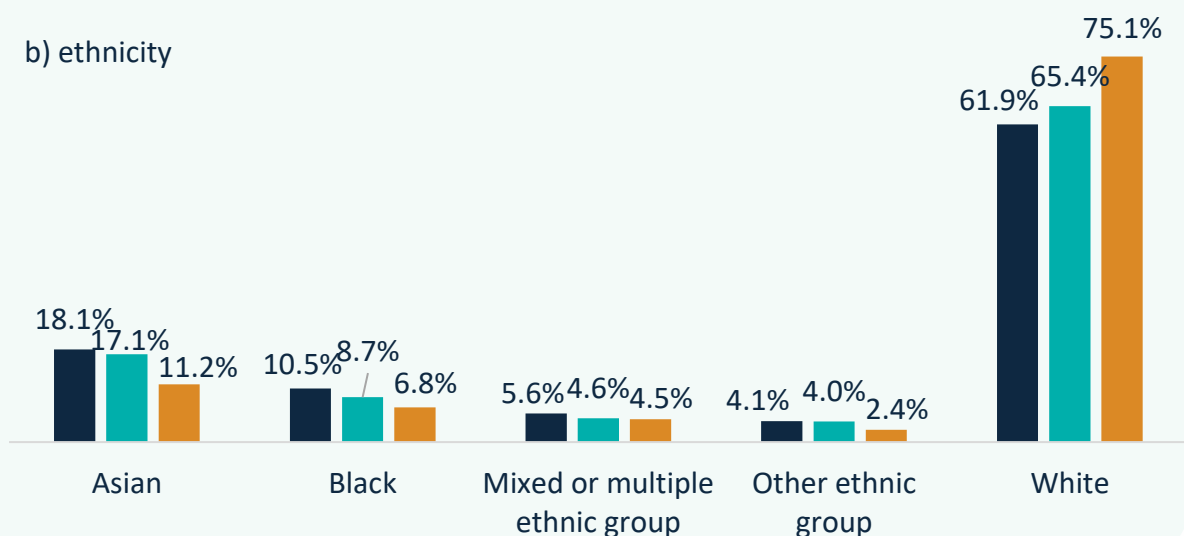
- 33.0% were women (33.0%)
- 9.9% had a known disability
- 38.2% were from a UKME group

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

a) gender and disability



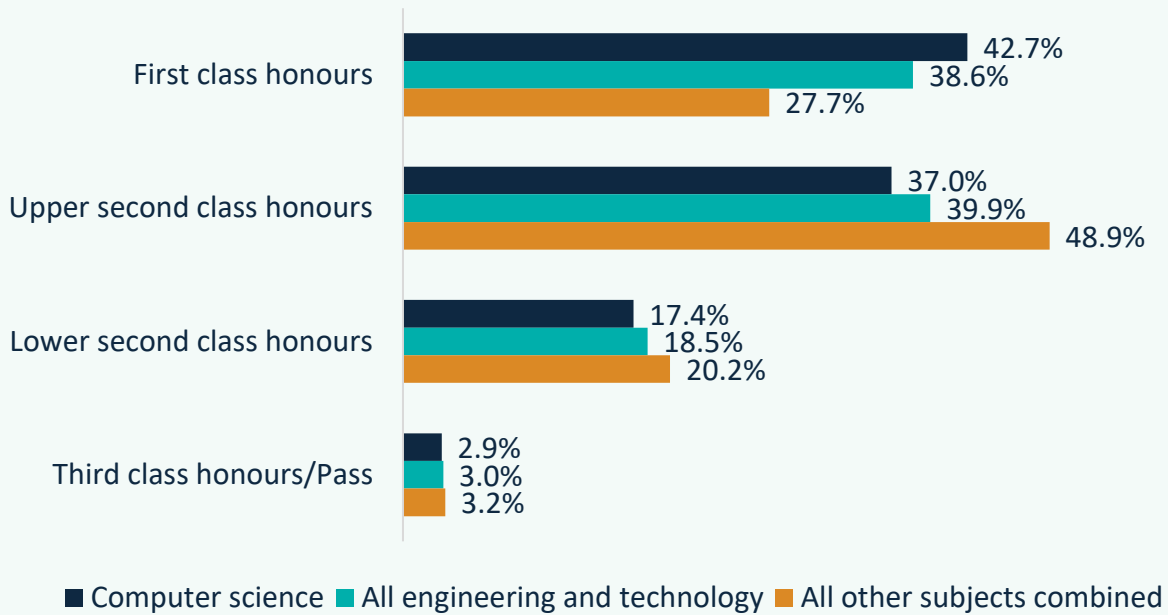
b) ethnicity



## Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

The majority of computer science first degree qualifiers achieved a first degree at over 4 in 10 (42.7%). This was above average compared to all engineering and technology subjects. Over a third also achieved an upper second class honours at 37.0%. The percentage who achieved a lower second class honours was also below the average for engineering and technology subjects at 17.4% (figure 3).

**Figure 3: Computer science results, 2023/24**



## Graduate outcomes

Nearly three-quarters of computer science graduates were in employment 15 months after graduating (73.1%). A further 11.3% were unemployed and looking for work and an additional 8.0% were in further study. Of those in employment, 6 in 10 were working in an engineering and technology occupation (62.0%). This is above average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%) (figure 4).

**Figure 4: Outcomes for computer science graduates**

