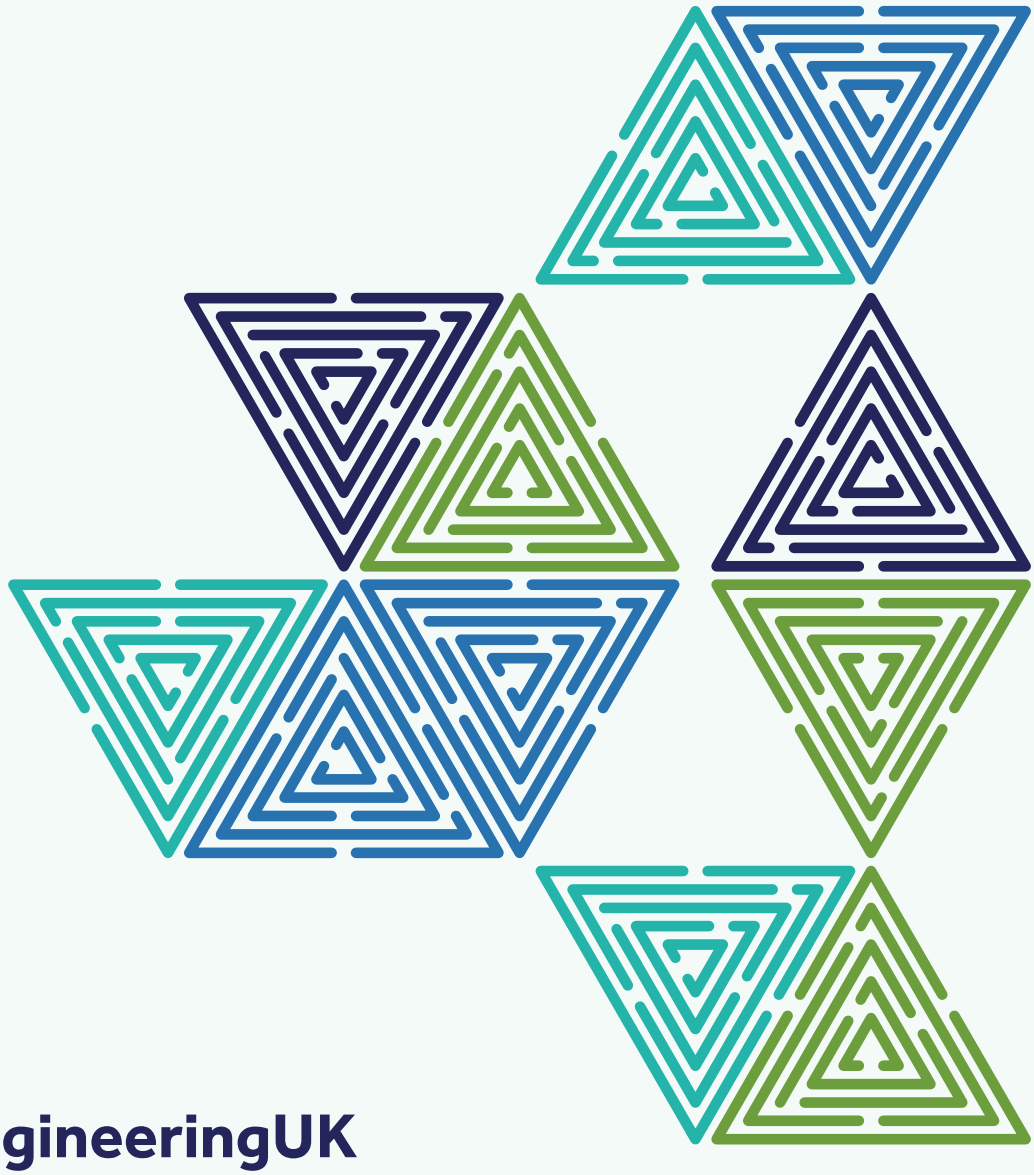
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Information technology



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INSPIRING FUTURES TOGETHER

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In 2023/24, there were 6,515 entrants studying information technology degrees in higher education[1]. This was made up of 3,745 first degree and 1,000 other undergraduate students and only 1,770 postgraduate students (taught and research).

Undergraduate first degree entrants

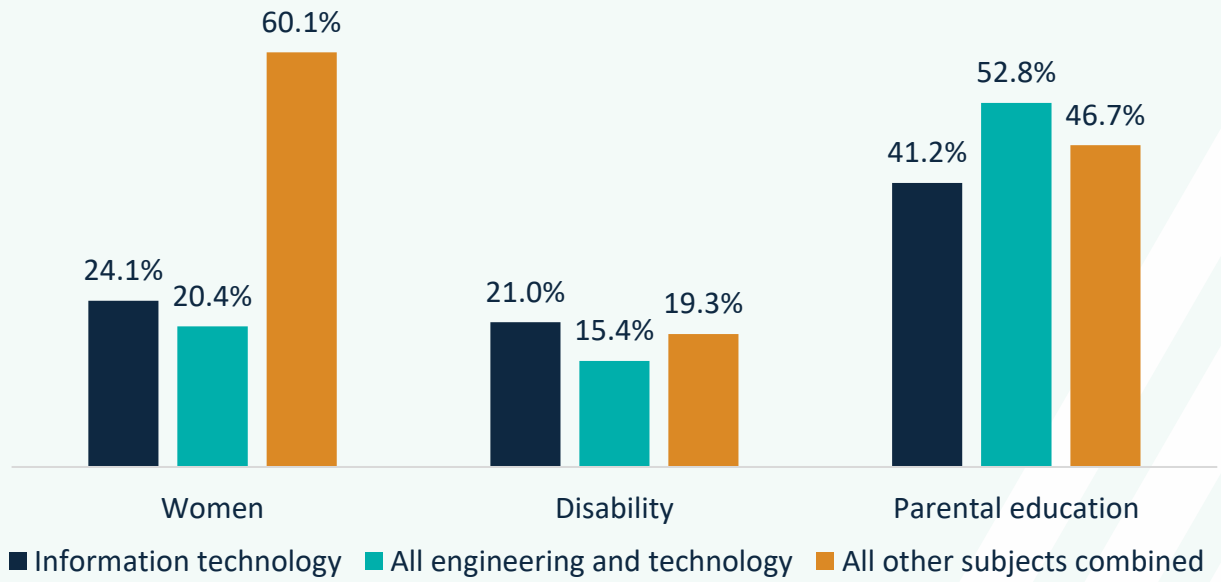
The number of undergraduate first degrees has remained mostly stable since 2019/20 (3,555 entrants). Information technology degrees were the 7th most popular engineering and technology subject for first degree undergraduate entrants in 2023/24. For undergraduates this was equivalent to 4.6% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 24.1% were women
- 26.7% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 21.0% had a known disability
- 17.7% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 85.4% were from the UK, 0.2% from the EU and 14.4% were from the rest of the world

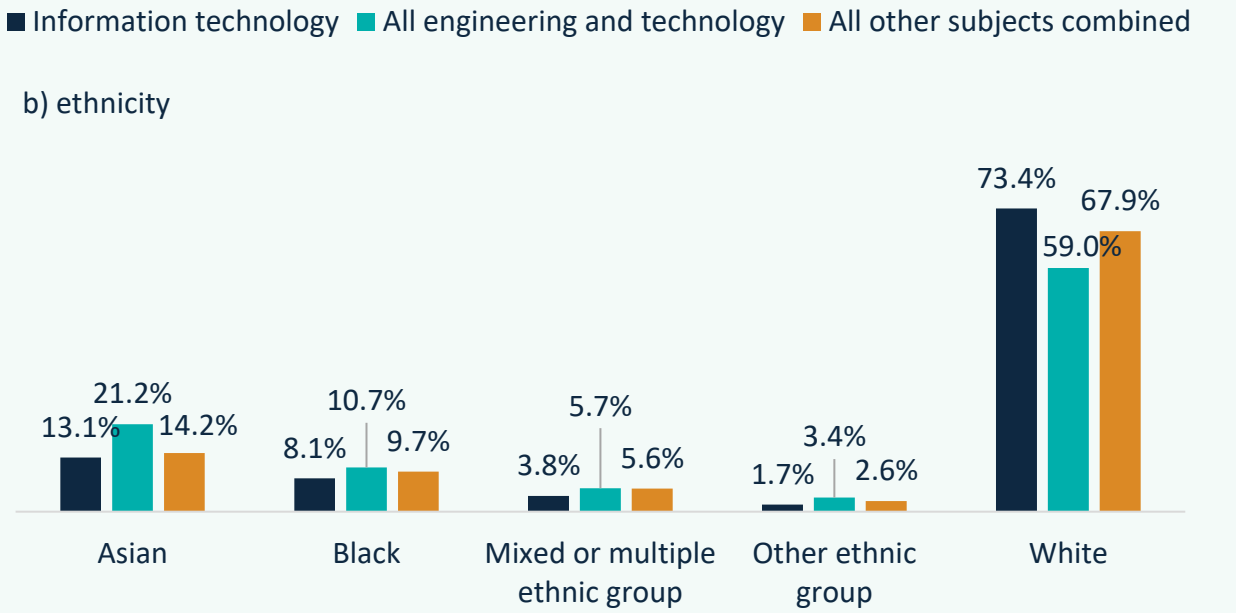
Information technology students were the least likely to have a parent who also had a qualification from higher education at 4 in 10 (41.2%), compared to other engineering and technology subjects (figure 1).

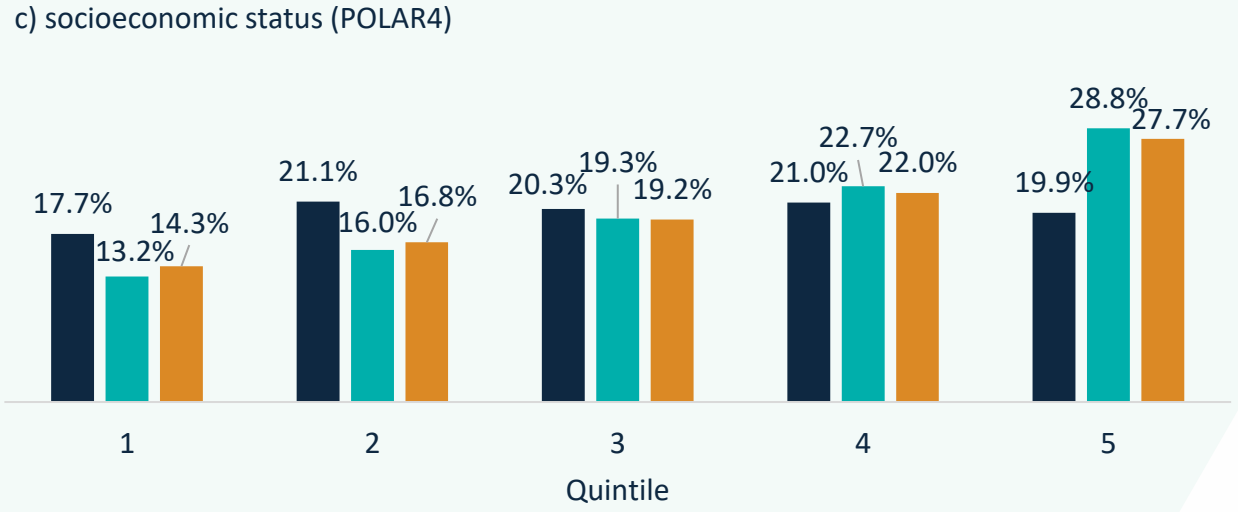
Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants

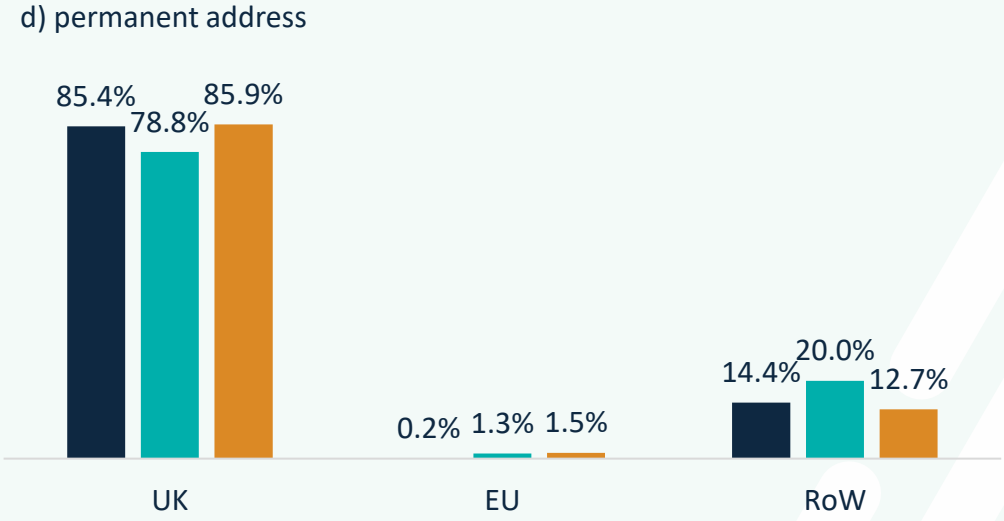
a) gender, disability and parent with higher education qualification



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


Information technology
All engineering and technology
All other subjects combined
b) ethnicity
21.2%
13.1%
14.2%
10.7%
8.1%
9.7%
5.7%
3.8%
5.6%
3.4%
1.7%
2.6%
73.4%
67.9%
59.0%
Asian
Black
Mixed or multiple ethnic group
Other ethnic group
White


c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)
17.7%
13.2%
14.3%
21.1%
16.0%
16.8%
20.3%
19.3%
19.2%
21.0%
22.7%
22.0%
19.9%
28.8%
27.7%
1
2
3
4
5
Quintile


d) permanent address
85.4%
78.8%
85.9%
0.2%
1.3%
1.5%
14.4%
20.0%
12.7%
UK
EU
RoW

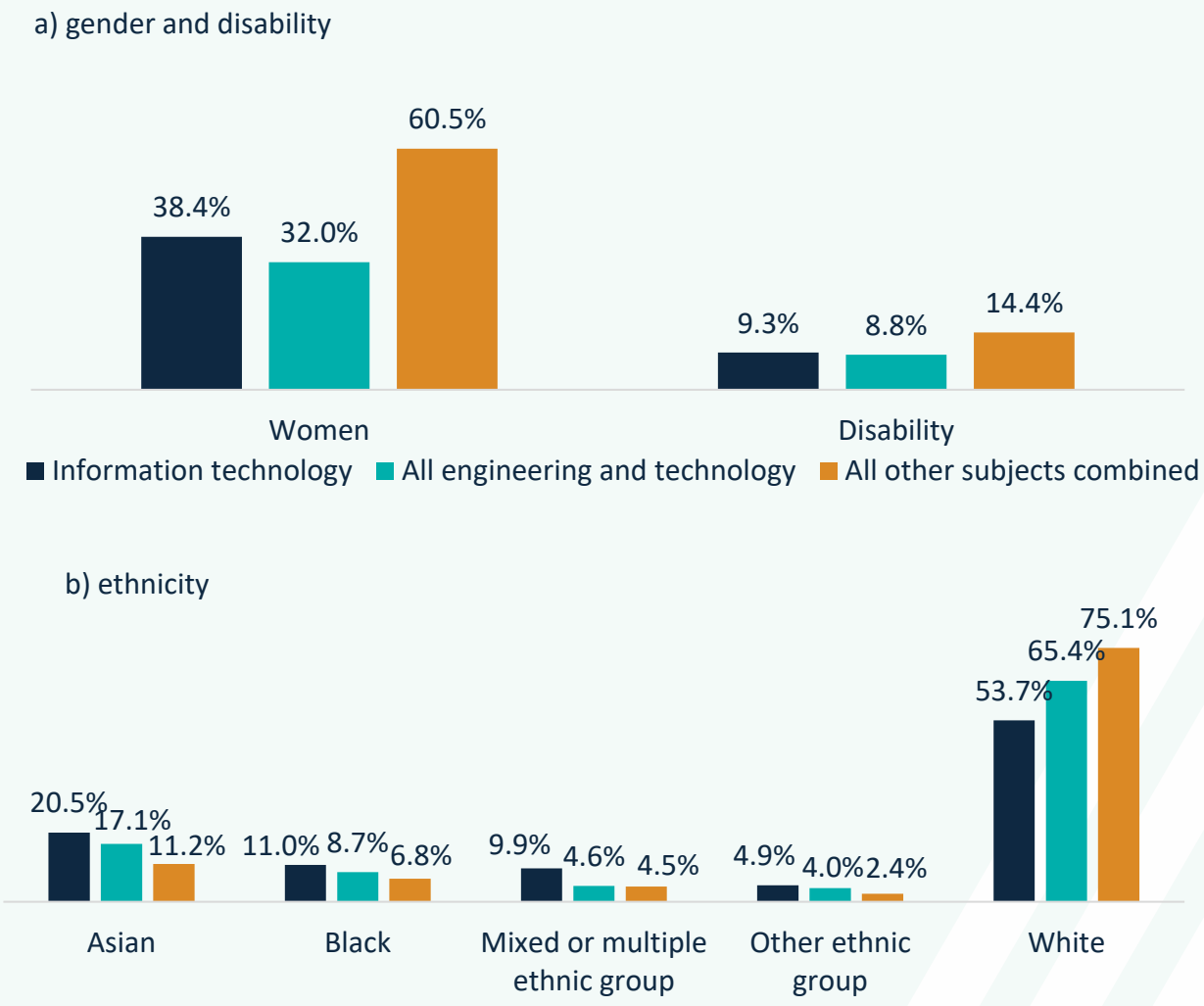
Postgraduate degree entrants

The number of postgraduate students in information technology has more than doubled from 735 in 2019/20 to 1,770 in 2023/24. Information technology degrees were the 14th most popular engineering and technology subject amongst postgraduate entrants in 2023/24. Of these:

- 38.4% were women
- 9.3% had a known disability
- 46.2% were from a UKME group

At this level, information technology had the highest percentage of UKME group students at nearly half (46.2%). This is compared to the average of a third for all engineering and technology subjects combined (34.6%). All UKME groups were overrepresented in information technology compared to the average for all engineering and technology subjects (figure 2).

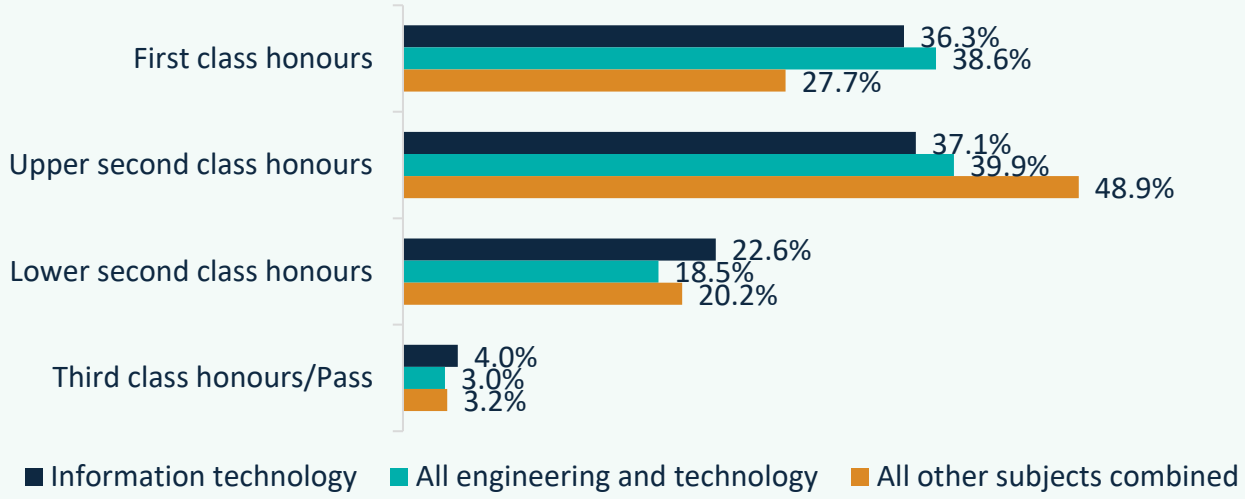
Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants



Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

An almost equal percentage of undergraduate first degree qualifiers obtained an upper second class honours (37.1%) as a first class honours (36.3%). Over 1 in 5 achieved a lower second class honours (22.6%). An additional 4.0% achieved a third class honours/pass (4.0%) (figure 3).

Figure 3: Information technology results, 2023/24



Graduate outcomes

74.6% were in employment after 15 months post-graduation. This is almost identical to the average for all engineering and technology subjects (74.7%) and the average for all other subjects combined (74.4%). Of the information technology graduates in employment, over half were working in an engineering and technology occupation (52.0%). This is below average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%). Nearly 1 in 10 (9.9%) were unemployed and a further 8.6% were doing something else (figure 4).

Figure 4: Outcomes for information technology graduates