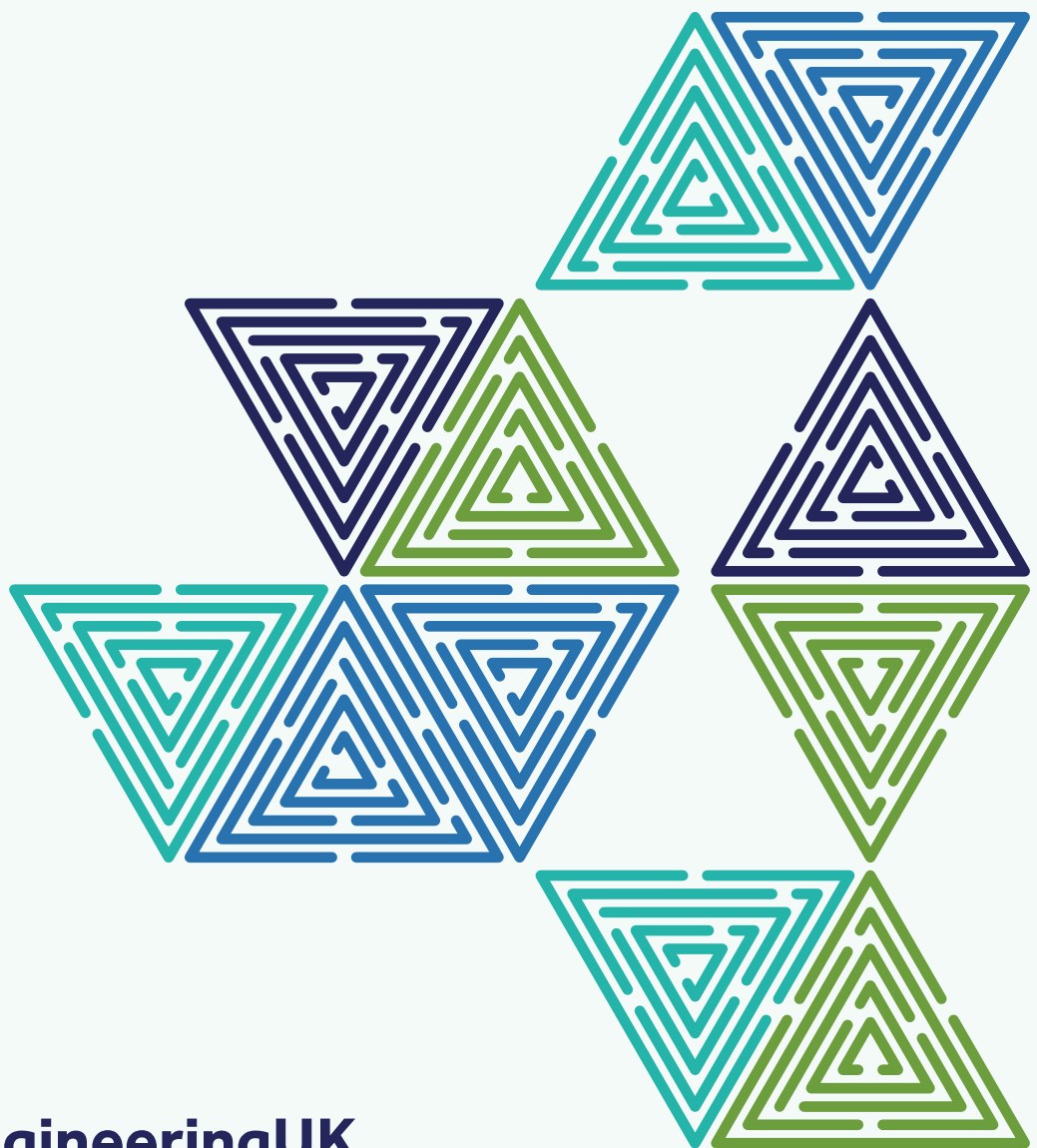


ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Production and manufacturing
engineering



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In 2023/24, there were 5,950 entrants studying production and manufacturing engineering degrees in higher education¹. This was made up of 2,730 first degree and 180 other undergraduate students) and 3,040 postgraduate students (taught and research).

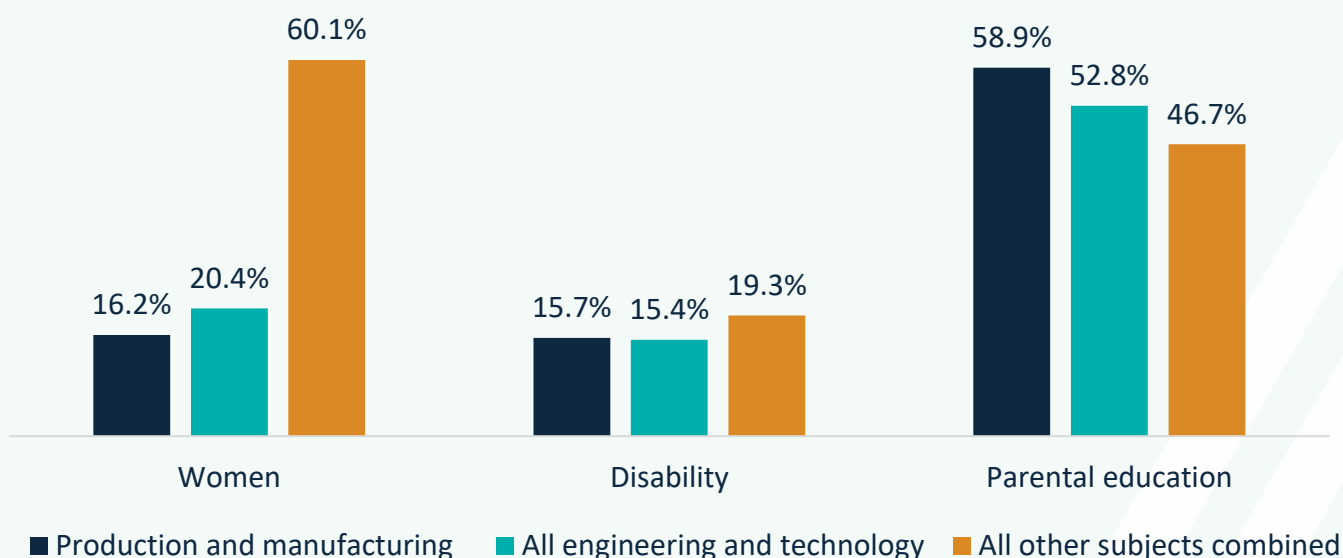
Undergraduate first degree entrants

The number of production and manufacturing first degree entrants has remained largely stable since 2019/20 with only an increase of 200 students since 2019/20. Production and manufacturing engineering was the 10th most popular engineering and technology subject amongst first degree entrants in 2023/24, at 3.4%. Of these:

- 16.2% were women
- 27.1% were from a UK minority ethnic (UKME) group
- 15.7% had a known disability
- 13.8% were from low higher education participation areas (POLAR4 quintile 1)
- 76.7% were from the UK, 2.4% from the EU and 20.9% were from the rest of the world (figure 1)

Figure 1: Characteristics of undergraduate entrants

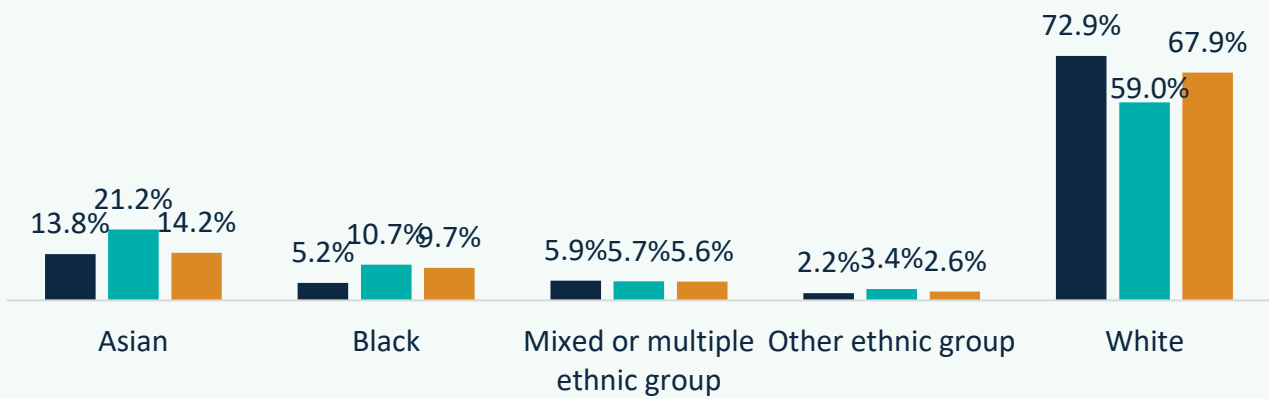
a) gender, disability and parent with higher education



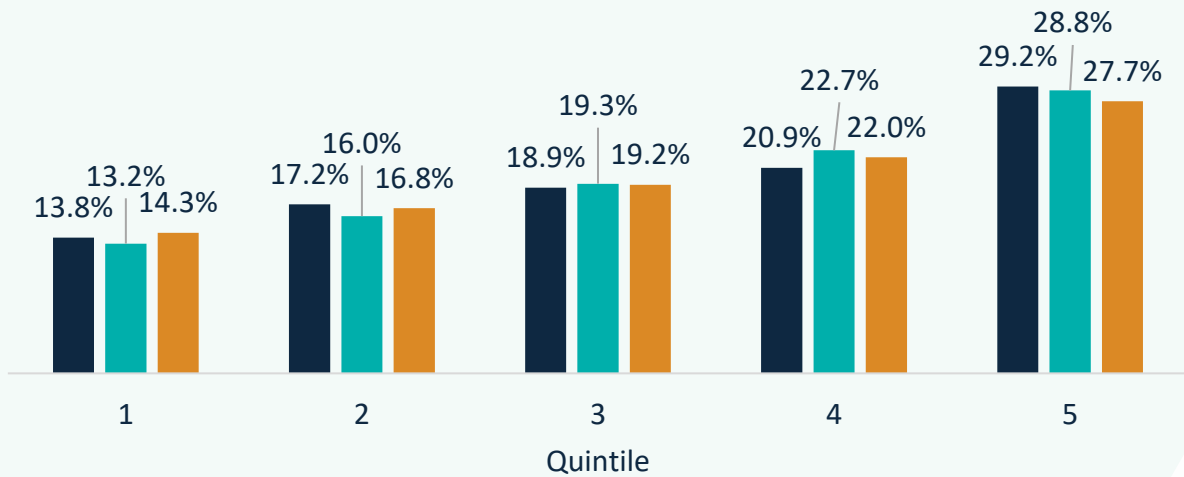
¹ Please see our [‘Engineering and tech in Higher Education’](#) report for more details on our methodology and definitions.

■ Production and manufacturing ■ All engineering and technology ■ All other subjects combined

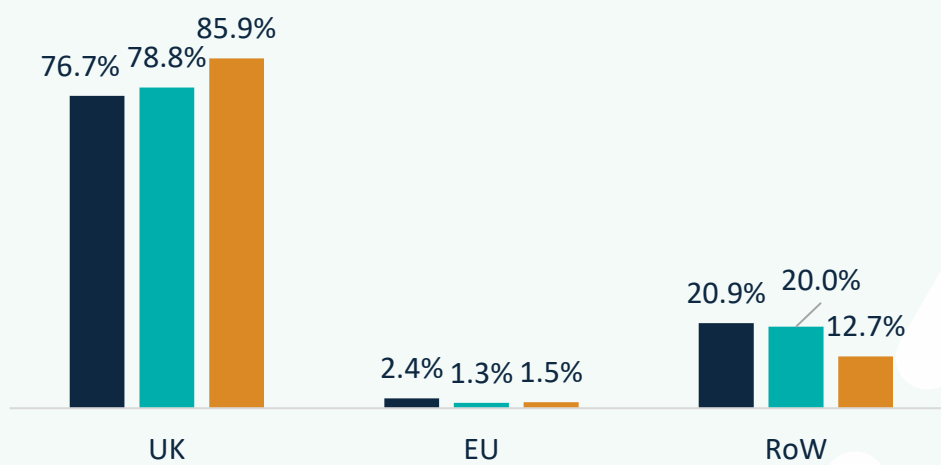
b) ethnicity



c) socioeconomic status (POLAR4)



d) permanent address



Postgraduate degree entrants

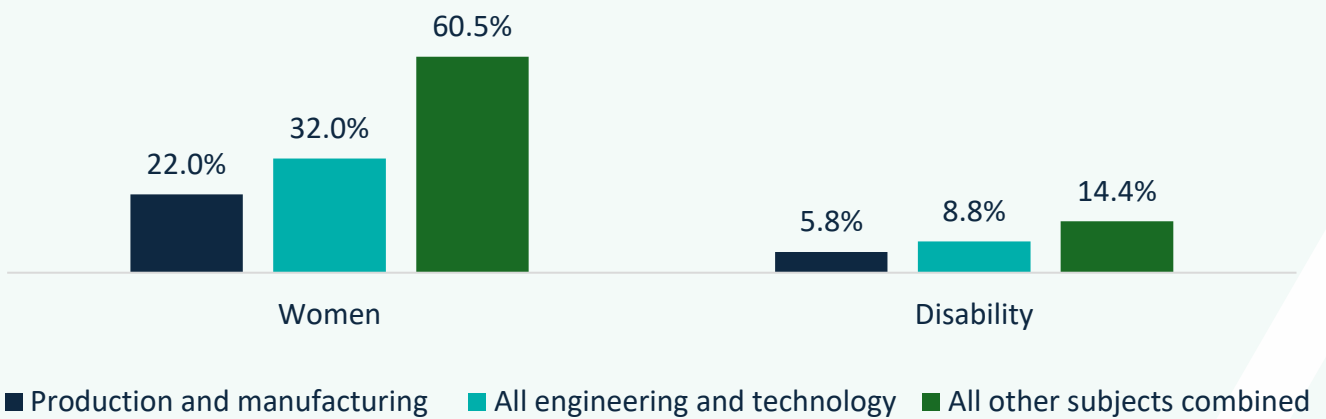
Similarly to first degree entrants, the number of postgraduate students has remained relatively stable since 2019/20 with only an increase of 250 students. As with first degree entrants, production and manufacturing engineering was also the 10th most popular engineering and technology subjects amongst postgraduates in 2023/24. This was equivalent to 4.2%. Of these:

- 22.0% were women
- 5.8% had a known disability
- 35.0% were from a UKME group

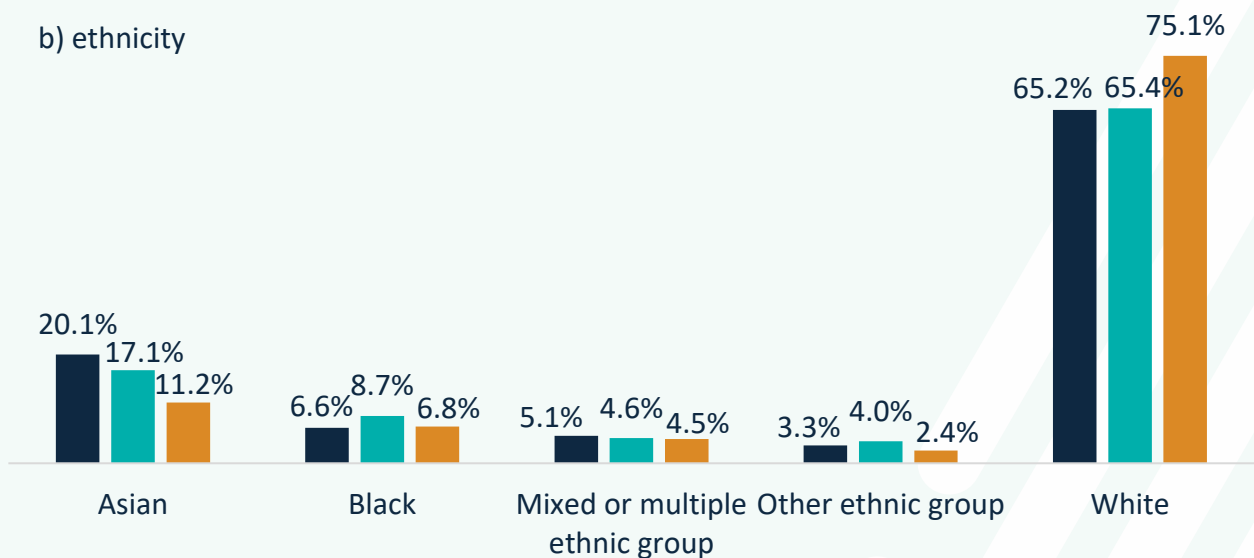
Production and manufacturing engineering had the second lowest percentage of disabled students at 5.8%. This is 3.0 pp below the average for all engineering and technology subjects at this level (8.8%) (figure 2).

Figure 2: Characteristic of postgraduate degree entrants

a) gender and disability



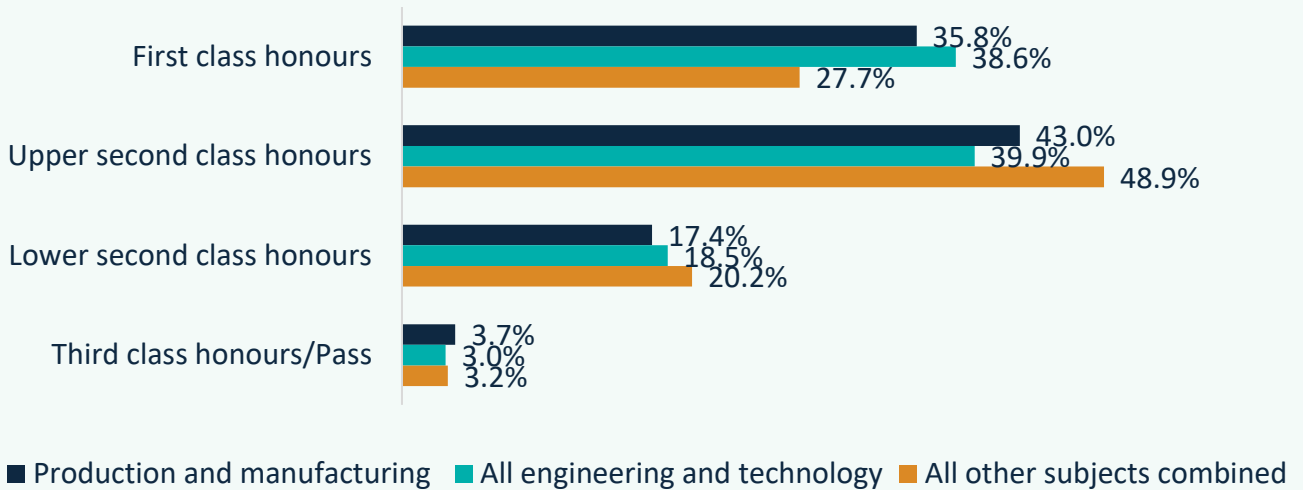
b) ethnicity



Undergraduate first degree qualifiers

The majority of production and manufacturing first degree qualifiers obtained an upper second class honours at 43.0%. A further 35.8% achieved a first class honours and 17.4% obtained a lower second class honours (figure 3).

Figure 3: Production and manufacturing engineering results, 2023/24



Graduate outcomes

Over three-quarters of production and manufacturing graduates were in work 15 months after graduating (77.8%). Of these, over two-thirds were working in engineering and technology occupations (67.8%) which is above average compared to all engineering and technology subjects (59.7%). 8.5% were unemployed and an additional 7.0% were doing further studies (figure 4).

Figure 4: Outcomes for production and manufacturing engineering graduates

