

Storyboard for Higher Level Apprenticeship Pilot in Northern Ireland 2015/16 and 2016/17

The Higher Level Apprenticeship pilot is delivered across Further Education colleges and Higher Education Institutions.

Since the commencement of the pilot phase of the Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) programme, covering 2015/16 and 2016/17, there have been a total of 853 enrolments (592 individuals) in the scheme in Further Education (FE) Colleges.

Within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), in 2015/16 there were 20 individuals enrolled on HLAs. In 2016/17 this increased to 95 individuals.

The largest proportions of students at FE colleges were over 25, while there was variation within HEIs and....

Although not a majority, the largest proportion (43.6%) of individuals enrolled on HLAs at FE colleges, over the two year period, were in the age group '25 and over' and the smallest proportion (25.2%) in the age group '16 to 19'.

In 2016/17, almost half (48.4%) of HLA participants at HEIs were in the age band '16 to 19', while only 15.1% were in the age band '20 to 24'. The age profile between HEIs are noticeably different from one another. The majority of participants at UU (80.8%) were aged '16 to 19' whereas the majority of participants at OU (82.9%) were aged '25 and over'.

... more males than females are studying at FE colleges and HEIs.

Over the two year HLA pilot phase the majority of individuals enrolled on a HLA programme within FE colleges were males (64.7%).

In 2016/17, of the 95 HLA participants at HEIs 64.5% were males and 35.5% were females.

There was a range of levels undertaken.....

In 2015/16 almost three-quarters (71.9%) of HLA pilot enrolments in FE colleges were at level 5, 22.0% were at level 4 and the remainder (6.1%) were at level 3.

In 2016/17 the proportion of HLA enrolments in FE at level 5 increased to 74.5%. 20.0% were at level 4 and the remainder (5.5%) were at level 3.

All (100.0%) HLA provision delivered in HEIs in both 2015/16 and 2016/17 was at level 6.

.....and there was variation in gender, in terms of the course subject area within FE colleges....

In 2016/17, the subject area with the largest proportion of females was in 'Health, Public Services and Care' (80.4%), while 'Construction, planning and the built environment' had 4.9% females enrolled.

...in FE colleges most were STEM related subjects being undertaken but the reverse in HEIs.

In 2015/16 enrolments identified as Broad STEM accounted for 69.1% of all HLA pilot enrolments at FE colleges, while there were 53.5% in Narrow STEM subjects.

In 2016/17 there was a slightly smaller proportion (66.9%) of HLA pilot enrolments classified as both Broad STEM and (51.3%) Narrow STEM subjects.

In 2016/17 most (77.4%) HLA enrolments at HEIs were non-STEM while the rest (22.6%) were Broad STEM.

The FE college performance rates across the two years indicate similar levels of participants completing their courses, while a slight reduction in those achieving....

For provision delivered at FE colleges, the overall retention rate in 2015/16 was 96.2% and remained at a similar level (95.4%) in 2016/17. The overall success rate in 2015/16 was 88.6% but decreased slightly to 79.1% in 2016/17.

...and high levels of satisfaction amongst HLA participants in FE sector.

A HLA participation satisfaction survey in March 2017, only within FE sector, assessed the quality of the experience for a Higher Level Apprentice. There were 235 responses to the survey, which represented a response rate of 52.6% of those students who were active on the course (447) in March 2017, only within the FE sector. Some of the key findings, including an upper and lower limit (margin of error) for each proportion, in relation to satisfaction levels are listed below:

91.8% (+/-3.5%) were either fairly or very satisfied with the quality of teaching being provided by the college.

84.8% (+/- 4.6%) were either fairly or very satisfied with the match between the teaching and learning in the College, and the tasks you perform in the workplace.

96.1% (+/-2.5%) would recommend this apprenticeship to others who are interested in the same area of work.
