

Tees Valley Higher Education 2021 – Summary

This report uses data sourced from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to analyse the participation, achievement and graduate outcomes of Tees Valley higher education students, which are those students with a home address in Tees Valley when they first enrol at University. They may have gained the higher education qualification anywhere in the UK.

All datasets used in this report predate the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore any effects of the pandemic on graduate employment are not yet reflected in the data. National and local research on the impact of Covid-19 indicates that although job vacancies levels dropped during the first lockdown, the number of job vacancies reported in October 2020 was 38% higher than the same period in 2019, with a third of these jobs advertised at a graduate level. However, with over 13,000 extra people claiming unemployment benefits, graduates can expect high levels of competition for these roles.

Key Findings:

Participation

- Tees Valley has higher rates of participation in Higher Education across all age groups compared to nationally with 10.9% of 18-39 year-old Tees Valley residents in HE in 2018/19, compared to 10% nationally¹. This has risen over the last year by 0.2 percentage points, from 10.7% in 2017/18, compared to a rise of 0.1 nationally.
- The percentage of 18-39 year olds enrolled in Higher Education has dropped from 13.3% in 2010/11 to 10.9% in 2018/19, a drop of 2.4 percentage points compared to a 1.2 drop nationally.
- Tees Valley residents are more likely to enrol in Subjects allied to Medicine and Engineering and Technology.

Qualifications

- 3.7% of 20-39 year-olds from Tees Valley obtained an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in 2018/19, compared to 4.6% of 20-39 year-olds nationally. However this has dropped over the last year, with 250 fewer passes than in 2017/18 (a drop of 4%), compared to a 3% rise nationally.
- Learning is very self-contained, with almost half (48%) of all Tees Valley higher education students obtaining their qualification from Teesside University and 70% choosing to remain in the North East² to study. The majority of students (75%) study full time.
- Other Services³ qualifications are the largest sector for qualifications accounting for 30% of all undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in 2018/19 (1,885 passes). The

¹ UK Residents only (excludes students travelling from overseas)

² Studying at either University of Northumbria at Newcastle, University of Sunderland, Newcastle University or University of Durham.

³ The Other Services qualification sector includes, but is not limited to, Training Teachers, Academic studies in education, Social work, English studies, Sociology, History, Building, Forensic and archaeological sciences, Architecture, Theology & religious studies, Human and social geography, Food and beverage studies, Philosophy, Animal Science, French studies, Spanish studies, Linguistics and Agriculture.

second largest sector for take up of qualifications is the Health Care sector with 30% of all passes (1,870).

- The Advanced Manufacturing sector accounts for 10% of all undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications gained in 2018/19, amounting to 625 passes, an 8% rise since 2015/16.
- Over the last three years there has been a 14% increase in Digital and Creative qualifications, with numbers rising from 525 to 600 (75 extra passes), with a particular increase in Computer Science.
- Over the last year there has been a 11% fall in the number of qualifications gained in Health Care (240 fewer passes), with a particular drop in Pre-clinical Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology & Pathology and Nursing.

Employment of Graduates

- 84% of Tees Valley graduates who obtained a higher education qualification in 2017/18 were in employment or due to start employment at any level 15 months after graduating, matching the national percentage.
- 41% of Tees Valley graduates found employment within Tees Valley, with almost half (49%) finding employment within the North East. Of the 41% of Tees Valley graduates who found employment within Tees Valley, 38% undertook their HE qualification outside the Tees Valley, returning to the Tees Valley to find employment.
- The median salary for Tees Valley graduates in full-time paid employment at any level in 2017/18 was £24,900, compared to £26,000 nationally.
- 10% of Tees Valley graduates were self-employed, compared to 12% nationally. The majority of self-employed Tees Valley graduates were employed in the Creative, Culture and Leisure sector with 37%, followed by 17% employed in the Health and Social care sector and 12% in the Other Public Services sector.
- 72% of Tees Valley graduates were in 'Professional' employment⁴ 15 months after graduating compared to 76% of graduates employed in professional roles nationally.
- 28% of graduates in employment were in non-professional roles (assumed non-graduate) 15 months after graduating compared to 24% nationally. This rises to 31% for those Tees Valley graduates who found employment within Tees Valley.
- 21% of Tees Valley graduates employed in assumed non-graduate roles were employed in the Creative, Culture and Leisure sector with the majority in bar staff, kitchen and catering assistants, waiters and sports and leisure assistant roles.

⁴ Professional employment includes the SOC codes 1 – Managers, directors and senior officials, 2 – Professional Occupations and 3- Associate professional and technical occupations.