

Tracking of SWAP students at transitioning to university

Each year, SWAP East collects and compiles data on SWAP students who have progressed onto university. Along with findings from a 1st year student survey given to all students who go on to 1st year, SWAP uses this data to help inform the partnership on the student experience once they have completed the access programme and transitioned to 1st year. The setting up of Data Sharing Agreements has allowed us to gather retention information from our SWAP East partners and this year we have been able to gather data on about 94% of our students.

This report has 2 sections:

- A. Retention rates of SWAP students who are still in university after 1st year.
- B. Further analysis of retention data detailing widening access indicators.

Section A. Retention rates of SWAP students still in university after 1 year

Summary of last 6 years of 1st year retention data

Table 1 gives a summary of data from 2014 - 2019 (year of entry) and shows the %age of students who were still at university at the beginning of their 2nd year. Any field with <5 is not detailed. Retention data throughout this report is only available for students who have progressed on to SWAP East partner universities and with whom we have set up Data Sharing agreements.

Table 1

SWAP East Universities	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ABERDEEN					88%	86%
ABERTAY	92%	75%	100%	91%	100%	92%
DUNDEE	83%	93%	96%	88%	99%	94%
EDINBURGH	75%	85%	95%	91%	92%	99%
EDINBURGH NAPIER	84%	85%	83%	100%	94%	93%
HERIOT WATT	89%	100%	92%	100%	94%	100%
QUEEN MARGARET	100%	73%	76%	87%	85%	94%
ROBERT GORDON					100%	83%
ST ANDREWS	100%	100%	100%	91%	94%	100%
STIRLING	81%	94%	95%	79%	97%	100%
HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Average	83%	88%	92%	90%	94%	95%

In 2019, 371 SWAP East students gained a place at a university. Of these, 94% went to a SWAP East university. The others (with 1 exception) went to a SWAP West university.

From the students who gained a place at a SWAP East university, 3% did not register at the start of term. The final figure for 2019 entry shows that 95% were still in university at the end of their first year. This data includes students who were taking a temporary break from studies and those who had failed and were repeating their first year in 20/21 (approximately 5% of the 1st year intake).

Table 2 breaks the 1st year retention data down into the 3 main subject areas. In 2019/20, the retention rate for Nursing slightly decreased while degree study in STEM subjects showed an improvement. Overall the retention rate has increased by 1% and the %age of those taking a break or repeating 1st year is lower.

Table 2

(2018's figures are in brackets).

Subject area	Numbers who we have data for, who progressed to university	%age still at university after 1 st year	From within the previous column's %age figure, those who are taking LOA/ repeating year
Humanities	150 (135)	96% (94%)	6% (6%)
Science & Engineering	66 (77)	95% (91%)	10% (18%)
Nursing	123 (114)	93% (97%)	2% (1%)
Total	339	95% (94%)	5%

Table 3 below shows the 2017, 2018 & 2019 retention levels based on where these students attended their access programme prior to starting at university.

Table 3

College	2019 retention rate	2018 Retention rate	2017 retention rate
Borders	100%	90%	100%
Dundee & Angus	98%	94%	83%
Edinburgh	96%	95%	94%
Fife	96%	93%	92%
Forth Valley	100%	94%	86%
Inverness	100%		
Newbattle Abbey	100%	76%	85%
North East Scotland	87%		
Perth	100%	95%	94%
West Lothian	94%	97%	88%
Average	95%	94%	90%

Section B. Further analysis of 2019 entry retention data detailing widening access indicators

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

Table 4 shows the number of SWAP students living in SIMD 20 areas who started university in 2019 and who were still in H.E. at the start of 2nd year. 20% of SWAP students who went to university were from SIMD 20, the same %age who enrolled on the access programme the year before. SWAP students from MD20 and SIMD 40 combined make up 46% of the total university intake for this year.

Table 4

2019 entry	Breakdown of SWAP East students entering university by SIMD	%age of students from each SIMD quintile still in H.E. after 1st year
SIMD 20	20%	19%
SIMD 40	26%	26%
SIMD 60	21%	21%
SIMD 80	19%	20%
SIMD 100	15%	15%

Other SWAP WP indicators

SWAP also evidences the work that it does by reporting to the funding council on other widening participation indicators. The targets set for SWAP are at access programme level however they have also been added to this report on retention to indicate if there are any disparities between these groups and the overall progression rates for 2019 entry to university (95%). The data in Table 6 shows that the target groups generally performed as well as other SWAP students with the exception of students who disclosed a disability. For this group, in percentage terms, 5% less students went to university although once there, the same %age were still at university at the end of their 1st year. The principal disability disclosed (51%) was issues with mental health.

Table 5

WP Indicator groups	%age of SWAP enrolments	% of students from each group who went to university	%age of group still in university at the start of 2 nd year
BME	6%	6%	6%
Care experienced	3%	2%	2%
No Highers from school	74%	70%	68%
Disabilities (disclosed)	19%	14%	14%
No parental history of university	81%	81%	80%
Gender F:M	73:27	73:27	73:27

Single parents

Although single parents are not reported on, as a WP indicator, to the funding council, it should be recognised that single parents face significant barriers whilst studying full-time at college or university.

They have less opportunity to work part-time and less time to study, as they have to fit their studies round their children's needs. In 18/19 single parents made up 21% of SWAP East's intake but 19% of the students who moved on to university. However, for those who did go onto university, the same number as for the whole cohort (95%) were still there at the start of 2nd year. 34% of SWAP East's single parents who went on to university live in a SIMD 20 area.