

STUDENT PERSISTENCE & GRADUATION REPORT 2025/26

THE OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (QA&IE)

NOVEMBER 2026

Student Persistence and Graduation Report

Introduction

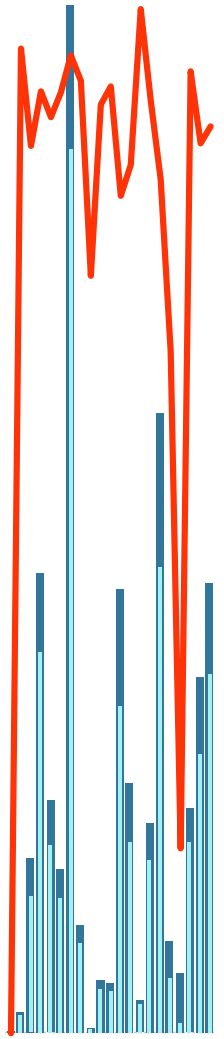
Persistence and graduation rates serve as key performance indicators for UTT's strategic priorities. These indicators provide quantitative measures of the extent to which students are persisting in and completing their studies across various taught programmes. The report is based on data for all taught tertiary-level programmes (MPhil and PhD programmes were not included in the analysis) drawn from the Student Information System (SIS) as of 1 September 2026. The report is structured into two main sections addressing both persistence rates and graduation rates respectively.

The first section examines persistence rates for cohorts from 2020/21 to 2024/25. In this context, a cohort refers to the group of students who commenced a new programme at UTT within the same academic year. The report focuses on first-year persistence, calculated as the proportion of each cohort that re-enrols or successfully completes their programme in the academic year immediately following their entry. This emphasis on the first year is informed by previous analyses and research indicating that non-persistence is highest during this critical period. The analysis includes the persistence rate for each of the past five years and a five-year average, calculated as the unweighted arithmetic mean of the annual rates. The data are also disaggregated by Programme Area, Programme Level, Enrolment Status, Age and Gender.

The second section presents graduation rates for cohorts spanning from 2013/14 to 2023/24. The graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students within a given cohort who successfully complete their programme within twice (200%) the expected full-time duration. This approach uses a cut-off period of two years for certificate programmes; four years for diploma and master's degree programmes; and six or eight years for undergraduate degree programmes with a duration of three and four years respectively.

Graduation rates are presented across various programme levels, including certificates, diplomas, 3-year and 4-year undergraduate degrees, and taught master's degrees. These data are further disaggregated by Programme Area, Enrolment Status, Age, and Gender. This approach has been tailored to UTT's unique programme mix, where over 40% of students are enrolled in sub-baccalaureate programmes and undergraduate degrees are offered with durations of either three or four years.

By adopting this methodology, the report aims to provide a nuanced and accurate picture of student progression and success at UTT, balancing the need for meaningful measures of timely completion with the diverse realities of our student body.



Trends in First-Year Student Persistence: 2024/25 - 2020/21

Overview

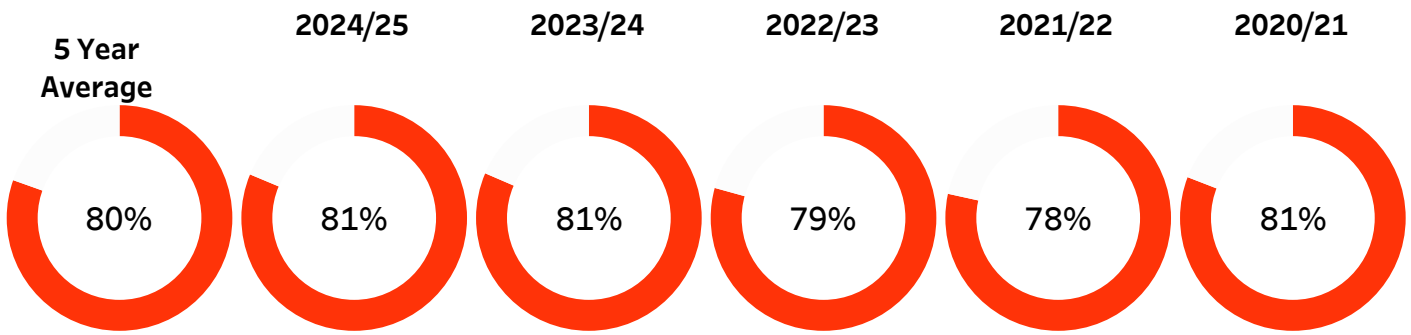
The data indicate that the first-year persistence rate for new students entering in Academic Year 2024/25 was 81%, one percentage point above the five-year average of 80%.
This means that approximately four out of every five students who entered in 2024/25 continued beyond their first year of study.

Over the review period persistence rates have remained relatively stable, with the latest rate closely aligned to the five-year average.

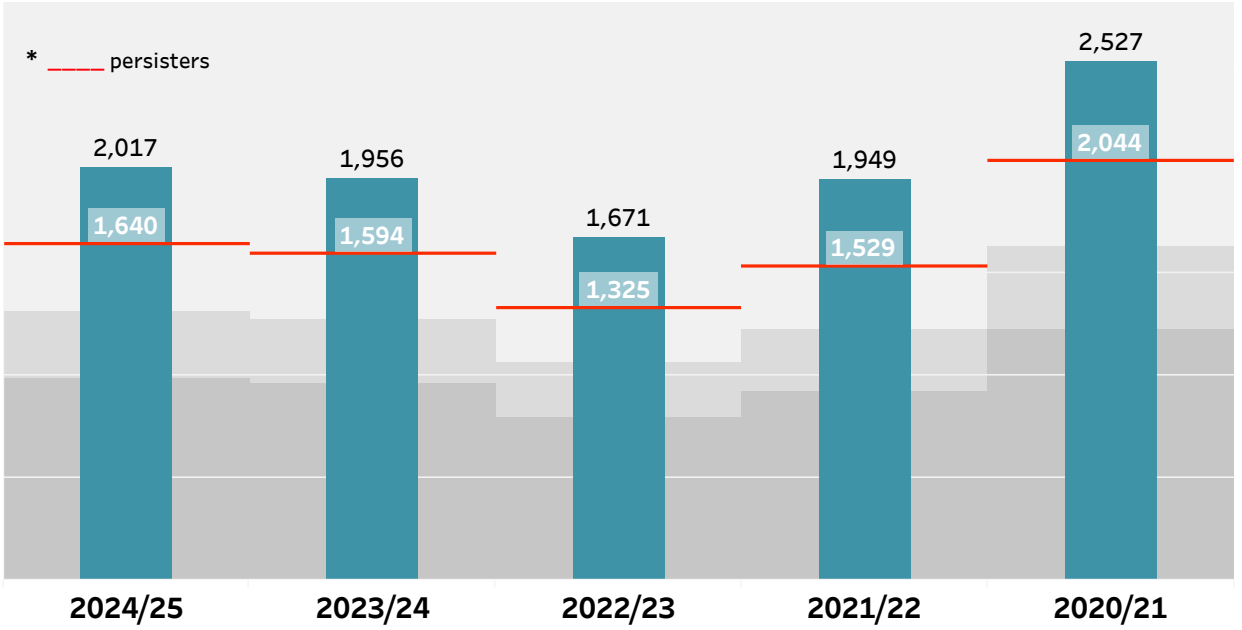
Student intake for each academic year from 2020/21 to 2024/25 was compared with the number of students who progressed to their second year of study.

New enrolment declined from a peak of 2,527 in 2020/21 to 1,671 in 2022/23, before recovering to 2,017 in 2024/25. The number of persisters followed a similar pattern, falling from 2,044 to 1,325 before increasing to 1,640.

First-year persistence rate by intake year



Count of student intake and first-year persisters by intake year



First-Year Persistence Disaggregated by Programme Area and Level

Programme Area

First-year persistence rates for the 2024/25 intake ranged from 38% to 96%, substantially wider than the five-year average range of 73% to 93%. Fashion and Design recorded the highest persistence rate at 96%, Marine Sciences, Education, Criminology, Maritime Studies and Performing Arts also achieved rates of at least 85%. Conversely, Arts, Culture and Public Affairs fell to 38%, well below its 79% five-year average.

Overall, nine of the 17 programme areas exceeded their five-year averages. However, despite generally strong first-year persistence rates, there was considerable variation across programme areas, which may warrant closer review.

Programme Level

For the 2024/25 intake, persistence rates ranged from 78% for certificate programmes to 84% for bachelor's degrees. Bachelor's persistence remained the highest and was close to its five-year average, despite declining from 87% in 2023/24. Diploma persistence increased to 81%, its highest level in five years, while postgraduate persistence fell to 80%, its lowest over the period. Certificate persistence remained relatively stable at 78%.

First-year persistence rate by programme area

	Average	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Marine Sciences	93%	88%	96%	100%	100%	87%
Performing Arts	87%	85%	88%	91%	84%	85%
Education Programmes	86%	88%	87%	88%	82%	86%
Maritime Studies	85%	85%	84%	82%	80%	94%
Criminology and Public Safety	84%	85%	94%	85%	81%	83%
Fashion and Design	84%	96%	95%	83%	75%	74%
Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies	82%	79%	81%	84%	84%	82%
Energy Systems Engineering	81%	78%	77%	83%	71%	91%
Health Sciences and Health Administration	81%	71%	100%	60%	80%	86%
Aviation Studies	79%	84%	87%	75%	77%	81%
Arts, Culture and Public Affairs	79%	38%	100%	90%	92%	70%
Process Engineering	79%	81%	73%	77%	76%	85%
Kinesiology, Physical Education and Sport	78%	80%	86%	87%	80%	70%
Information and Communication Technology	76%	79%	78%	70%	78%	77%
Utilities and Sustainable Engineering	74%	79%	73%	65%	73%	78%
Civil Engineering	74%	71%	74%	71%	69%	86%
Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing and Entrepr..	73%	78%	82%	71%	65%	71%

First-year persistence rate by programme level

	Average	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Certificate	78%	78%	79%	82%	82%	70%
Diploma	77%	81%	79%	71%	72%	80%
Bachelor	85%	84%	87%	85%	82%	85%
Postgraduate taught programme	82%	80%	81%	83%	81%	84%

First-Year Persistence Disaggregated by Age-group, Gender and Enrolment Status

Age-group

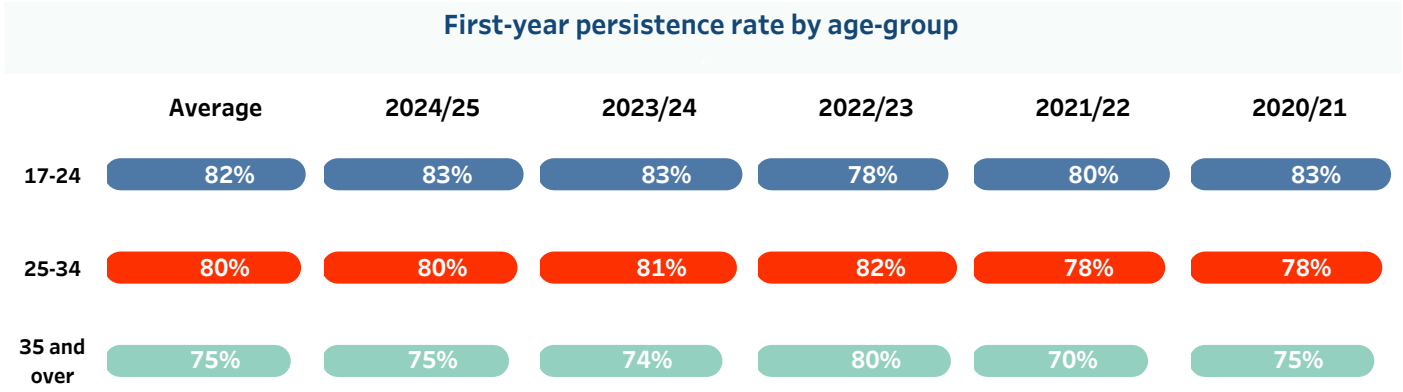
For the 2024/25 cohort, students aged 17–24 recorded the highest first-year persistence rate at 83%, followed by those aged 25–34 at 80%, while the 35+ age-group had the lowest at 75%. This pattern remained consistent over the five-year review period, with average rates of 82%, 80% and 75%, respectively, indicating that first-year persistence generally declined with age.

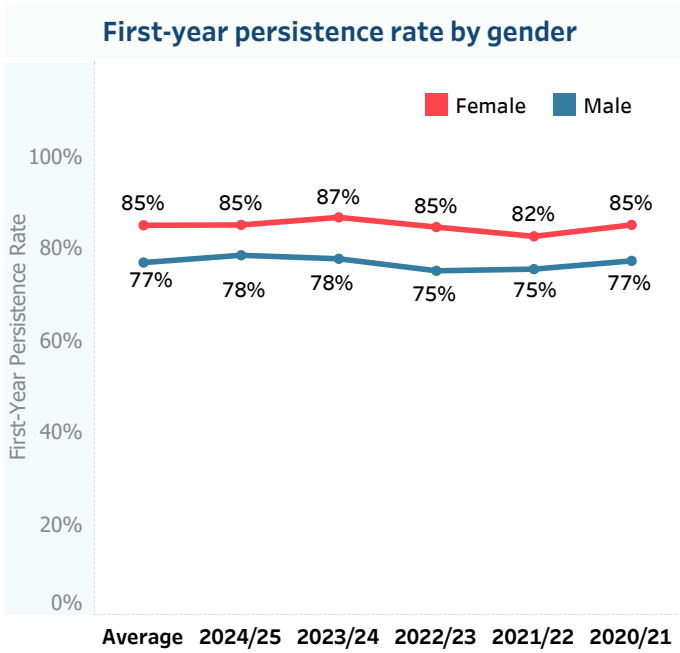
Gender

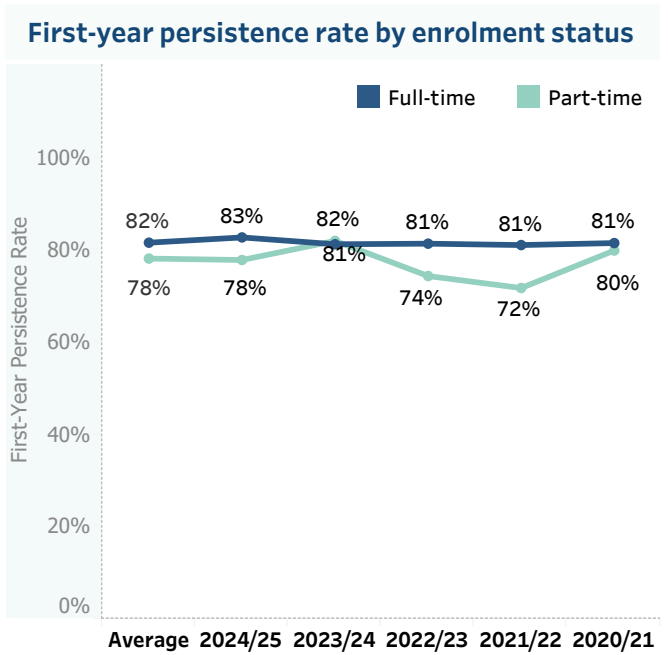
When disaggregated by gender, female students showed higher first-year persistence than males - 85% compared to 78% for the 2024/25 cohort. This pattern remained consistent over the five-year review period.

Enrolment Status

For the 2024/25 cohort, full-time students recorded a higher first-year persistence rate (83%) than part-time students (78%), reversing the slight part-time advantage seen in 2023/24. This five percentage-point gap was consistent with the five-year averages, which were 82% for full-time students and 78% for part-time students.







Graduation Rates for Certificate Programmes

What percentage of certificate students are graduating within two years?

Overall Certificate Graduation Rates

The 2023/24 certificate cohort is the most recent for which the normal two-year programme duration has elapsed. Approximately two in three certificate students (67%) graduated within two years, below the five-year average of 69%.

Programme Area

For the 2023/24 cohort, certificate graduation rates were highest in Kinesiology (76%) and lowest in Process Engineering (59%). Education recorded the highest five-year average graduation rate (80%), while Maritime recorded the lowest (50%).

Age-group

For the 2023/24 cohort, graduation rates were highest among certificate students aged 35+ (72%) and lowest among those aged 17–24 (63%). Students aged 25–34 retained the highest five-year average (76%).

Gender

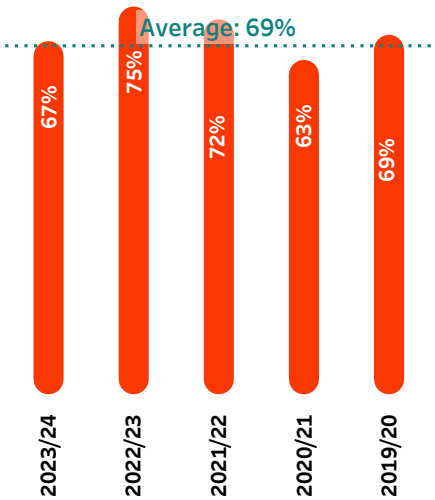
Female certificate students graduated at a higher rate than males in 2023/24 (75% vs 62%). This pattern held across five cohorts, with average rates of 78% and 63%, respectively.

Enrolment Status

For the 2023/24 cohort, part-time certificate students graduated at a higher rate than full-time students (70% vs 66%), reversing the slight full-time advantage in the five-year averages (69% versus 68%).

***White or blank spaces indicate periods with no programme intake.**

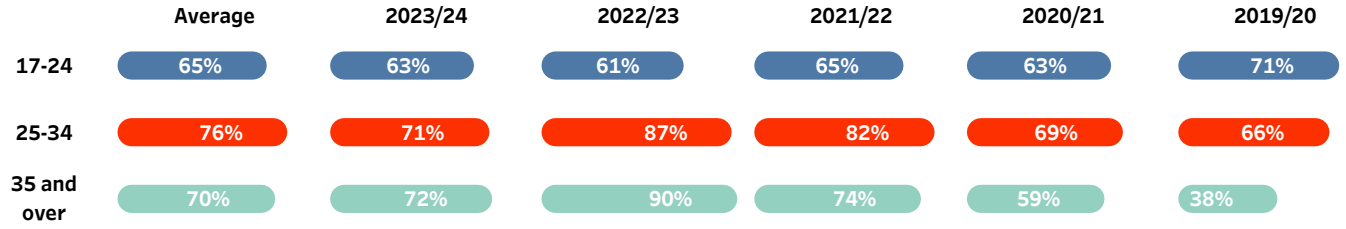
Overall graduation rate



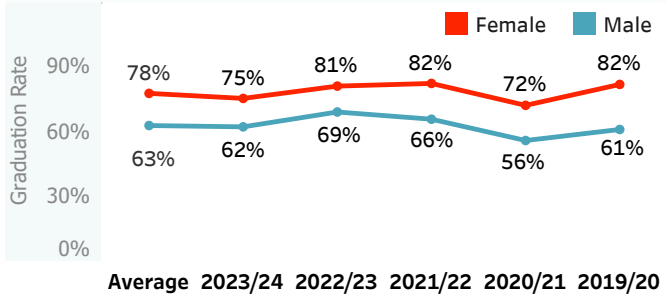
Programme area

	Average	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Education Programmes	80%	75%	80%	79%	81%	83%
Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies	74%	68%	83%	83%	44%	71%
Kinesiology, Physical Education and Sport	67%	76%	74%	72%	53%	80%
Aviation Studies	70%	64%	69%	65%	73%	77%
Criminology and Public Safety	77%		100%	50%	81%	71%
Process Engineering	63%	59%	61%	56%	75%	58%
Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing and Entreprene..	53%	67%	41%	38%	47%	63%
Maritime Studies	50%					50%

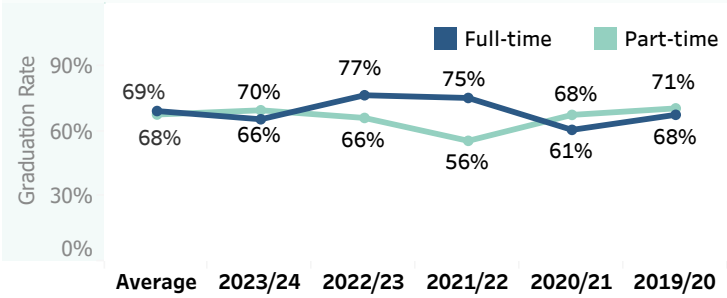
Age-group



Gender



Enrolment status



Graduation Rates for Diploma Programmes

What percentage of diploma students are graduating within four years?

Overall Diploma Graduation Rates

The 2021/22 diploma cohort is the most recent to have reached the full four-year (200%) duration. About 4 in 10 students (44%) graduated within that time, below the five-year average of 54%.

Programme Area

For the 2021/22 cohort, diploma graduation rates were highest in Health Sciences (100%) and lowest in Utilities and Sustainable Engineering (30%). Health Sciences, Maritime Studies, Performing Arts and Criminology had the highest five-year averages (above 65%), while ICT had the lowest (40%)

Age-group

For the 2021/22 cohort, students aged 17–24 had the highest graduation rate (47%), consistent with the five-year pattern.

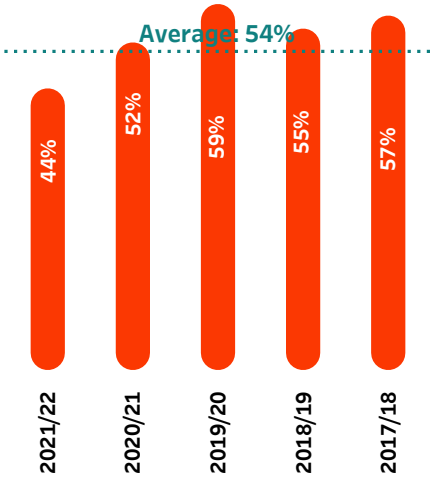
Gender

In 2021/22, female diploma students graduated at a higher rate than males (50% versus 41%). Females also had a higher five-year average (64% versus 50%).

Enrolment Status

In 2021/22, 47% of full-time diploma students graduated within four years, compared with 34% of part-time students. Full-time students also had the higher five-year average (58% versus 41%).

Overall graduation rate



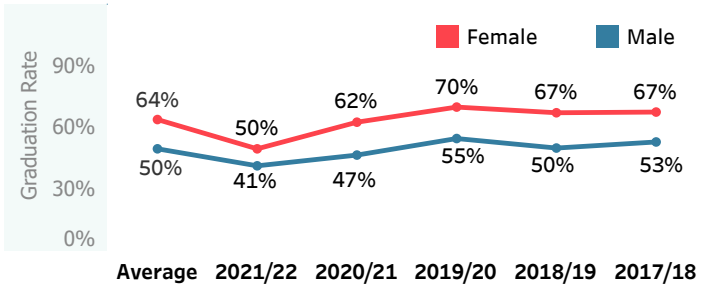
Programme area

	Average	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Health Sciences and Health Administrat..	93%	100%				87%
Energy Systems Engineering	59%	33%			60%	75%
Maritime Studies	68%	67%	63%	73%	61%	75%
Performing Arts	73%					73%
Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Tech..	60%	48%	54%	70%	69%	66%
Criminology and Public Safety	68%	79%	56%	77%	68%	57%
Process Engineering	60%	36%	58%	72%	59%	61%
Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturin..	58%	44%	48%	64%	64%	63%
Fashion and Design	64%	63%	50%	67%	63%	76%
Civil Engineering	56%	36%	67%	66%	50%	58%
Utilities and Sustainable Engineering	42%	30%	43%	49%	43%	47%
Information and Communication Techn..	40%	38%	46%	41%	38%	36%

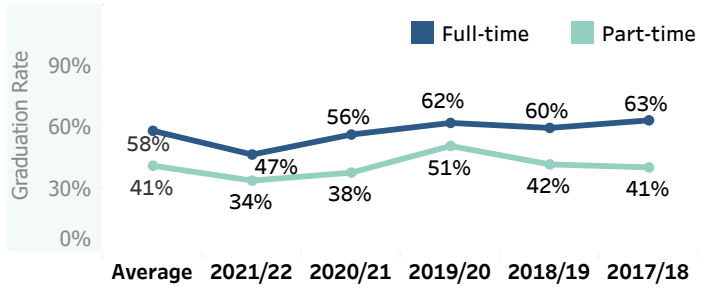
Age-group

	Average	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
17-24	57%	47%	56%	61%	56%	60%
25-34	40%	30%	37%	46%	47%	43%
35 and over	43%	43%	33%	56%	45%	35%

Gender



Enrolment status



Graduation Rates for Undergraduate Degree Programmes

What percentage of three (3) year undergraduate students are graduating within six years?

Overall Three-Year Undergraduate Degree Graduation Rates

The 2019/20 cohort is the most recent intake of students in three-year undergraduate programmes for whom six full years have passed since enrolment. This is twice the normal programme duration (200%). Nearly two-thirds (63%) graduated within that period, above the five-year average of 58%.

Programme Area

For the 2019/20 cohort, graduation rates were highest in Energy Systems Engineering (94%) and lowest in Utilities and Sustainable Engineering (48%). Kinesiology had the highest five-year average (84%), while Utilities and Sustainable Engineering had the lowest (45%).

Age-group

In the 2019/20 cohort, students aged 17–24 had the highest graduation rate for three-year undergraduate programmes (67%). This age-group also had the highest five-year average (65%).

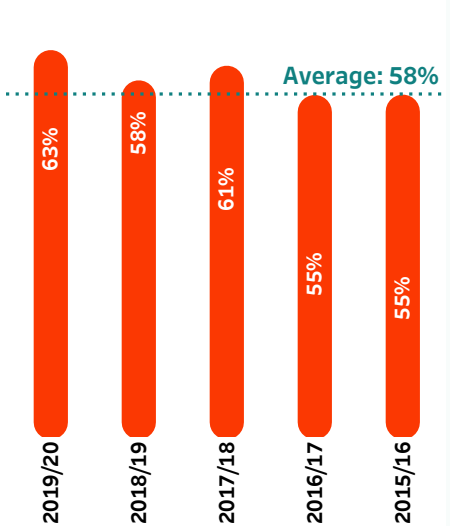
Gender

For the 2019/20 cohort, female students graduated at a higher rate than males (73% vs. 59%), a pattern consistent across the five-year period.

Enrolment Status

In 2019/20, full-time students graduated at more than twice the rate of part-time students (79% versus 38%), continuing the five-year pattern.

Overall graduation rate



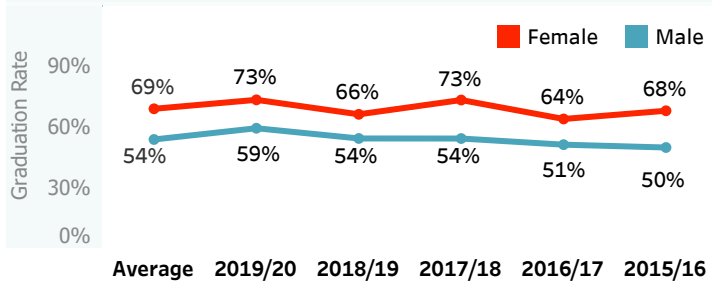
Programme area

	Average	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Kinesiology, Physical Education and ..	84%			83%	83%	89%
Biosciences, Agriculture and Food T..	78%	80%	69%	78%	70%	84%
Marine Sciences	83%			67%	94%	83%
Criminology and Public Safety	82%	69%	89%	82%	24%	78%
Health Sciences and Health Adminis..	72%			90%	63%	70%
Energy Systems Engineering	65%	94%	66%	74%	50%	58%
Process Engineering	55%	78%	53%	48%	48%	57%
Civil Engineering	50%	49%	60%	60%	46%	34%
Mechanical Engineering, Manufactu..	50%	71%	37%	54%	55%	44%
Information and Communication Tec..	50%	66%	58%	54%	51%	19%
Utilities and Sustainable Engineering	45%	48%	41%	43%	52%	43%

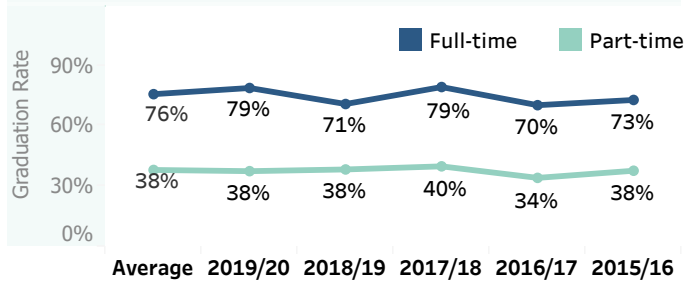
Age-group

	Average	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
17-24	65%	67%	59%	70%	65%	60%
25-34	44%	58%	56%	39%	33%	41%
35 and over	50%	50%	50%	31%	47%	60%

Gender



Enrolment status



Graduation Rates for Undergraduate Degree Programmes

What percentage of four-year undergraduate students are graduating within eight years?

Overall Four-Year Undergraduate Degree Graduation Rates

The 2017/18 cohort is the most recent four-year undergraduate intake for which eight years, twice the normal programme duration, have elapsed. Three in four students (75%) graduated within eight years, in line with the five-year average of 74%.

Programme Area

For the 2017/18 cohort, Education had the highest graduation rate (76%) and Maritime Studies the lowest (70%). Over the five year period, Fashion had the highest average rate (80%) and Performing Arts the lowest (69%).

Age-group

Students aged 17–24 had the highest graduation rate in 2017/18 (77%) and the highest five-year average.

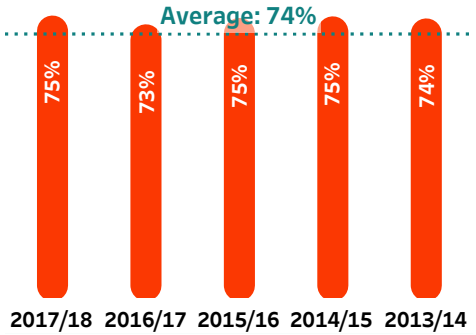
Gender

For the 2017/16 cohort, female graduation rates (77%) exceeded male rates (70%). This gender gap persisted over the five year period, with 76% for females and 68% for males.

Enrolment Status

For the 2017/18 cohort, full-time students had a slightly higher graduation rate than part-time students (76% versus 74%), consistent with the five-year averages for 2013/14 –2017/18.

Overall graduation rate



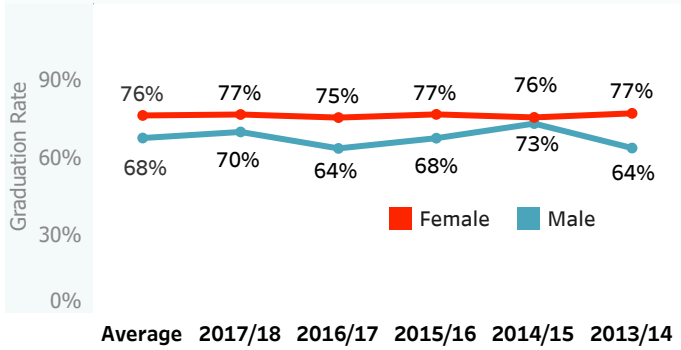
Programme area

	Average	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
Fashion and Design	80%	71%	88%	85%	80%	77%
Education Programmes	75%	76%	72%	76%	74%	77%
Maritime Studies	74%	70%	72%	86%	86%	56%
Aviation Studies	73%	74%	81%	65%		
Performing Arts	69%	72%	72%	65%	79%	60%

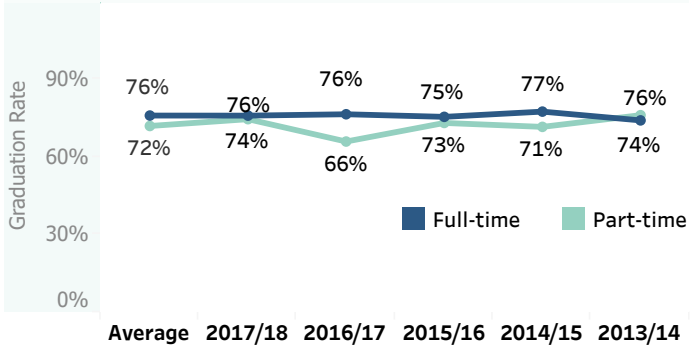
Age-group

	Average	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
17-24	75%	77%	75%	75%	76%	71%
25-34	74%	70%	66%	80%	72%	81%
35 and over	72%	72%	66%	60%	79%	78%

Gender



Enrolment status



Graduation Rates for Master's Degree Programmes

What percentage of taught master's students are graduating within four years?

Overall Taught Master's Degree Graduation Rates

The 2021/22 cohort is the most recent for which a full four-year time-frame has elapsed for programmes at the taught master's degree level. Just under half of students (43%) graduated within four years, below the five-year average of 53%.

Programme Area

For the 2021/22 cohort, Marine Sciences had the highest graduation rate (100%) and Health Sciences the lowest (28%). Marine Sciences had the highest five-year average rate at 75%, while Kinesiology and Health Sciences had the lowest (both 26%).

Age-group

For the 2021/22 cohort, master's students aged 17–24 had the highest graduation rate (72%), while those aged 35+ had the lowest (33%). A pattern consistent with the five-year averages.

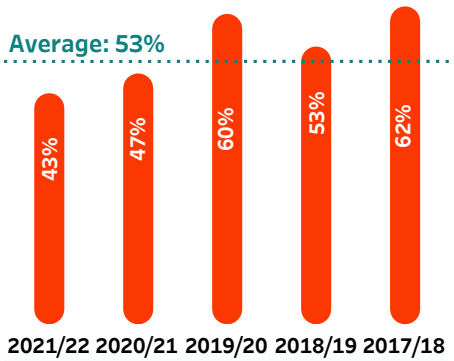
Gender

At the taught master's degree level, graduation rates differed little by gender in 2021/22 (44% for females and 43% for males), and both groups had a five-year average of 53%.

Enrolment Status

Part-time master's students had a higher graduation rate than full-time students in 2021/22 (44% versus 41%). This gap was wider in the five-year averages (54% versus 46%).

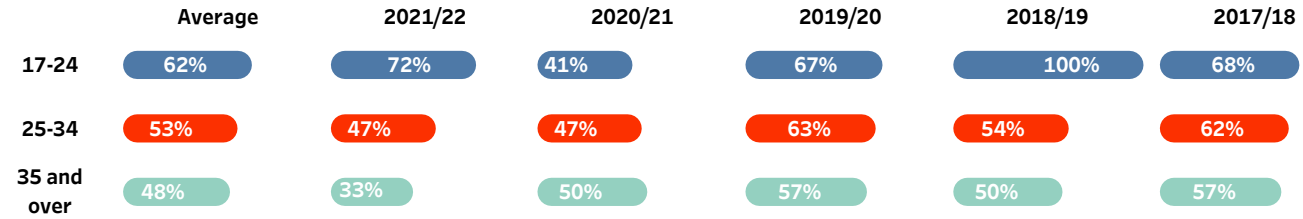
Overall graduation rate



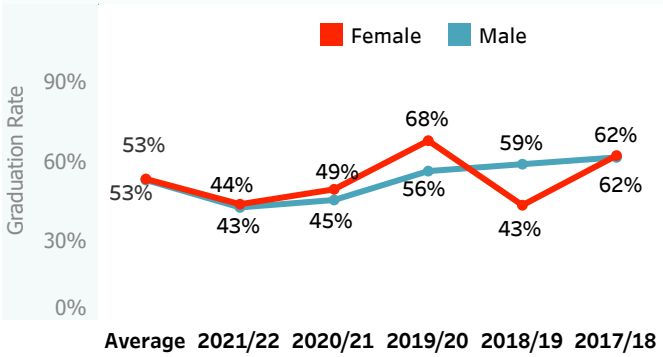
Programme area

	Average	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Environmental Studies	67%					67%
Marine Sciences	75%	100%	57%	89%		67%
Mechanical Engineering, Manuf..	73%	50%	68%	71%	78%	83%
Arts, Culture and Public Affairs	53%	50%	40%	25%	50%	88%
Energy Systems Engineering	67%	38%	67%	80%	80%	90%
Utilities and Sustainable Engine..	55%					55%
Maritime Studies	56%	52%	40%	67%	55%	56%
Education Programmes	60%	64%	61%	75%		40%
Information and Communication..	30%	33%	28%	38%	19%	36%
Health Sciences and Health Adm..	26%	28%	24%			
Kinesiology, Physical Education ..	26%	40%	11%	33%		20%

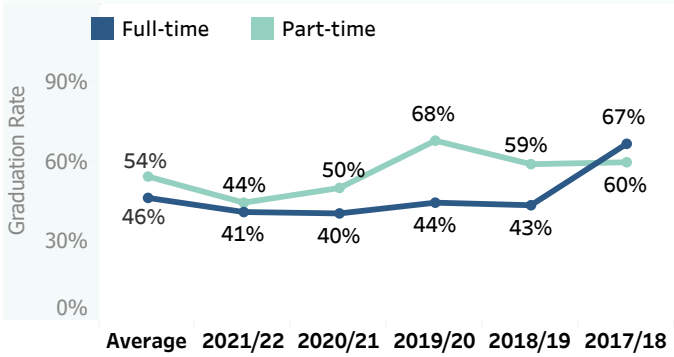
Age-group



Gender



Enrolment status



Student Persistence and Graduation at UTT

Summary and Conclusion

This report examines first-year persistence and graduation across UTT's taught programmes. First-year persistence measures whether new students re-enrol or complete in the following academic year. Graduation is measured within twice the normal full-time programme duration: two years for certificates, four for diplomas and taught master's degrees, and six or eight years for three and four-year bachelor's degrees. The latest eligible graduation cohort therefore differs by programme level.

Persistence

For the 2024/25 intake, 81% of students persisted, close to the five-year average of 80%. About one in five did not re-enrol or complete in the following year. First-year persistence was highest in bachelor's programmes (84%) and lowest in certificates (78%). Diploma persistence reached a five-year high (81%), while postgraduate persistence reached a five-year low (80%). First-year persistence rates declined with age, from 83% among students aged 17-24 to 75% among those aged 35 and over. Full-time students had a higher rate than part-time students (83% versus 78%). Rates also varied widely by programme area (38%–96%).

Graduation

For the latest eligible cohorts, graduation rates were 67% for certificates (2023/24), 44% for diplomas (2021/22), 63% for three-year bachelor's degrees (2019/20), 75% for four-year bachelor's degrees (2017/18), and 43% for taught master's degrees (2021/22). Certificate, diploma and taught master's rates were below their five-year averages of 69%, 54% and 53%, respectively. Certificate graduation fell from 75% in the preceding cohort (2022/23), and the diploma rate was the lowest in five years. Three-year bachelor's degrees exceeded their five-year average of 58%; four-year degrees remained close to theirs at 74%.

Graduation patterns also differed across student groups. Students aged 17–24 had the highest rates in the latest bachelor's and taught master's cohorts, whereas those aged 35 and over led the latest certificate cohort. Female sub-baccalaureate students had higher five-year averages than males. Part-time taught master's students had higher graduation rates than full-time students, a pattern that generally differed from other programme levels.

Conclusion

Overall first-year persistence remained stable, but this masked variations by age, programme level, enrolment status and programme area. Graduation rates for diploma and taught master's programmes fell below their five-year averages, and varied substantially across programme areas. These results identify differences in persistence and graduation across cohorts and student groups, but do not explain their causes. QA&IE will share the findings with the relevant University units to inform discussion of areas that may warrant attention and to support ongoing monitoring of student outcomes.