

# **INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING REVIEW OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

**Briefing document: statistical overview and commentary**

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# ESRC International Benchmarking Review of Human Geography

## Briefing document: statistical overview and commentary

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*May 2012*

### 1 Summary of Key Points

#### 1.1 *Research funding*

- Funding council research income totals around £31 million for 2011/12. This is higher than in other comparable disciplines, although it is unclear how much of this difference is accounted for by physical, as opposed to human geography.
- The overall quality of research, as assessed in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008 was good in relation to comparators, there being a number of high-performing departments, but also a 'tail' of institutions without a strong performance.
- Departments earned £180 million in research income for 2005/06 – 2009/10, most of which came from public bodies. Ten departments (out of 67) account for more than half of this. Average year-on-year growth in earned research income was about 11 per cent.
- The ESRC currently funds active research projects in Human Geography totalling £58 million. Human Geography has a relatively low rate of applications and has also tended to have a low success rate.
- Funding provided by ESRC is almost all allocated to pre-1992 institutions. However the distribution of funding across institutions is not a straightforward match to departmental fortunes in the RAE.
- The AHRC currently funds active research projects incorporating an element of Cultural Geography to the value of around £3.8 million. Of these projects, around £1.5 million-worth indicated that Cultural Geography was the primary subject.

#### 1.2 *Staff*

- There were around 1,935 FTE staff in the Geography 'cost centre' in 2009/10. Measured by the subject discipline in which their highest qualification was awarded, there were 1,165 FTE staff who could be classified as human geographers, of whom only 450 were within the Geography cost centre.
- Two-thirds of FTE staff are permanent. About 23 per cent were on research-only contracts in 2009/10.
- A large majority of FTE staff are in pre-1992 institutions. Most institutions have fewer than thirty FTE staff, but most staff are located in one of the larger departments (with 30 or more FTE staff).
- The age profile of staff in the Geography cost centre is relatively young.
- UK nationals form a large majority of staff in the Geography cost centre, although there is some evidence of more international recruitment among younger staff.
- Women are in a minority in the profession, especially at senior levels.
- The proportion of staff in Geography from the White British ethnic group is very high and there is little evidence that this situation is changing for younger cohorts.

### 1.3 *Students*

- Applications for undergraduate study in the discipline are close to static, with only a small growth between 2006 and 2011. The quality of accepted applicants in terms of their qualifications is quite high.
- Undergraduate student numbers are also relatively static, with growth over the period 2005/06 – 2010/11 largely restricted to non-UK students, of whom there remain quite low numbers.
- Postgraduate numbers are also effectively static. Masters courses have seen strong growth but full-time research student numbers have increased little. There are a handful of very large postgraduate departments and a much greater number of small-medium sized ones. Not all the research-intensive departments have large numbers of postgraduates.
- The number of doctorates awarded in Human and Social Geography has fluctuated across the period 2006/07 – 2010/11, with no apparent trend evident.

### 1.4 *Careers*

- Human and Social Geography graduates' unemployment rate is slightly lower than the overall average from all subjects and those for Sociology and Politics.
- Human and Social Geography PhD graduates appear less likely to enter academia as lecturers or researchers than graduates in comparator subjects. However the number of doctoral graduates is not large enough to make any confident claim in this regard.

### 1.5 *Overall*

- Meaningfully describing Human Geography is beset with categorical difficulties if using existing higher education statistics. It is not always possible, nor justifiable, to separate out physical and human strands.
- Geography has a strong research profile in the RAE and from research income, but it is not clear how far this is related specifically to human geography.
- Student numbers are steady; the quality of entrants is high, but this is not necessarily reflected in immediate graduate outcomes.

## **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in this document are those of the author alone and should not be taken to represent those of the Economic and Social Research Council, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), the Higher Education Statistics Agency or the University of York.

## **Important note on naming conventions**

The convention used in this document is to capitalise categories which are proper names, as employed by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, funding and research councils. Where referring to disciplines in general, lower case is used.

## 2 The scope of this document

The purpose of this briefing document is to provide background statistical information on human geography in UK higher education in support of the ESRC/RGS (with IBG) international benchmarking review of the discipline.

Geography is one of a small number of disciplines which straddle broad subject areas and as such presents particular challenges to anyone wishing to make sense of it or divide into component parts such as 'physical' and 'human' geography, at least in the available statistics. Human Geography, as conceived in the ESRC's categorisation of disciplines does not readily map onto classifications and categorisations of geography for other purposes. Where and how human geography appears in statistics varies across agencies (and in some cases over time too):

- in classifying student and applicant numbers (separate categories exist for Human and Social Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences in the 'Joint Academic Coding System' - JACS: L7 and F8 respectively)
- research performance (RAE Unit of Assessment: 32 Geography and Environmental Studies)
- higher education institution income and expenditure and staff numbers (HESA cost centre 28 Geography)
- research council funding (ESRC funds Human Geography; AHRC funds Cultural Geography; NERC funds physical geography but does not have a separate category for it).

The capacity to draw out separate insights for human geography varies across these areas. However even where there are separate categories, there are known issues in relation to the feasibility of assigning activity (say a module on an undergraduate degree or an entire masters programme) to either Human and Social Geography or Physical Geographical Sciences when the department concerned views their provision in a more integrated way, as may be the case at undergraduate level in particular. Additionally, there are more bureaucratic issues, as the allocation of particular HESA codes of L7 or F8 is not necessarily consistent across, or even within institutions. This means that caution is required in interpreting the statistics specifically about Human (and Social) Geography.

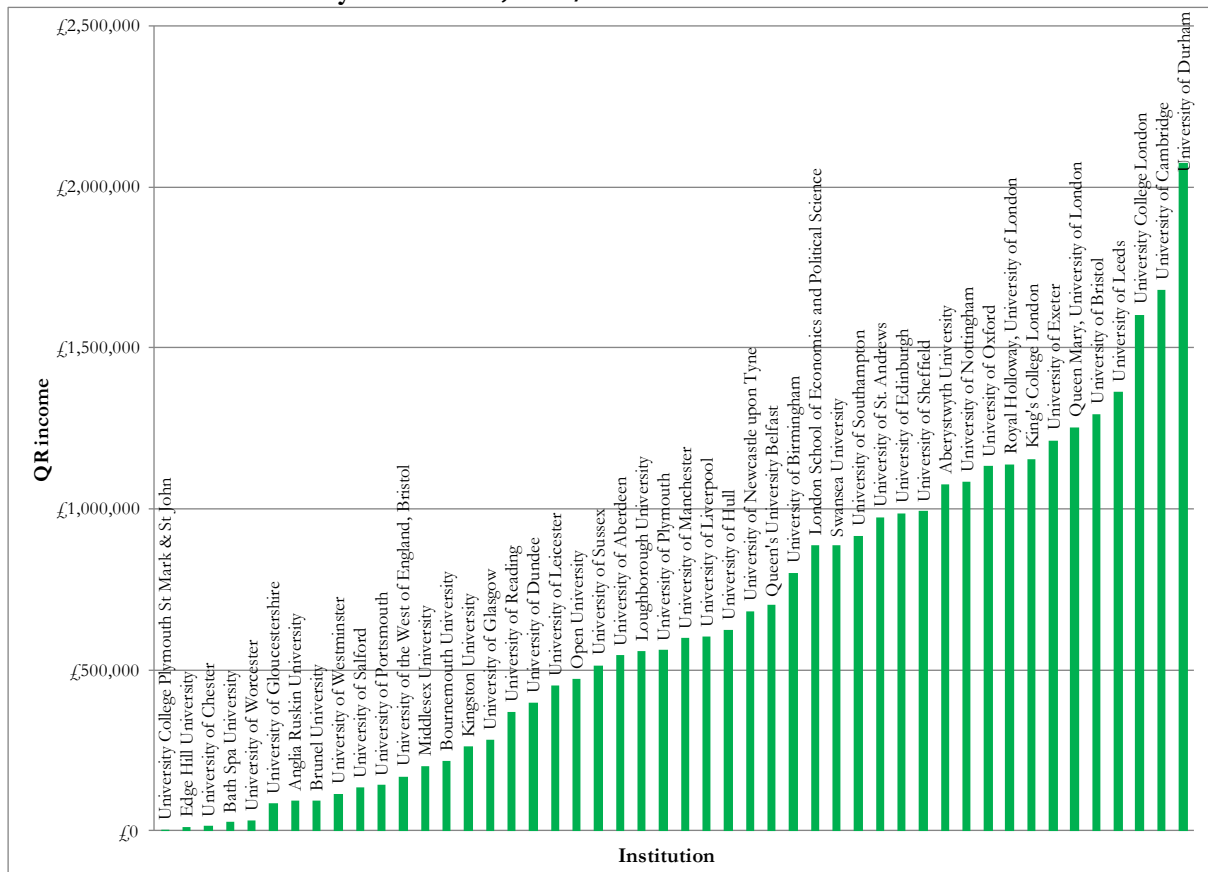
### 3 Research funding

#### 3.1 'Core' research funding

The UK's funding for research operates through a 'dual' system. Recurrent support for research infrastructure and capacity is channelled through the higher education funding councils on the basis of past performance and volume of research-active staff. Research grants for specific projects, often related to specific targets, priorities and themes, are provided on a competitive basis through the research councils and other bodies. Responsive-mode project research in human geography is largely funded through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), although some is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The 'core' funding element for research has been increasingly selectively allocated with the advent of periodic Research Assessment Exercises (RAEs), beginning in 1986 and recurring periodically. The Research Excellence Framework (REF), which is a development of the RAE, will replace it in 2014. Although the precise details of each RAE and the REF vary, all comprise the assessment of the quality of research in different subjects by an expert panel. The panel reviews the research outputs and environment of departments and assigns a grade. In the RAE 2008, there was no distinction made between human and physical geography in the categorisation of subjects, or 'units of assessment' (UoA). Human geography was included in the unit of assessment 'Geography and Environmental Studies'. It should also be noted that some institutions which employ geographers and teach programmes in geography decided not to enter these staff in the exercise at all in 2008. Some entered geographers under different UoAs.

**Figure 3.1: Quality-related funding council research income for Geography and Environmental Studies by institution, 2011/12**

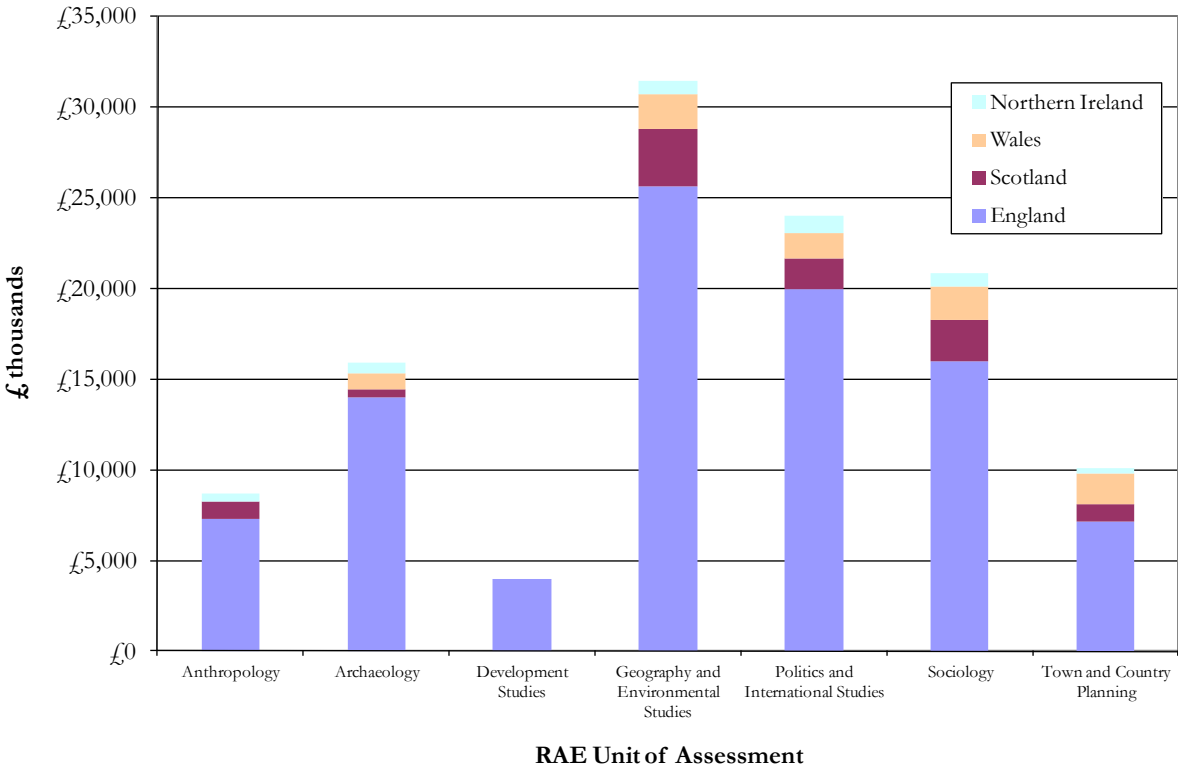


Sources: HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW, DELNI

The highest-scoring geography departments in the 2008 RAE were based in ‘old’ universities (which achieved their university status before 1992). The top-ranked ‘new’ university was Plymouth (27<sup>th</sup> out of 50) and only eight old universities were in the bottom half of the grade distribution (with none in the bottom ten). The consequence of this grade distribution is shown in Figure 3.1: a small number of institutions accrue a large proportion of the total ‘quality related’ (‘QR’) funding available in the discipline. One quarter of the total pot is taken by just five out of 48 institutions, with half accounted for by just 12. The University of Durham alone attracts more QR funding than the bottom 16 institutions added together.

As mentioned above, institutions can be selective about which staff they choose to include in their RAE return and indeed which UoAs to submit to. The number of full-time equivalent staff in each UoA is far from being a reliable indication of the number of academic staff in a discipline, nor even the number of research-active staff. In the 2001 RAE there were 62 submissions in the ‘Geography’ UoA; the expansion of scope of the UoA for 2008 to incorporate Environmental Studies nonetheless resulted in a decline to just 49 submissions. However the total FTE staff returned as ‘Category A’ in Geography/Geography and Environmental Studies differed very little from RAE 2001 (1,188) to 2008 (1,120).

**Figure 3.2 Quality-related funding council research income for selected disciplines by home nation, 2011/12<sup>1</sup>**



Sources: HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW, DELNI

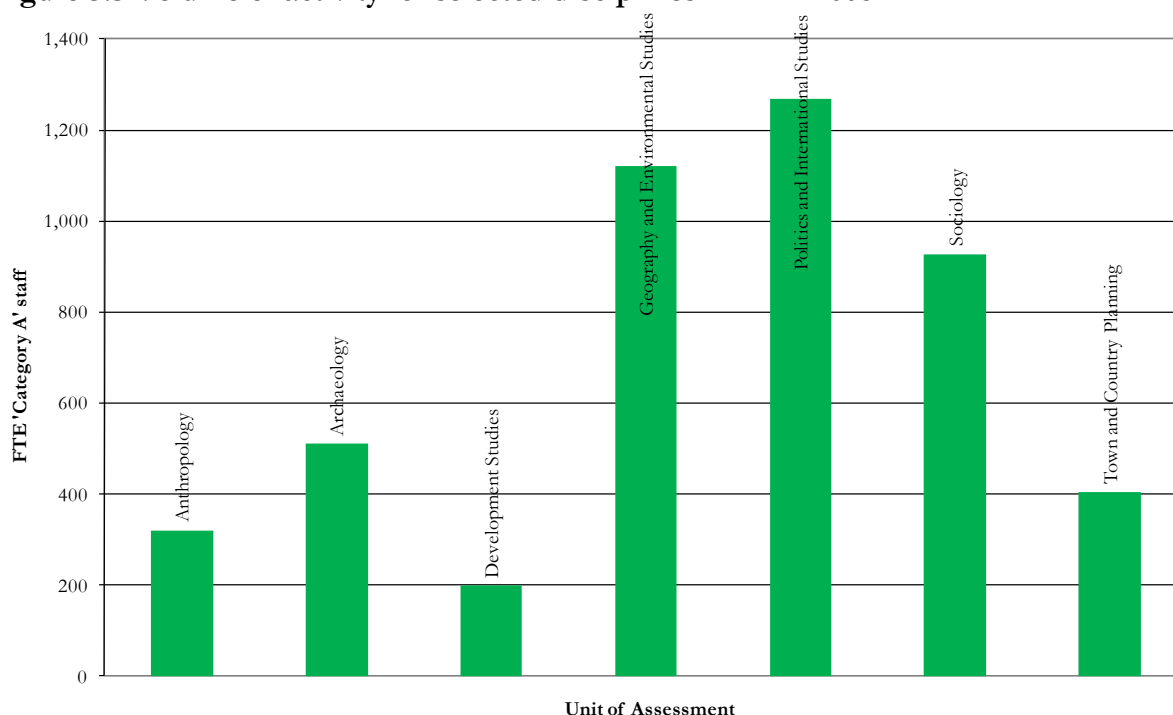
Geography does better than all its main comparators in terms of funding council support for its research (see Figure 3.2). Although it is not possible to determine precisely what contribution human geography makes to this result, the RAE panel for 2008 stated that about half of assessed outputs could be considered to be human geography. It is worth noting too that the QR funding

<sup>1</sup> From 2011, HEFCE has designated Geography and Environmental Studies as part-science for cost purposes, generating a small additional amount of funding.



model is essentially supply-side led: funding is driven largely by the ‘volume’<sup>2</sup> of research activity in a discipline and its relative quality in comparison to other subjects, with an adjustment for the underlying cost base (i.e. science, part-science etc). Although the most successful departments in attracting QR funding are based in England, there is a reasonable distribution of performance across the four UK nations, with several institutions in Scotland, Wales and both of the Northern Irish universities attracting substantial QR funding. Comparison on the basis of (weighted) QR unit-funding shows that in England, Geography receives a slightly higher unit of resource than all its comparator subjects.

**Figure 3.3 Volume of activity for selected disciplines in RAE 2008**



Source: RAE 2008

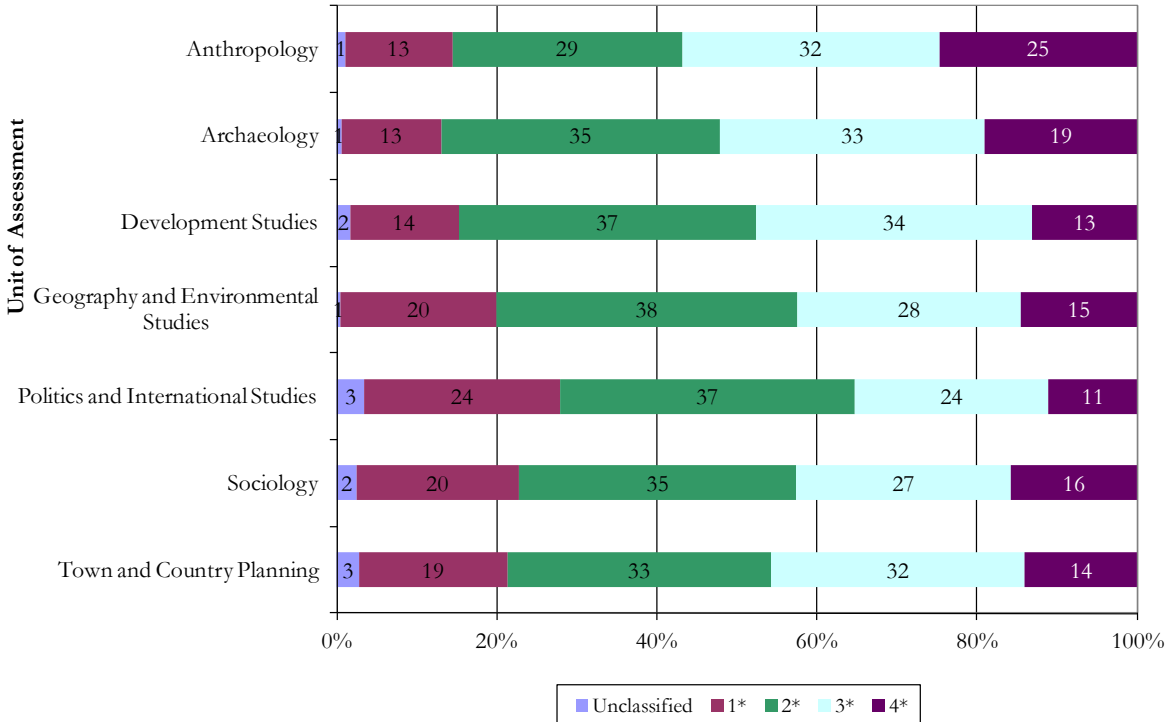
To put these figures into context, it is worth briefly considering the ‘quality profile’ and size of Geography and Environmental Studies in comparison to similar disciplines from the 2008 RAE (see Figures 3.3 and 3.4). It is a little smaller than Politics and International Studies and a little larger than Sociology in terms of number of FTE staff submitted to RAE 2008. Again, it is difficult to ascertain what proportion of these staff are human geographers. We might assume that some physical geographers have been put together with geologists and other earth scientists in the UoA Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences. Psychology, another UoA which straddles the sciences and social sciences, is much larger than Geography and Environmental Studies in terms of research active staff.

Geography and Environmental Studies appears to fare reasonably well against comparators when looking at the assessed quality of research submitted to RAE 2008. The proportion of ‘outputs’

<sup>2</sup> Volume here refers to the number of FTE ‘category A’ staff returned in a UoA. Category ‘A’ roughly equates to a member of academic staff in a ‘typical’ role (teaching and research contract, funded by funding council general funds rather than a research grant).

classified as 3\* or 4\* is lower than its smaller-sized comparator disciplines.<sup>3</sup> However results are slightly better than for the similarly-sized disciplines of Politics and International Studies, and Sociology. The replacement of a single overall score for a department used in RAE 2001 with a grade profile in RAE 2008 has led to a shift in outcomes as ‘pockets’ or ‘islands of excellence’ in departments which formerly achieved a lower grade have now been identified. A few departments which did not submit in 2001 did so in 2008; conversely quite a few departments which submitted in 2001 were missing in 2008. Some 64 HEIs offer a single-honours geography undergraduate degree for 2012 entry (source: UCAS website), so it would appear that although in 2001 most institutions offering geography submitted their staff to the RAE, in 2008 many of those obtaining a lower score in 2001 opted not to submit under the Geography and Environmental Studies UoA.

**Figure 3.4: Quality profiles, RAE 2008**



Source: RAE 2008

Figure 3.5 provides an alternative view of geography’s profile of research quality. It is a box-and-whisker plot of the unweighted ‘grade point average’ obtained by institutions in Geography and Environmental Studies and comparator UoAs. The GPA represents the mean score obtained by an institution in a unit of assessment. The diagram therefore indicates the spread of quality in a discipline, as measured by the RAE. It shows, for instance, that there was a greater range of departmental scores in Politics and International Studies than in Anthropology. Most Geography

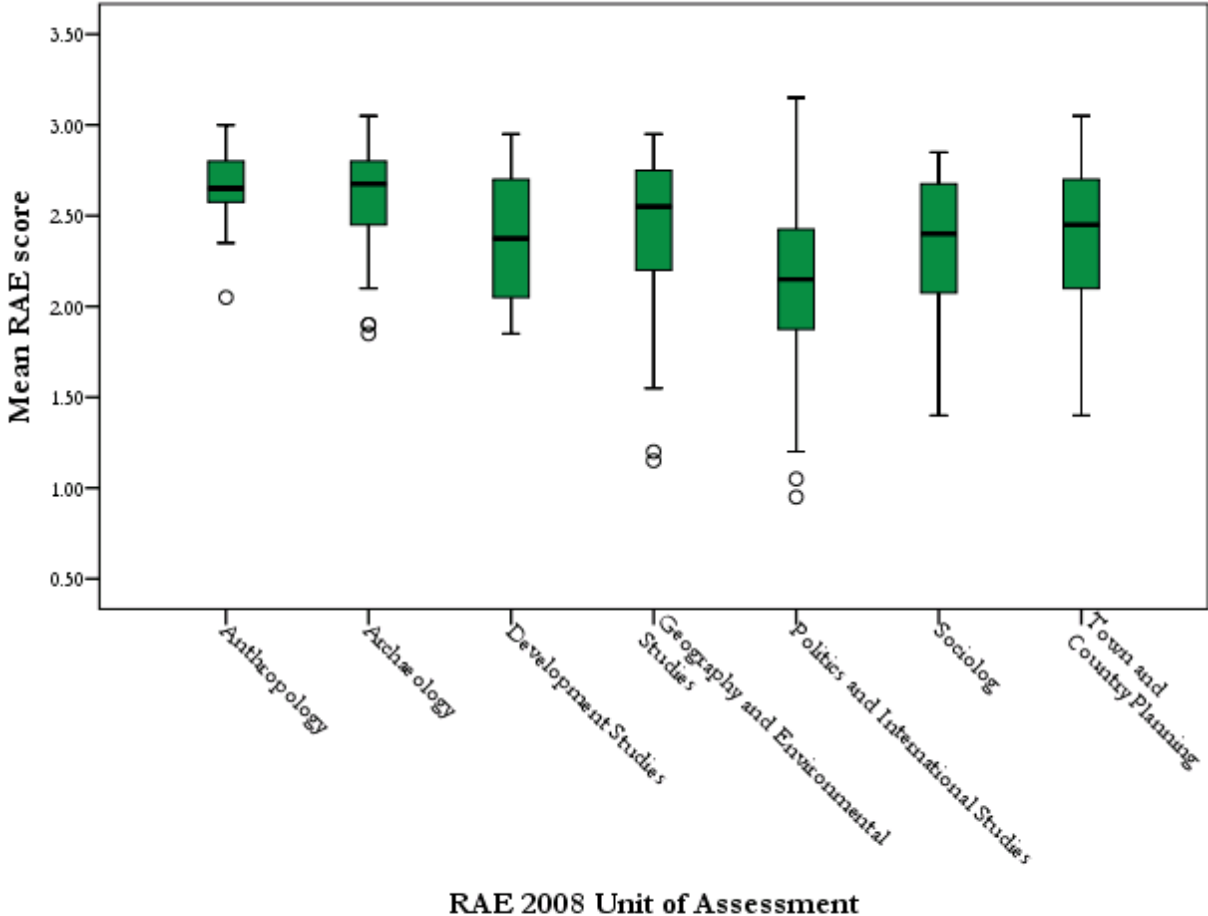
<sup>3</sup> The star ratings used in RAE 2008 carry the following descriptions:

- 4\* Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- 3\* Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which nonetheless falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
- 2\* Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- 1\* Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

Although these criteria are consistent across UoAs, there was no normalisation of scores across panels. There may therefore have been variation in the interpretation and application of the criteria across UoAs. Caution is required in judging whether differences in grading profiles across UoAs reflect genuine differences in the research performance of different disciplines.

and Environmental Studies departments scored GPAs between about 2.10 and 2.95. There were five departments at the top of the grade distribution all gaining GPAs of 2.95 (Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Oxford and Queen Mary). There was a tail of departments scoring between 1.15 and about 1.85, with the two bottom-performing departments classed as outliers in the boxplot. Geography’s mean research quality though is higher than its similarly-sized comparators. The apparently stronger performance in some of the smaller-sized disciplines may be an effect of concentration, but it may also reflect differences in application of criteria across panels (seen note 4)

**Figure 3.5: Distribution of mean grades across institution, by Unit of Assessment, RAE 2008**

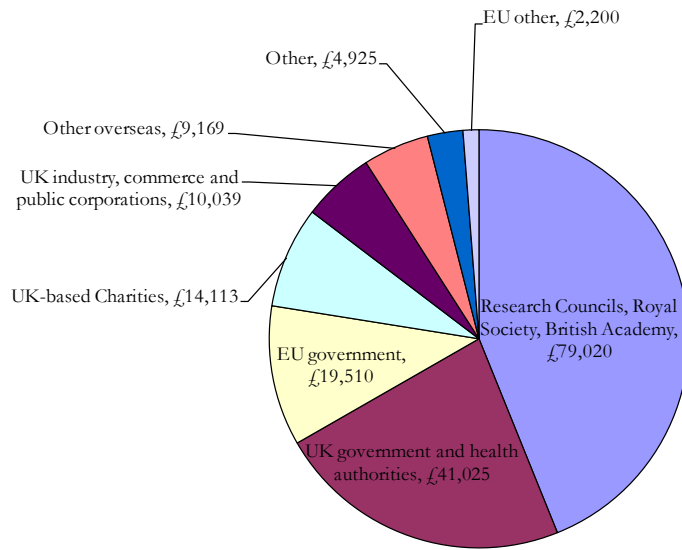


Source: RAE 2008

3.2 *Research grants from other sources*

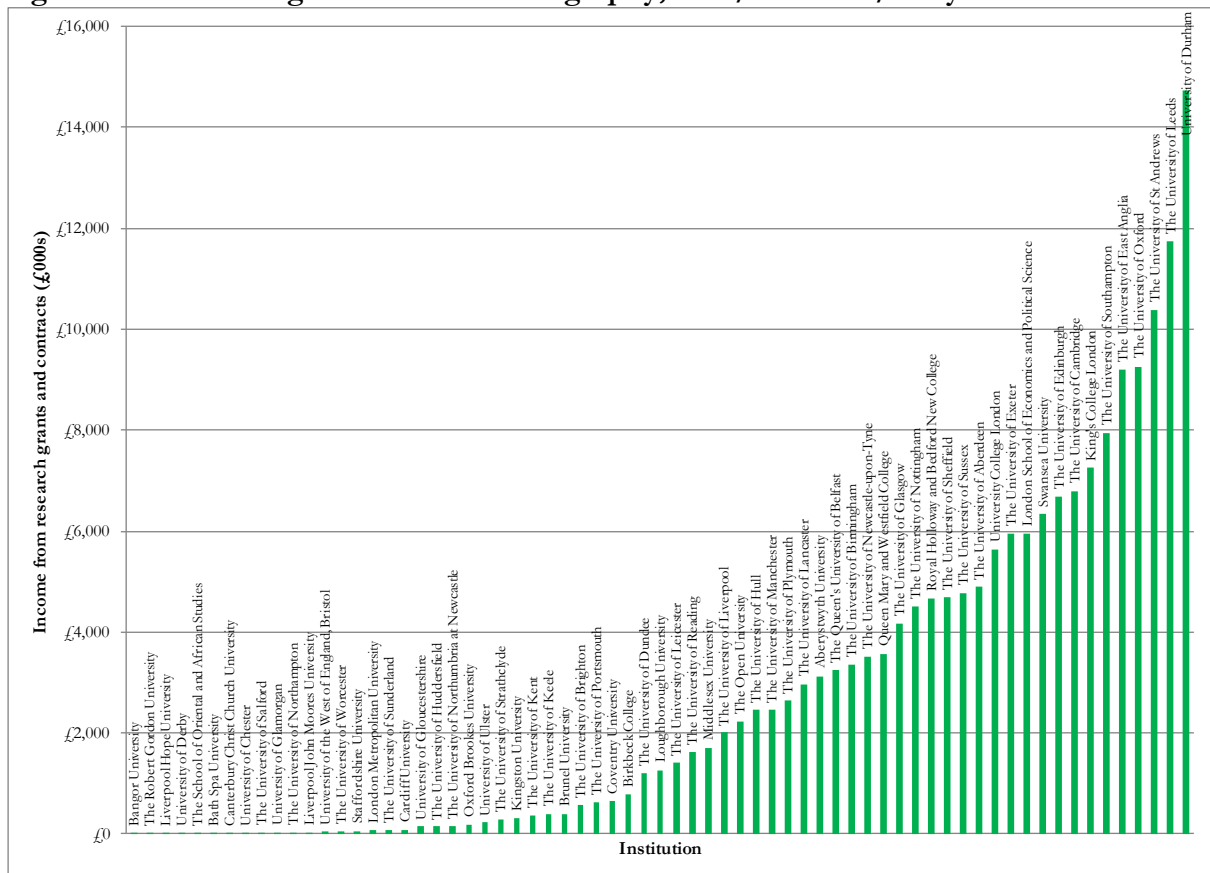
Funding council research income is intended to support research infrastructure and the research environment. Funding for specific research projects in geography where there are direct costs (e.g. research staff) comes from various other sources, including the research councils, government bodies, charitable trusts and industry, with some funding coming from overseas. HESA specifically collects research grant and contract income data for the ‘cost centre’ of Geography. Again, it is not clear what proportion of this activity is attributable to human geography. Comparison with other disciplines is also tricky because anthropology, sociology and politics are subsumed within a single Social Studies cost centre.

Figure 3.6: Sources of research income for Geography, 2005/06 – 2009/10 (£'000s)



Source: HESA Finance Record 2005/06 - 2009/10

Figure 3.7: Research grant income in Geography, 2005/06 – 2009/10 by institution



Source: HESA Finance Record 2005/06 – 2009/10

According to HESA, total non-QR research income for Geography for the five year period 2005/06 – 2009/10 was just over £180 million. The total for 2009/10 was £42.6 million, which compares to annual QR for 2010/11 of about £31.4 million. The largest single source of research income in Geography was the UK research councils, representing just over two-fifths of the total. A further fifth of earned research income came from other UK government bodies, with another fifth from UK government and health authorities. Year-on-year growth in research grant income averaged about 11 per cent between 2005/06 and 2009/10, with overall growth across the period of 53 per cent. Proportionally the largest growth in income has come from ‘other overseas’ sources, which almost tripled across the period, although these account for only five per cent of the total. Most of the absolute growth in research income has come from the research councils. Income from UK government and health authorities declined by ten per cent between 2005/06 and 2009/10.

As with QR, there is a heavily skewed distribution of the research income across individual departments. More than half of the total is accounted for by ten out of the 67 institutions which earned research income; the top four departments alone earned one-quarter of the total. A correlation coefficient was calculated for departments between QR for 2010/11 and earned research income for 2009/10). A strong positive association is seen ( $r^2 = 0.83$ ). A scatter plot was fitted to the same data which showed a little variation around the line of best fit, but with only a few outliers. Both University College London and the University of Cambridge secured less research grant and contract income than their QR income would predict. On the other hand, the University of East Anglia secured over £9 million in research grant income but no QR (presumably because researchers were submitted under another UoA).

## 4 Research Council-Funded Research in Human Geography

### 4.1 Funding for human geographers

Geography as a discipline spans the natural and social sciences and often the categories used in official statistics do not allow for a disaggregation of physical and human geography. This is perhaps less of a problem for research-council-funded research, where physical geography is largely under the remit of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), with human geography catered for by ESRC. The AHRC funds some cultural geography.

### 4.2 ESRC funding

As at 1 March 2012, the ESRC's portfolio of active projects in Human Geography comprised 111 separate grants amounting to around £58.2 million in total.<sup>4</sup> A breakdown of this activity is given in Table 4.1. Full details are provided in Appendix 1. As the table shows, the Council funds a range of different kinds of research activity in Human Geography. This includes:

- 'Responsive mode' grants in 'large', 'standard' and 'first' grants versions.
- Professorial and Research Fellowships.
- Joint research programmes with other funders (including the Department for International Development and overseas research councils).
- Support for knowledge dissemination and exchanges activities, including research seminars.
- Programmatic research and research infrastructure.

**Table 4.1: Current ESRC-funded research projects in Human Geography**

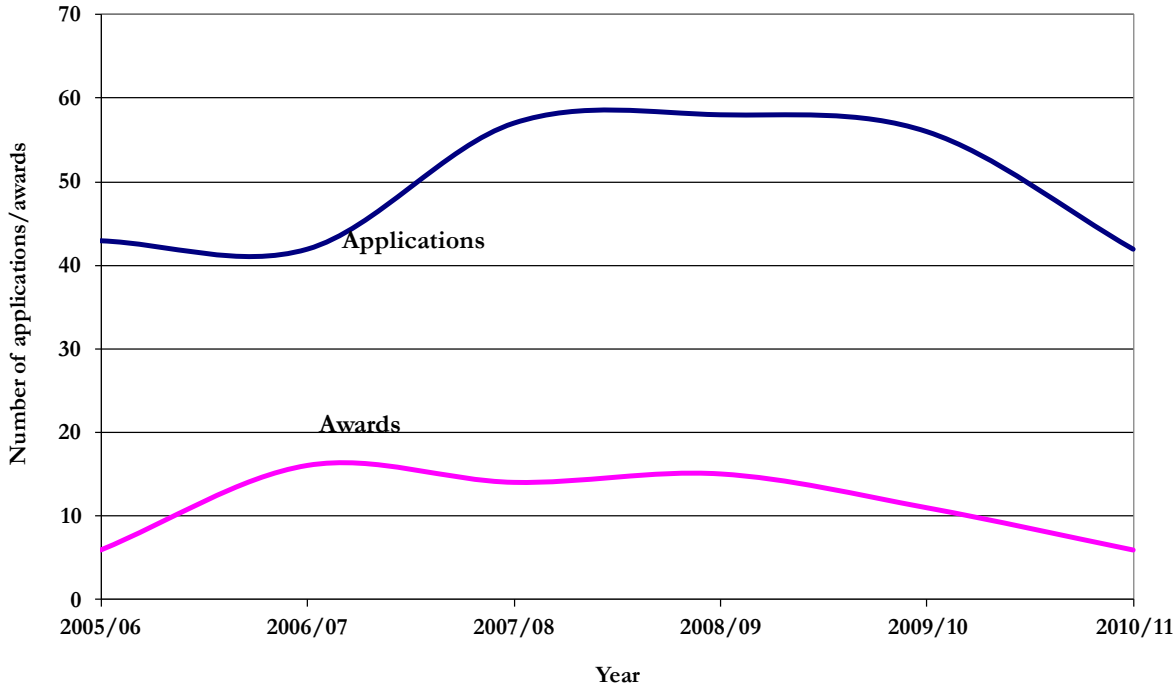
Project type	No. of projects	Funding
Research centres	4	£17,687,568
Research grants (first, small, standard, large)	41	£15,945,110
Research infrastructure projects	17	£11,162,887
Specific initiatives	16	£7,833,661
Collaborative funding schemes	12	£3,063,126
Research fellowships	14	£2,423,480
Research seminars competition	7	£117,666
<i>Total</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>£58,233,498</i>

Source: ESRC

Forty different institutions were hosting funded projects, although only three of the total 111 grants were at post-1992 universities; unlike in some other fields (e.g. Economics, Politics and International Relations), no non-higher-education-sector bodies held an award. Interestingly, the institutions featuring prominently in the ESRC awards list differ quite markedly from those for

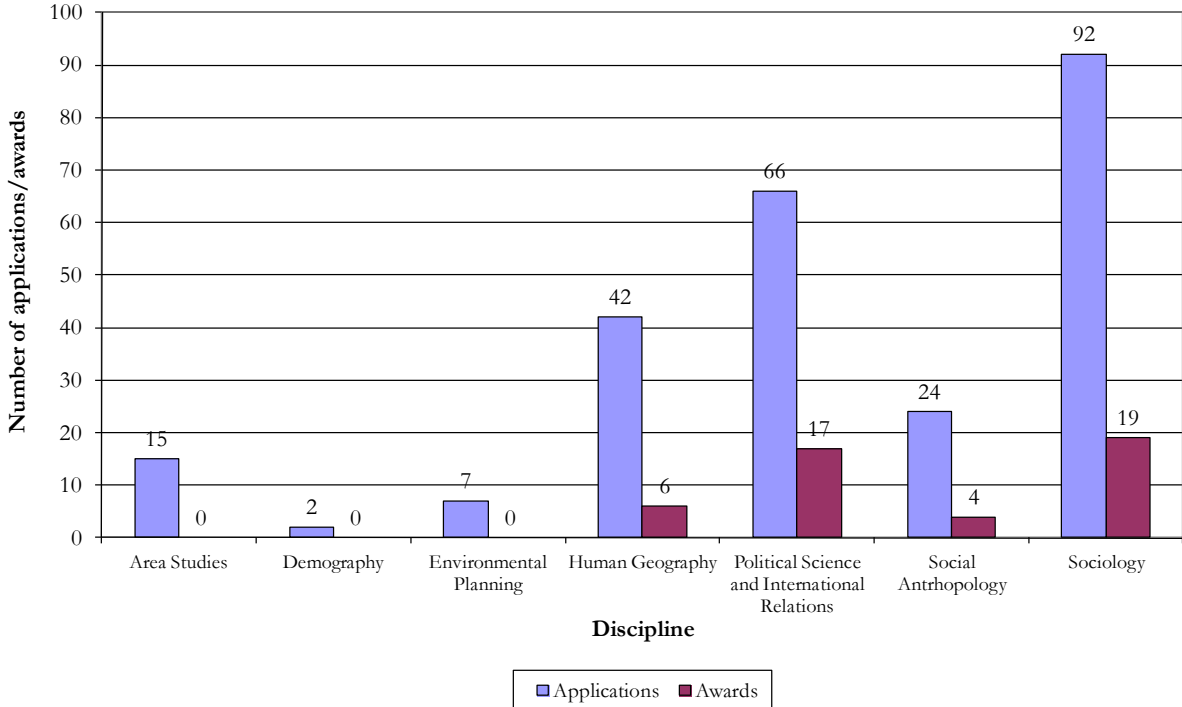
<sup>4</sup> This is not the recurrent annual spend, but rather the sum of the total value of 'live' projects.

Figure 4.1: ESRC funding opportunities in Human Geography - applications and awards



Source: ESRC Annual Reports 2006/07 and 2010/11

Figure 4.2: ESRC funding opportunities – standard and small grant applications and awards by discipline, 2010/11



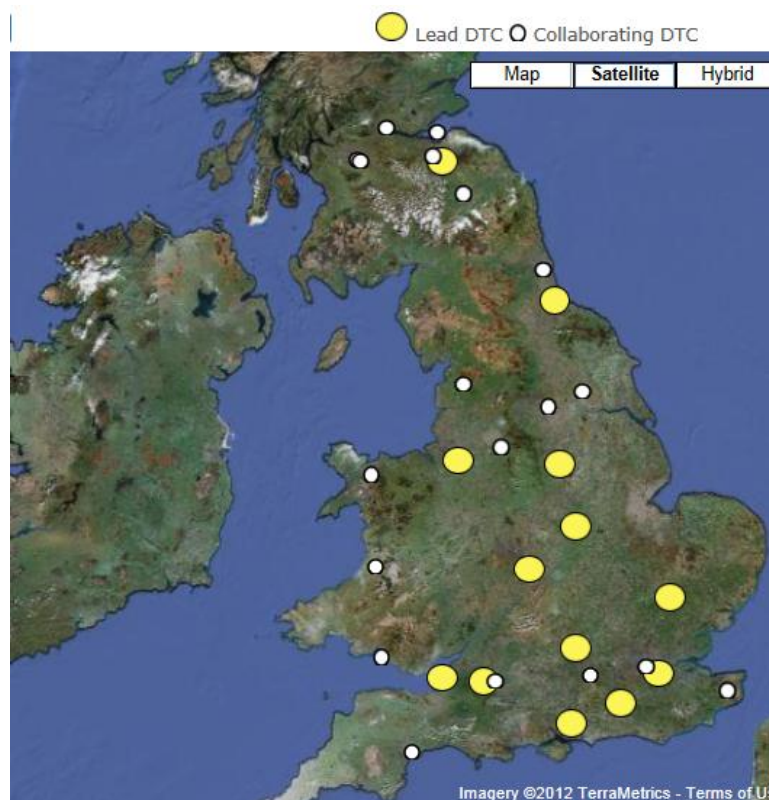
Source: ESRC Annual Report 2010/11

Geography in the RAE. Cardiff University is the single most frequently-appearing institution, with nine awards in Human Geography; it does not appear in the 2008 RAE for Geography however. Closer investigation shows that Cardiff’s human geographers have been submitted in other social science UoAs (e.g. in Sociology). Only two of the RAE top six institutions is also in

the ESRC top six (Leeds and Oxford). Looking instead at the value, rather than number of projects, Birmingham, Cambridge, Manchester, Oxford and Southampton all have over £0.5 million of active projects.

Human Geography's success rate for ESRC grant applications has shown some fluctuation over the period 2005/06 to 2010/11 (see Figure 4.1), peaking at 38 per cent in 2006/07, then declining to 14 per cent at the end of the period. The number of awards made in both 2005/06 and 2010/11 was very small (six). It is not clear to what extent 2010/11 was a 'blip' since there was some consistency in both application and award numbers from 2007/08 to 2009/10. Success rates of applications to the ESRC in all subjects have declined somewhat across the period, largely it would seem thanks to an increase in applications without a commensurate rise in the overall funding available to ESRC. Human Geography accounted for around five per cent of ESRC grant applications in 2010/11, making it the eighth largest source of applications (out of 19 categories).

**Figure 4.3: Geographical distribution of ESRC Doctoral Training Centres for Human Geography<sup>5</sup>**



Source: ESRC website

ESRC studentship awards in Human Geography departments are not strictly research income, since they are as much about research *training* as about original contributions to knowledge. The ESRC has considerably changed the way it distributes and manages studentships over the past decade, moving from an open competition, through allocation of quotas to departments for a set period to the current 'Doctoral Training Centre' (DTC) model. ESRC now provides a tranche of funding to a DTC,<sup>6</sup> devolving allocation of studentships and distribution across disciplines to the DTCs themselves, within defined limits. This makes it difficult to determine exactly how many

<sup>5</sup> For reasons of space, this image does not show the University of Aberdeen, which is part of the Scottish Consortium DTC.

<sup>6</sup> Most DTCs are made up of consortia of institutions.



studentships are available for Human Geography in a given year (indeed one aim of the DTC model is to give institutions latitude over the allocation of studentships across disciplines, including in interdisciplinary areas – although there are overall targets). The geographical distribution of the DTCs offering provision in Human Geography, which is shown in Figure 4.3.<sup>7</sup>

### 4.3 AHRC funding

The AHRC provides funding for the ‘sub-discipline’ of Cultural Geography and cognate topics. As is evident from the titles of the projects which AHRC funds (see Appendix), much of this work has an interdisciplinary tenor, encompassing human geography, history, architecture, cultural studies and other disciplines. Much work is funded under the Connected Communities programme where two of the first three large grants incorporate an element of Cultural Geography. As with other areas in this report, categorisation is problematic and here relies on the disciplines nominated by principal investigators for their grants. This can lead to anomalies, with projects which might, on the basis of the location of their lead researcher (e.g. in a geography department) instead not attracting this label. Table 4.2 summarises the current active grants by type of project.

**Table 4.2: Current AHRC-funded research projects in Cultural Geography (including where designated as primary subject)**

Project type	No. of projects		Funding	
	Total	(Primary)	Total	(Primary)
Communities, Culture and Creative Economy	1	-	£1,221,676	-
Research Grants (Early Career)	5	5	£702,878	£702,878
Research Grants (Standard)	2	1	£518,698	£292,116
Follow-on Fund	5	-	£348,556	-
Collaborative Doctoral	6	4	£331,500	£223,000
Development Grants	14	-	£220,184	-
Programme Direct Impact Fellows	1	1	£158,412	£158,412
Fellowships	1	1	£82,147	£82,147
Research Networking	1	-	£29,272	-
REC Networks	1	1	£24,414	£24,414
Public Engagement CRT (Specialist)	1	-	£10,838	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>£3,794,870</i>	<i>£1,482,967</i>

Source: ESRC

<sup>7</sup> Studentships in Northern Irish institutions are funded by the Northern Ireland Assembly government.

## 5 Staff Demographics

Investigating staff demographics for Human Geography is beset by the same difficulties of categorisation which apply to the RAE and to student numbers. Categorisation is by ‘cost centre’ (and hence related to accounting practice), where the relevant category is ‘Geography’. Interdisciplinary comparisons using cost centres are considerably blunter than would be ideal, especially since many social science disciplines (including Anthropology, Sociology and Politics) are collapsed into a single cost centre (‘Social Studies’). To supplement cost centre data, it has also been possible to approximate the ‘home’ discipline of a member of academic staff, based on the reported field of study of their highest qualification, which for many will be their doctorate.

### 5.1 Overall numbers

Based on cost centre figures, Geography appears to be a small-to-medium-sized discipline. One can speculate, on the basis of student numbers and research activity, that it is similar in size to Politics and Sociology, but it is difficult to be precise due to the aggregation of these two subjects within the Social Studies cost centre. An alternative measure of the number of human geographers in higher education – the subject discipline of highest qualification – is a useful, if again somewhat crude indicator. HESA data shows 1,165 FTE staff with a primary discipline of Human and Social Geography using this measure, of whom only 450 are within the Geography cost centre. This means that only about one-quarter of staff in the Geography cost centre are categorised as human geographers if using their highest qualification as the classifier. It also means that many human geographers are working outside geography departments – more than two-thirds of them in fact. Seventy are listed in Architecture, Built Environment and Planning; 130 in Social Studies, five in Archaeology, with over 500 in other, unspecified cost centres. Mills *et al.*<sup>8</sup> classified geography as an ‘importer’ discipline, but this judgement may have been confounded by the boundary and category issues previously discussed. On the grounds that so many human geographers appear to be located outside geography departments, it would seem reasonable to reclassify human geography as an ‘exporter’ discipline in Mills *et al.*'s terms. Of course using only the subject discipline of highest qualification as a classifier assumes that only those with a PhD classified as Human and Social Geography are human geographers. In reality those who consider themselves human geographers will include many who have qualifications from other disciplines.

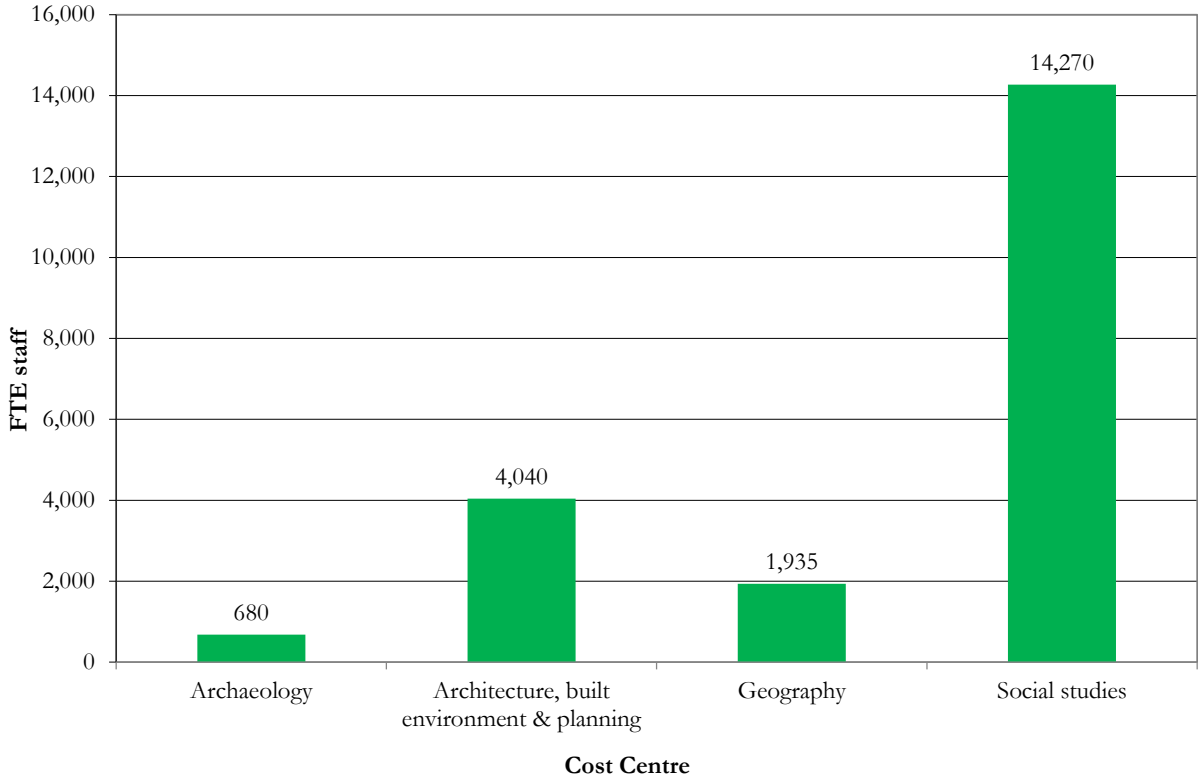
Two-thirds of FTE staff in Geography are employed on permanent contracts, very slightly lower than in Social Studies. Although the proportion of permanent staff in a discipline bears some relationship to the proportion of staff that are research-only (i.e. research assistants and similar, who are much more likely to be fixed-term than those engaged in teaching and research), there is still some variation across the cost centres. Twelve per cent of staff are research-only in Social Studies, compared to 23 per cent in Geography.

A large majority (85 per cent) of FTE staff in Geography in 2009/10 were located in pre-1992 universities. The mean FTE staff across all institutions was 29, but with a standard deviation of 24. However about four-fifths of the FTE staff were in the larger units (more than 29). In other words, several of the units are quite small and there is some degree of concentration of personnel. The largest institutional cost centres for Geography measured using the HESA data are at the University of Durham and the LSE, both of which have over 80 FTE staff. Seven other institutions (University of East Anglia, University of Leeds, Aberystwyth University, University of Oxford, Royal Holloway, Newcastle University and the University of Exeter) have more than 60

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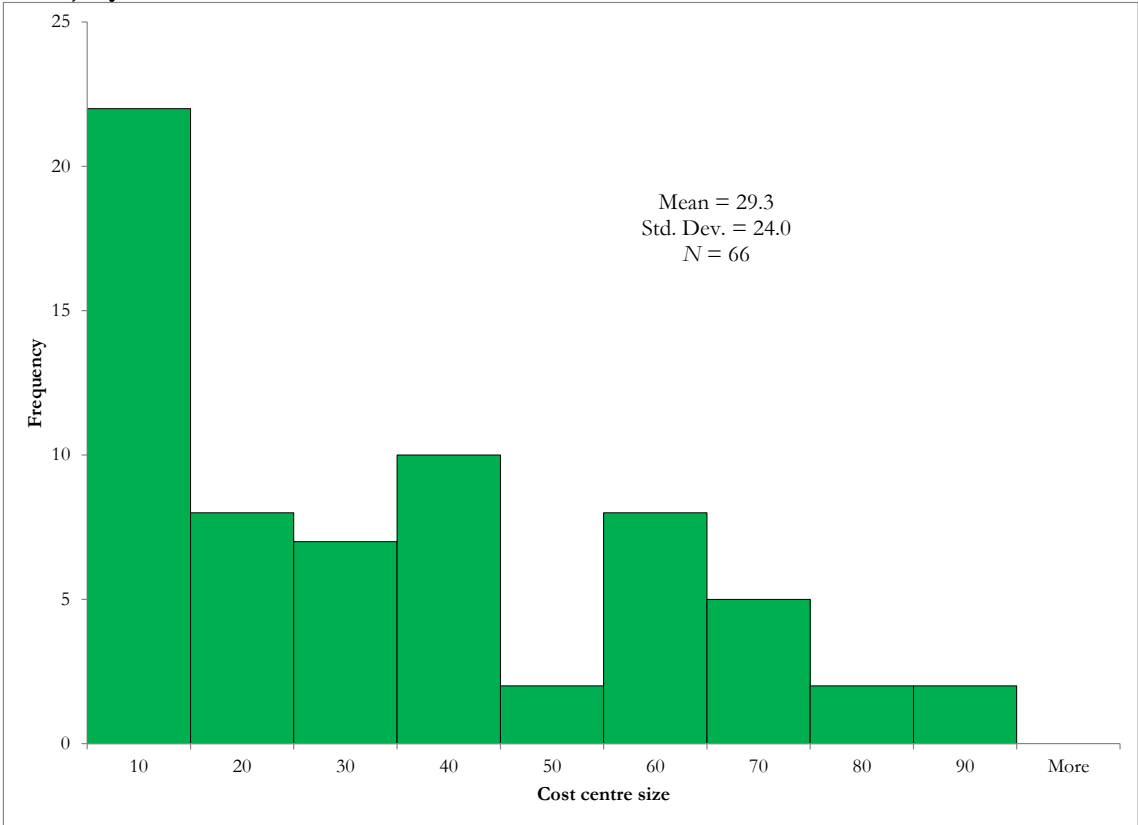
<sup>8</sup> Mills, D., Jepson, A., Coxon, A., Easterby-Smith, M., Hawkins, P. and J. Spencer (2006) *Demographic Review of the UK Social Sciences*. ESRC, Swindon.

**Figure 5.1: Full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by selected cost centre, 2009/10**



Source: HESA Staff Record 2009/10

**Figure 5.2: Histogram of size of UK Geography cost centre (in terms of staff FTE for 2009/10) by institution**



Source: HESA Staff Record 2009/10

FTE staff in the cost centre. Using data from the RAE in 2008, the largest submissions (in terms of staff FTE) were made by the University of Durham, the University of Cambridge and University College London.

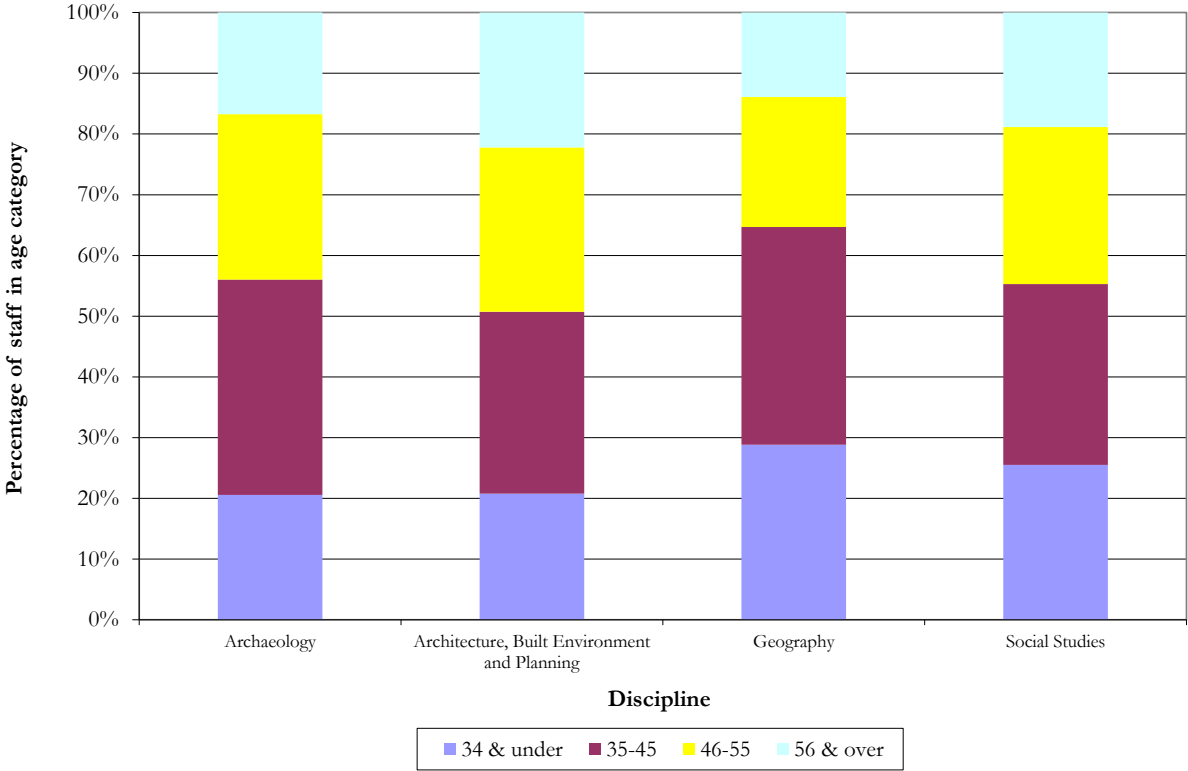
5.2 *Grade profile*

About 16 per cent of FTE staff in the Geography cost centre are of professorial status or equivalent. This is just above the Social Studies figure of 14 per cent. The figure rises slightly to 17 per cent when looking at those with a highest qualification awarded in Human and Social Geography.

5.3 *Socio-demographic characteristics*

There have been periodic concerns about the demographic profile of the social sciences in two respects. The first concerns the continued supply of academic labour to sustain high quality teaching and research, manifested as worries about the age of social scientists, a possible dependence on non-UK nationals and difficulties in recruiting the most talented individuals to secure the future of the discipline, given opportunities available elsewhere. The second relates to equity and diversity and under- or overrepresentation according to gender, race/ethnicity, social class and other characteristics.

**Figure 5.3: Age profile of FTE staff in selected disciplines, 2009/10**



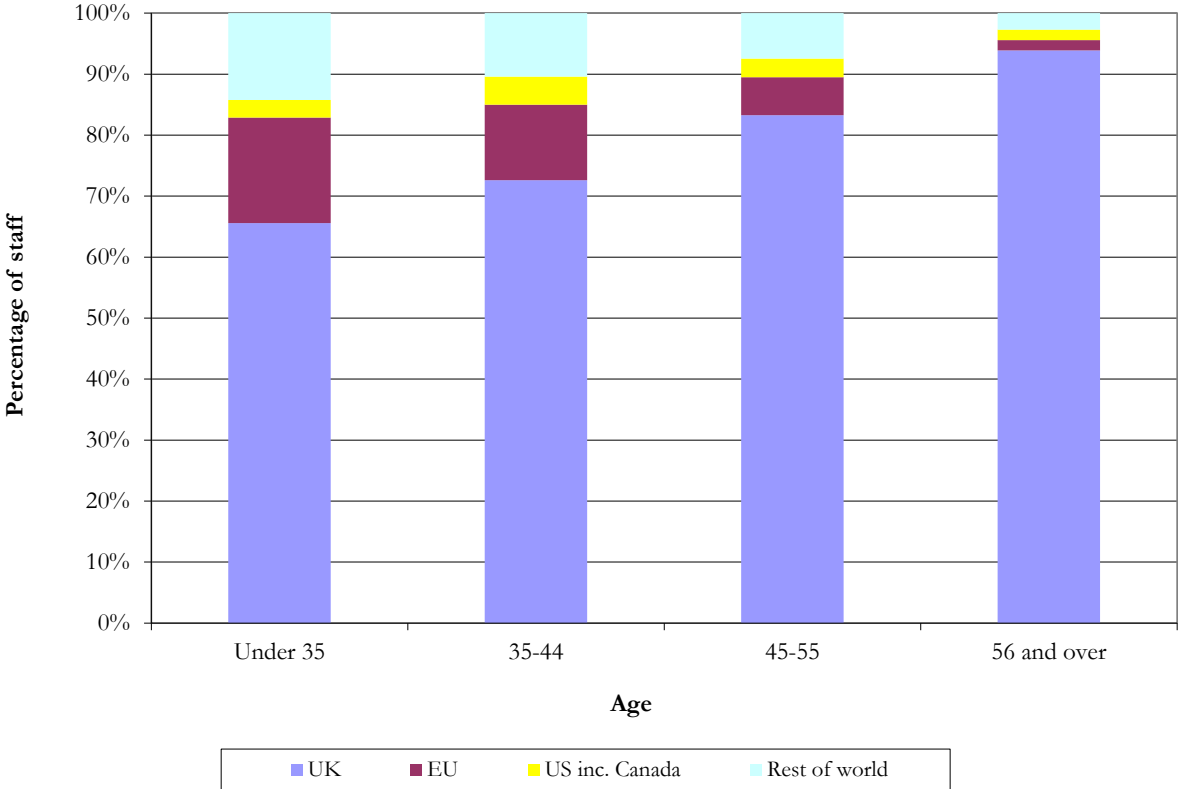
Source: HESA Staff Record 2009/10

The age profile of FTE staff in Geography cost centre is somewhat younger than its comparators, (Figure 5.3). The discipline has previously been identified as having a demographic

profile which is “one of the youngest in the social sciences”<sup>9</sup> and this is seen in the cost centre data, with almost 30 per cent of staff being aged under 35 in 2009/10. The situation partly reflects the proportion of staff on fixed-term contracts, which is relatively high for a social science discipline. Fixed term staff tend to be younger across higher education; however some 56 per cent of permanent staff in the cost centre are aged 45 or under. In this respect, Geography closely follows Psychology, another discipline which straddles the natural and social sciences.

Some 76 per cent of staff in Geography are UK nationals. The proportion of UK nationals increases among older staff and among the professoriate. Among younger staff, EU nationals represent a significant and apparently growing minority (17 per cent of under 35s), roughly equal to those from elsewhere in the world.

**Figure 5.4: Nationality of Geography FTE staff 2009/10 by age group**



Source: HESA Staff Record 2009/10

Men outnumber women among FTE staff in the Geography cost centre by a ratio of 2:1. This ratio shifts only slightly when looking at those with a highest qualification in Human and Social Geography (62 per cent male). Geography has a lower proportion of women than Social Studies (44 per cent) and Archaeology (39 per cent) but higher than Architecture, Built Environment and Planning (29 per cent). It is well known that women tend to be overrepresented in lower grades among academic staff in universities. This is the case both for the Geography cost centre and among those with a highest qualification in Human and Social Geography. Only 16 per cent of professorial staff are female in Geography and the proportion of women increases in ‘teaching only’ and ‘research only’ positions, but not in ‘teaching and research’ roles. Women are also overrepresented among those with fixed-term contracts. Age may be a factor in women’s underrepresentation, with older staff more likely to be male (and also more likely to be of professorial status and permanent). Women’s representation is highest (44 per cent) in the under

<sup>9</sup> Mills *et al*, op. cit., p. 67.

35 age group (where there are no professors) and lowest in the over 55s (20 per cent) where two out of five staff are professors. However looking only at the over 55s, 16 per cent of women of this age in the Geography cost centre are professors, compared to 46 per cent of men.

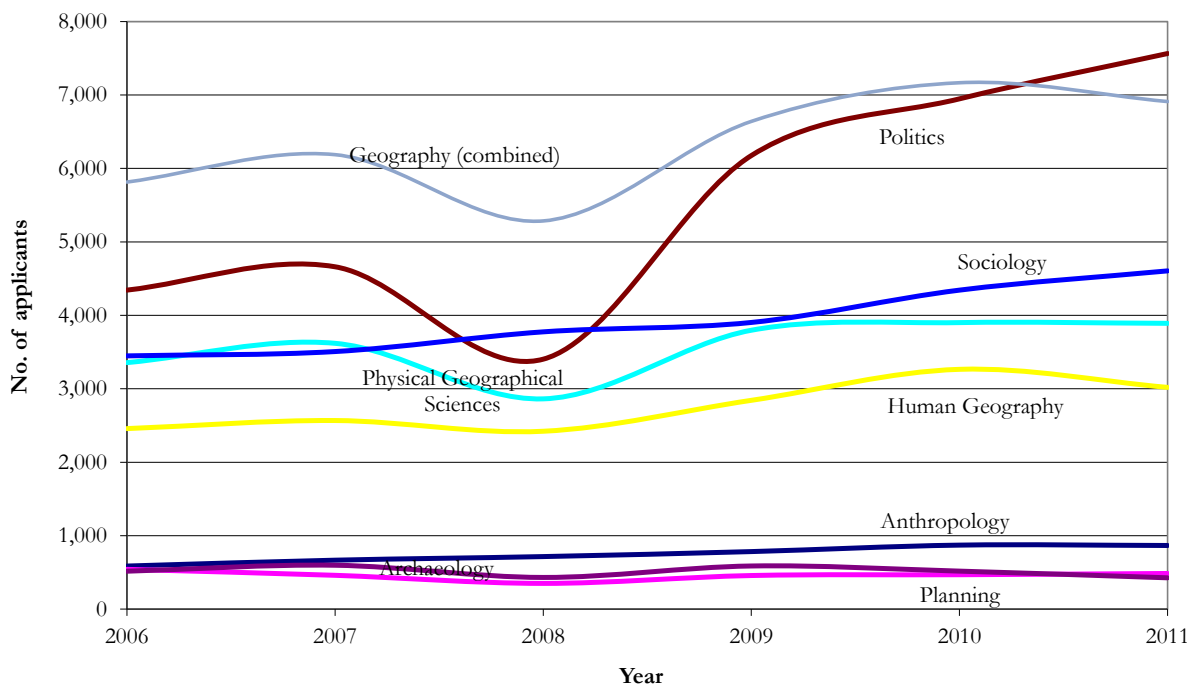
Data on the ethnic background of UK FTE staff in Geography indicate that, of those declaring an ethnicity, 91 per cent were classified as White British, a figure higher than Social Studies (88 per cent) and Architecture, Built Environment and Planning (87 per cent) but lower than Archaeology (97 per cent). Excluding non-UK nationals increases the representation of the White British ethnic group to 96 per cent. There were fewer than ten FTE staff from each of the Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Caribbean, Other Black or Other Asian groups. Apart from the 'Other background' group, the largest minority ethnic group was Chinese, with about 35 FTE staff (as opposed to over 1,650 staff of White British ethnicity). Among professorial staff, the proportion of staff from the White British group increased to 99 per cent: out of almost 300 FTE staff of professorial status, fewer than 5 were from a minority ethnic background. Data indicate there were no female professors from a minority ethnic background in the Geography cost centre in 2009/10. There is a shift in the representation of those from minority ethnic backgrounds among younger cohorts, but only because this is where non-UK nationals are concentrated. The proportion of White British staff is very consistent across UK nationals of all ages, at between 95 and 97 per cent.

## 6 Applicants, Students and Graduates

### 6.1 Undergraduate applicants

UCAS lists single honours geography courses at 64 institutions for 2012 entry, with hundreds more combinations incorporating geography. For 2011 entry, UCAS reported 3,019 applicants with a subject preference of Human Geography, and a further 3,891 for Physical Geographical Sciences.<sup>10</sup> Taken together then, applications for Geography make it more popular than its comparators, with the exception perhaps of Politics. However taken alone, Human Geography is less popular than either of its larger social science comparators (Politics and Sociology). Although the UCAS data gives some indication of student preference, many undergraduate programmes combine and integrate physical and human geographies and hence it is difficult to determine whether students are actively opting for programmes labelled ‘Human Geography’ or ‘Physical Geography’; or instead selecting those labelled simply ‘Geography’ but which happen to have a L7 or F8 coding. There were 2,746 accepted applicants for Human Geography (3,429 for Physical Geographical Sciences), indicating that the subject is oversubscribed, a situation shared with Politics and Anthropology. Overall in the UCAS scheme there were around 1.6 applicants for every place in 2011. About 200 Human Geography applicants were accepted through the ‘Clearing’ system, which is intended to place applicants who have not been offered a place through the ‘normal’ application cycle. At seven per cent, this was substantially lower than the UCAS average (17 per cent) and lower than all the comparator disciplines (the figure for Physical Geographical Sciences was ten per cent).

Figure 6.1: Applicants via UCAS for selected subjects 2006 - 2011

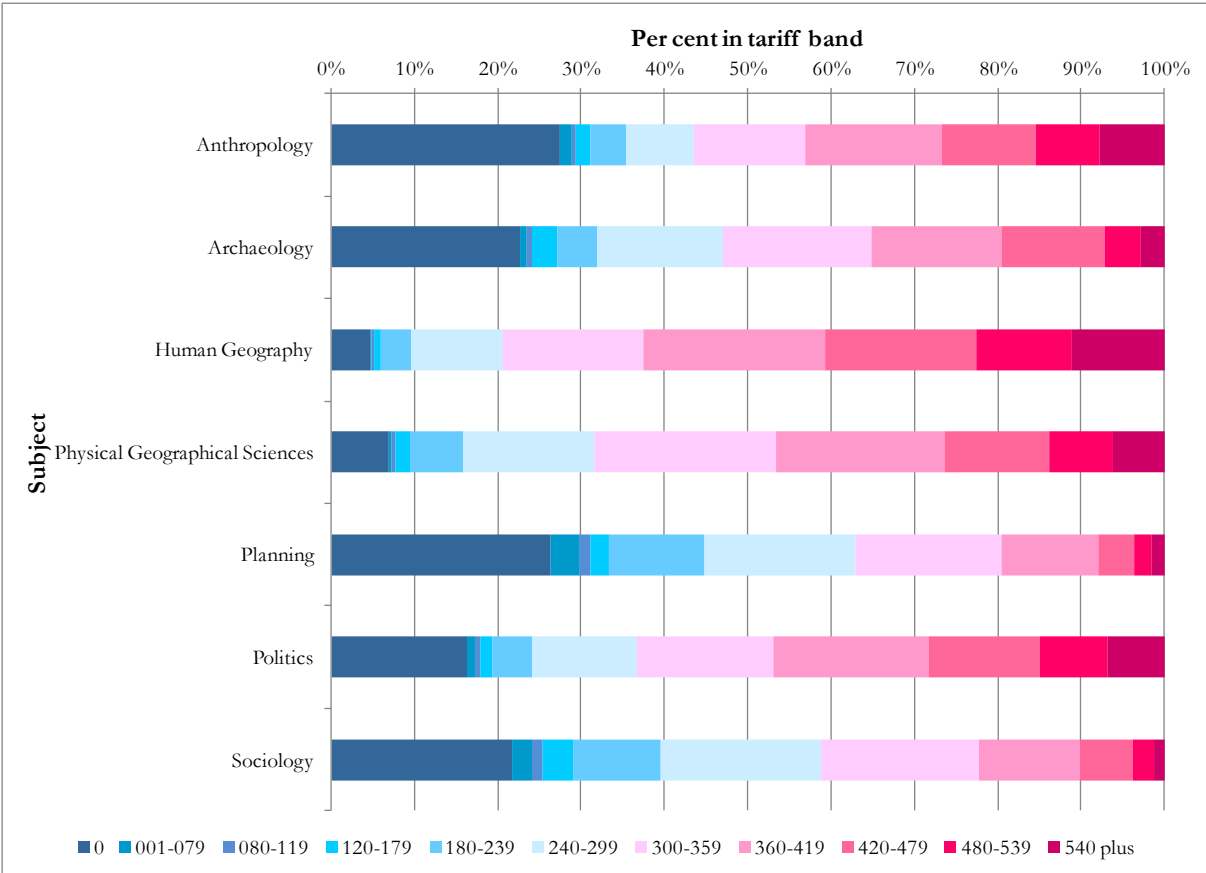


Source: UCAS

<sup>10</sup> It is difficult to record precisely the number of applications for a subject because each applicant can make up to five applications through the UCAS scheme, to a range of subjects if they wish— applications are therefore not equal to applicants. UCAS thus computes an applicant's *preference*, based on their most common choices.

Human Geography has enjoyed a steady, if unspectacular growth in applicants for full-time undergraduate study; it has fared less well than Sociology and, in particular, Politics, but seems to have avoided the dip in applications suffered by Physical Geographical Sciences in 2008. Human Geography applicants rose in number by 23 per cent in the period 2006 – 2011; in the same period, the UCAS scheme as a whole grew by 38 per cent, although the total figure includes the incorporation by UCAS of new areas of activity which mean it is difficult to compare like with like. The figures should be read with care however as they do not give a detailed understanding of changes in the popularity of the various subjects as part of combined degrees. At the time of writing, the longer term effect of various changes to funding arrangements for home students on subject choice and volume of applications are uncertain. Early indications have suggested that some social sciences have declined in popularity, although Human Geography seems not to have been unduly affected, with applications for 2012 entry down by three per cent, against a decline of seven per cent for all subjects.

**Figure 6.2: Tariff score of UCAS applicants accepted to degree courses in selected subjects, 2011 entry**



Source: UCAS

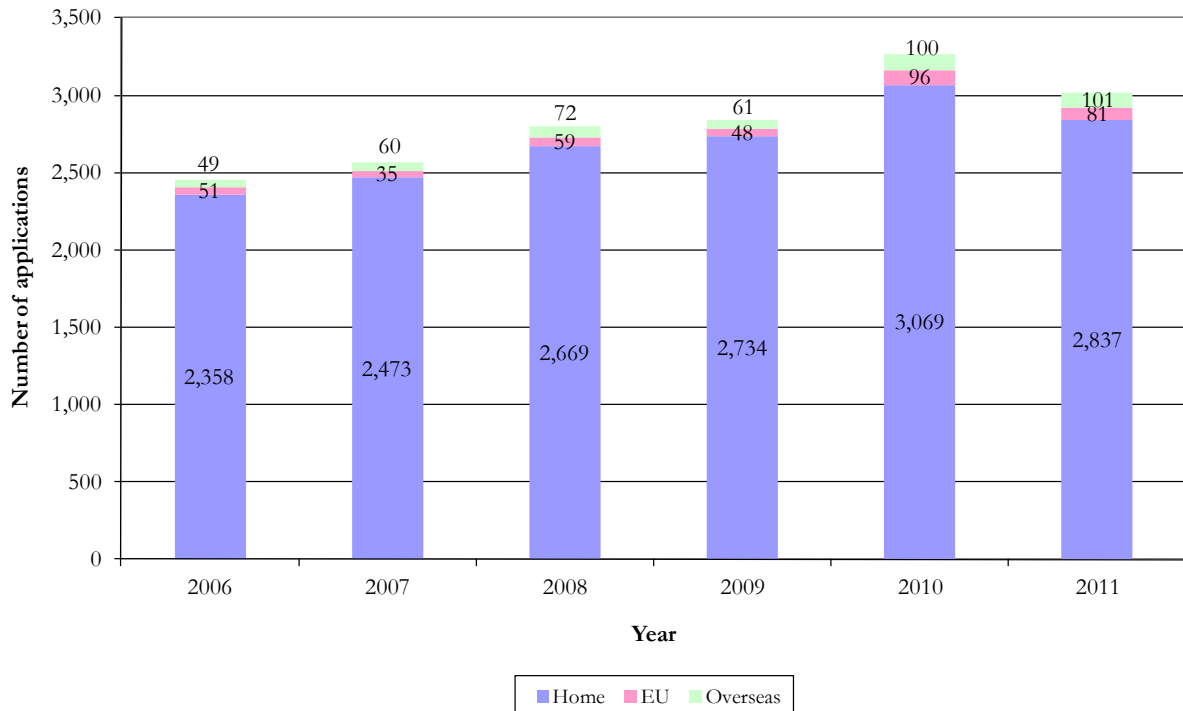
Figure 6.2 shows the *quality* of applicants to Human Geography and selected comparators via UCAS measured using the UCAS ‘tariff’. A tariff score is calculated by aggregating the scores for individual qualifications which an applicant possesses, such as AS and A2 qualifications, Scottish Highers, BTEC qualifications and others. Grade ‘A’ at A-level is equivalent to 120 tariff points; an ‘E’ grade is worth 40. Unlike previous systems for calculating A-level ‘points’, there is no maximum score. The tariff thus represents a somewhat crude measure of quality, but it does allow some comparison across subjects. Applicants to Human Geography courses are well



qualified, having higher tariff scores on average than those applying to all comparator disciplines, including Physical Geographical Sciences.

**Figure 6.3: Applicants via UCAS by domicile, 2006 – 2011**

(a) *Human and Social Geography*



(b) *Physical Geographical Sciences*



Source: UCAS

Entry requirements for undergraduate geography degrees vary between institutions, but perhaps less so than in many other disciplines. They tend to be highest for degree courses at institutions

with strong performance in research and lower at institutions with a teaching mission. Of the top-performing departments in the RAE 2008, Cambridge and Durham require A\*AA at A2-level; Oxford and Bristol stipulate AAA; and Queen Mary 340 points including B at Geography. Conversely, at Edge Hill University, 240 tariff points are required; and 280 at Worcester and at Portsmouth (equivalent to A2 grades of BBC). Geography is usually required at A2 level.

According to UCAS for 2011 entry, Human Geography attracted 101 applications from overseas fee-payers, compared to 54 for Physical Geographical Sciences. There were 58 overseas acceptances for Human Geography in 2011. In addition there were 81 applicants for Human Geography from the European Union (55 accepted applicants). EU application numbers grew 59 per cent between 2006 and 2011; overseas applications grew by 106 per cent; and home applications by only 20 per cent. Whilst applicants from outside the UK represent only a small proportion (six per cent) of the total applicants to Human Geography, this is less a reflection on the quality of British undergraduate geography programmes than the instrumental subject preferences of international applicants who gravitate to law, medicine, business studies, economics and engineering (both in the UK and elsewhere).

## 6.2 Undergraduate students<sup>11</sup>

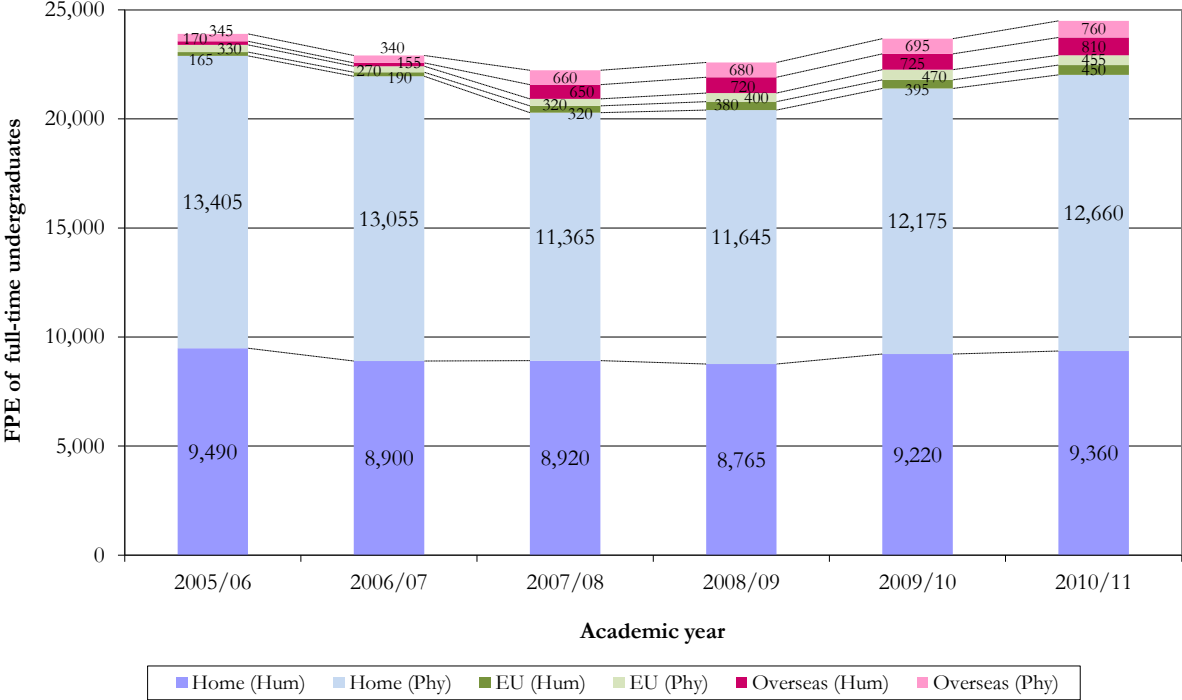
There is a major drawback in interpreting student numbers provided by HESA in that they provide 'full person equivalents' (FPEs), not head counts. This means that two different students taking joint honours geography ( $2 \times 0.5$ ) will be equivalent in the figures to one person taking a single honours degree ( $1 \times 1.0$ ). Since there are a large number of combined degrees incorporating geography across higher education institutions in the UK, a headcount of all those taking some kind of geography degree would give a larger population than the FPE figures suggest. However it is not possible, from publicly available information, to accurately determine how many students are studying joint honours or indeed what the most popular combinations are. A large range of combined programmes are available. Geography appears to be offered in combination mainly with other social sciences, languages and geology.

In 2010/11 there were 9,050 full-time and 695 part-time FPE undergraduates studying Human and Social Geography. Adding in the 12,100 full-time and 3,520 part-time undergraduates in Physical Geographical Sciences makes geography as a whole similar to its medium-sized comparators Politics and Sociology. Whilst it would appear that both Human and Social Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences contracted in 2006/07, it is difficult to be certain about this change since it coincides with changes to the JACS coding which affected geography. It would certainly be difficult to argue, however, that undergraduate student numbers have grown in geography, with overall numbers in 2010/11 being very similar to those in 2005/06. This apparent stasis is similar to that experienced by the smaller comparator disciplines; however both Politics and Sociology did see growth in undergraduate numbers across the period. Growth *has* been achieved in EU and overseas student numbers, although the large majority of Human Geography students are UK-domiciled.

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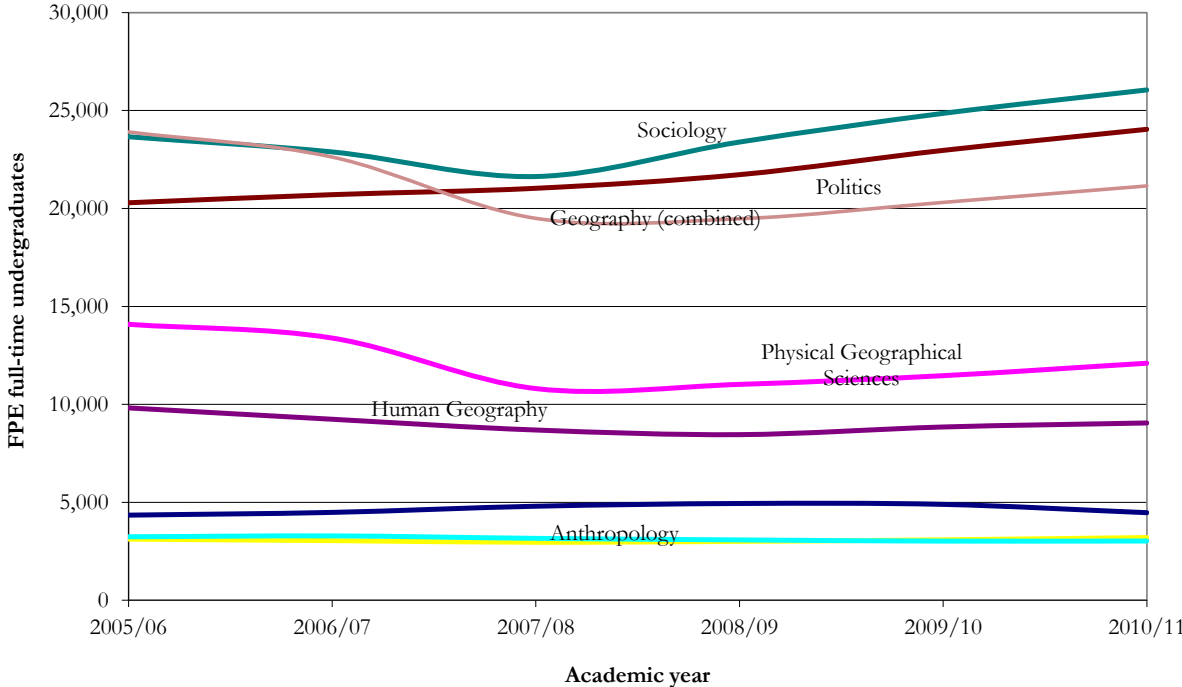
<sup>11</sup> Data in sections 6.2 - 6.4 are obtained from the HESA Student Record. All HESA data reproduced in this report are subject to HESA's rounding strategy which is described in the note at the end of the document.

**Figure 6.4: FPE full-time undergraduate Human and Social Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences students, 2005/06 – 2010/11 by domicile**



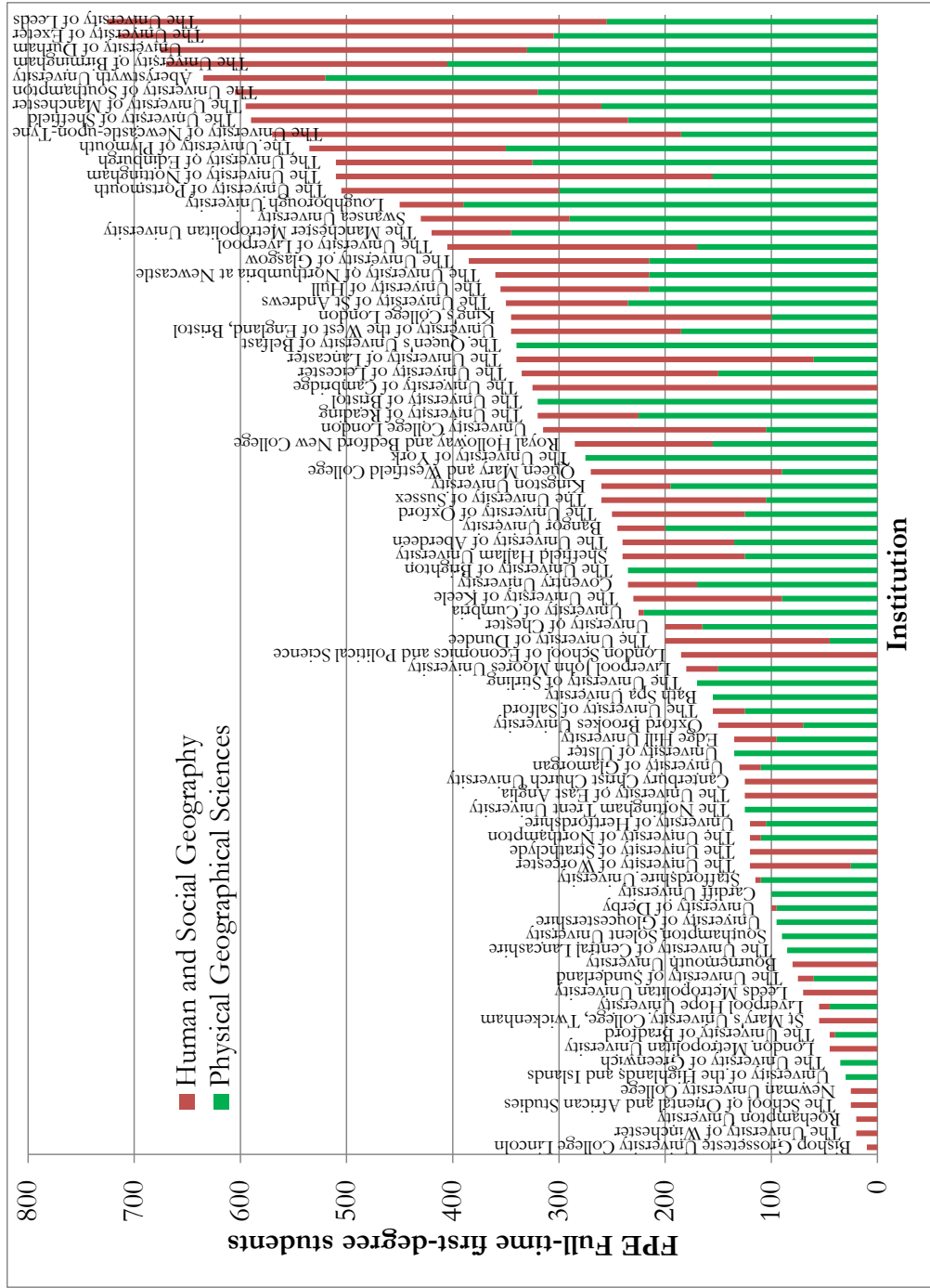
Source: HESA Student Record 2005/06 - 2010/11

**Figure 6.5: FPE full-time undergraduate students, 2005/06 – 2010/11, selected subjects**



Source: HESA Student Record 2005/06 - 2010/11

Figure 6.6: FPE Human and Social Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences full-time first-degree undergraduates by department, 2010/11



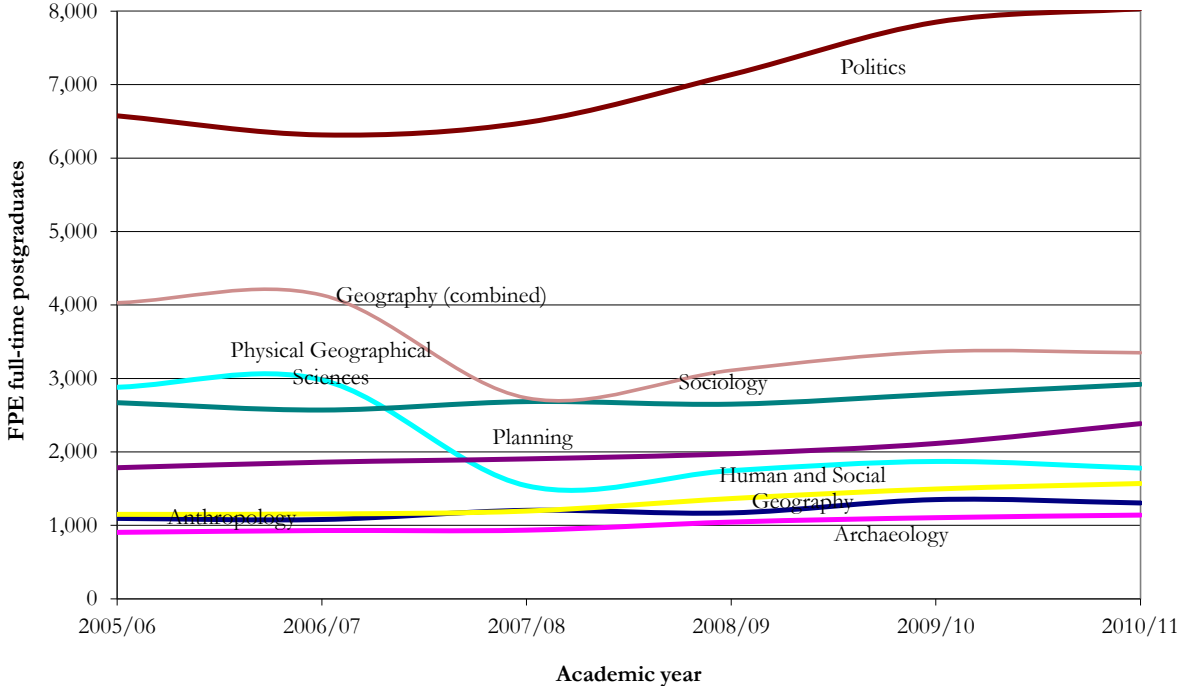
Source: HESA Student Record 2010/11

As already mentioned in respect of staff numbers, accurately describing the size of geography departments is tricky. One approximation is to list the number of FPE geography undergraduates at each institution. Figure 6.6 provides this data and includes undergraduates in both Human Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences. Most institutions with full-time geography undergraduates have between 200 and 500 full-time first degree students. A small number of institutions have fewer than 50 undergraduates, which may indicate the absence of a named department of geography. There are others with very large departments of over 600 undergraduates (which would mean, on a three-year degree programme, an intake of 200+ students each year). Institutions with over 600 FPE full-time undergraduates in geography include Southampton, Aberystwyth, Birmingham, Durham, Exeter and Leeds.

6.3 Postgraduates

In 2010/11 there were 1,570 full-time and 345 part-time FPE postgraduate students in Human and Social Geography. This makes Human and Social Geography somewhat smaller than Politics and Sociology, although with the addition of Physical Geographical Sciences this changes in respect of Sociology at least. Full-time Human and Social Geography postgraduate FPEs have grown by 36 per cent between 2005/06 and 2010/11; however part-time postgraduate FPEs have declined by 46 per cent over the same period. As Figure 6.7 shows, growth in full-time postgraduate numbers has been slow across the period, although this matches the comparator disciplines, with the exception of Politics. There are no national data available about numbers of applications for postgraduate programmes in geography.

Figure 6.7: FPE full-time postgraduate students, 2005/06 – 2010/11, selected subjects

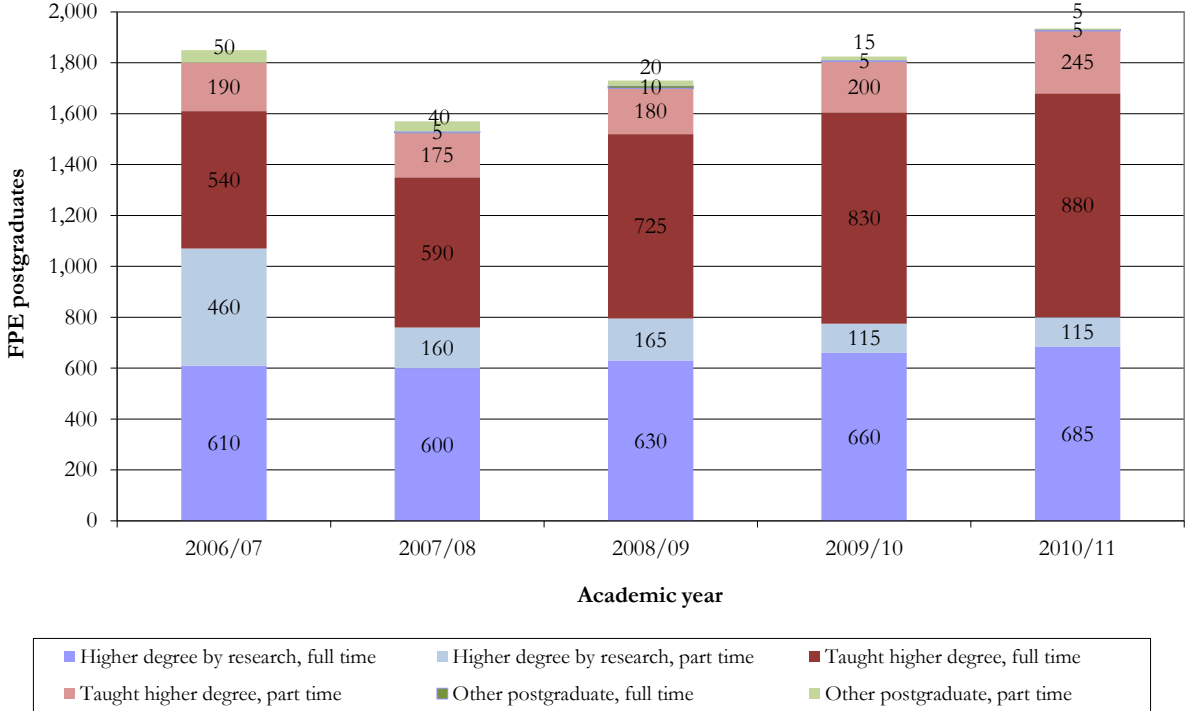


Source: HESA Student Record 2005/06 – 2010/11

The division between taught and research postgraduates in Human and Social Geography is shown in Figure 6.8. Human and Social Geography shows a reasonably even split between taught (MA/MSc) and research degree (largely PhD) study, a similar distribution to that seen in Sociology and Physical Geographical Sciences. Very few are taking an ‘other’ postgraduate qualification (typically diplomas and certificates). In Planning and Politics taught students

dominate. Full-time research student numbers in Human and Social Geography have grown slightly over the five-year period, and taught higher degree numbers more substantially. Whereas in 2006/07 full-time research students outnumbered full-time taught higher degree students in the discipline, the reverse is true in 2010/11.

**Figure 6.8: FPE postgraduate students in Human and Social Geography by mode and level of study, 2005/06 – 2010/11**

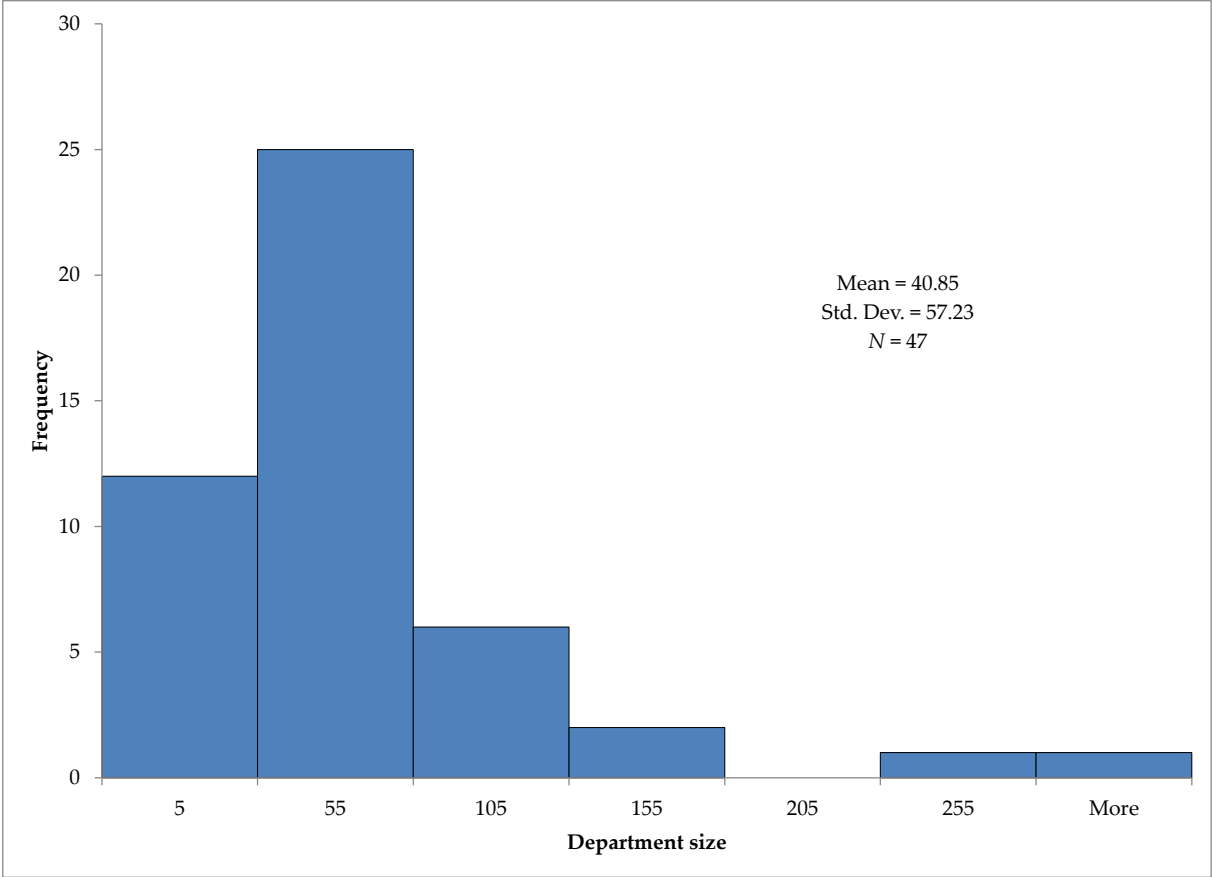


Source: HESA Student Record 2005/06 - 2010/11

There are only a few institutions with large numbers of postgraduates in Human and Social Geography. LSE and King’s College London each have over 200 postgraduates, with Exeter, Cambridge and Sheffield each having numbers in the low hundreds. The University of Leeds, which has the largest number of full-time geography undergraduates (over 700) has about 50 postgraduates. Overall, just under one eighth of full-time Human and Social Geography students are postgraduates, but the precise proportion varies by institution somewhat. It is also difficult to compare undergraduate and postgraduate populations because of the variation in attribution of students to Human and Social Geography and Physical Geographical Sciences across levels and universities. Aggregate data on full-time research students in Human and Social Geography in 2010/11 show a considerable international student presence, with students from outside the UK making up two-fifths of the total. This is similar to Sociology and slightly higher than in Physical Geographical Sciences, although lower than for Politics.

No reliable social class data are available on postgraduate geography students. Some 51 per cent of UK-domiciled research students in Human and Social Geography were female in 2010/11, compared to 57 per cent of taught postgraduates and 51 per cent of first-degree students in the same year. The equivalent figures for Physical Geographical Sciences were 48 per cent, 42 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. Recall that 44 per cent of staff in the Geography cost centre aged under 35 are female.

**Figure 6.9: Histogram of FPE Human and Social Geography postgraduates by department, 2010/11**



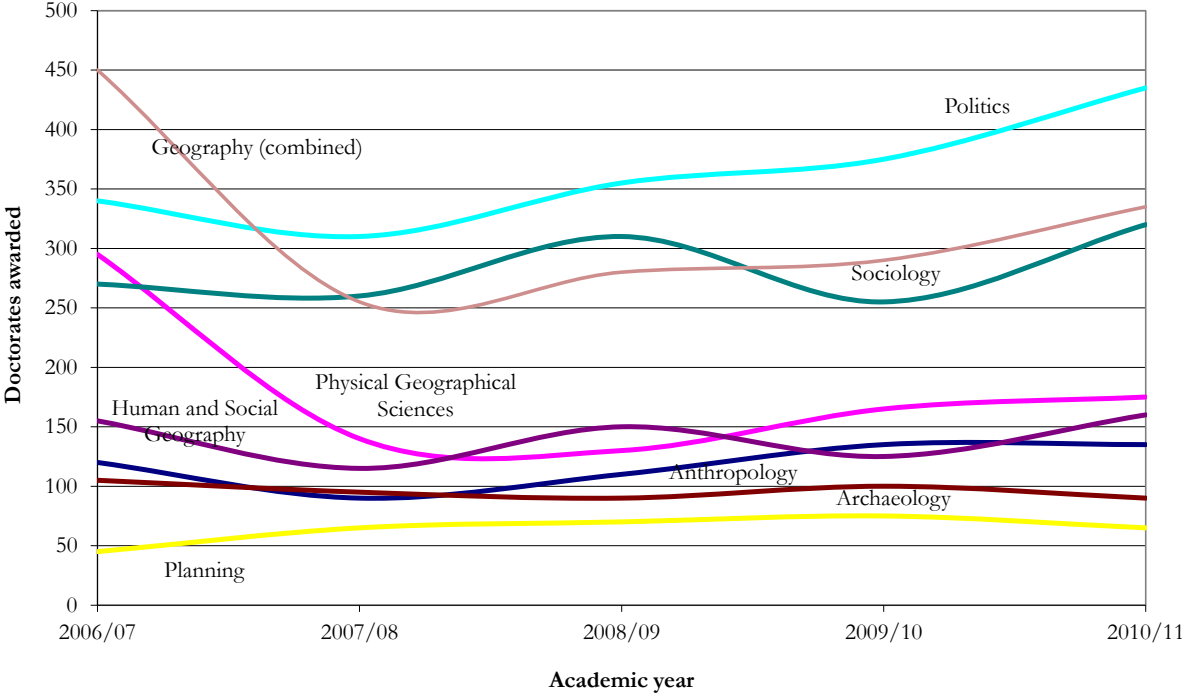
Source: HESA Student Record 2010/11

6.4 *Doctorates awarded*<sup>12</sup>

Data are available on the doctorates awarded in Human and Social Geography and comparator disciplines (see Figure 6.10). In most of the set of comparator disciplines, there has been a very gradual upward trend in the number of doctorates awarded over the period, with the exception of Politics where there was strong growth. Once again, changes to subject coding after 2006/07 are the likely reason for the sharp fall in the number of Physical Geographical Sciences doctoral graduates in 2007/08. For Human and Social Geography itself, the overall impression is one of ‘trendless fluctuation’, with an element of random variation from year to year. It is interesting to note however that the numbers track those in Sociology, where the pattern is similar across the period, although this may simply be coincidence.

<sup>12</sup> Doctorates here include both ‘taught’ (i.e. professional such as EdD, EngD) and ‘research’ (i.e. traditional such as PhD) doctorates.

**Figure 6.10: Doctorates awarded in selected social science disciplines, 2006/07 – 2010/11**



Source: HESA Student Record 2006/07 – 2010/11

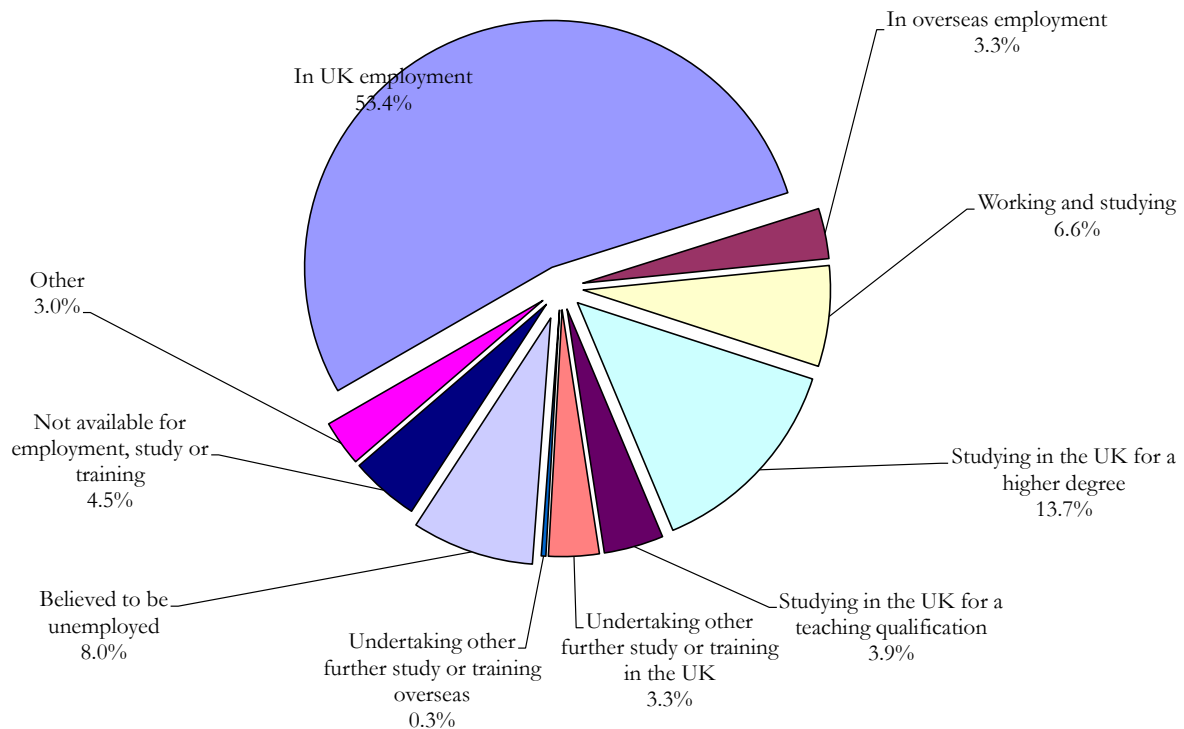


## 7 Careers

### 7.1 First degree graduates<sup>13</sup>

According to HESA's Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey,<sup>14</sup> most UK-domiciled geography graduates obtain employment or enter further study (or both) within six months of their graduation. Around 8.0 per cent were unemployed and looking for work in 2009/10. Human and Social Geography graduates were slightly less likely to be unemployed than graduates in, Sociology or Politics. The mean unemployment rate for all first-degree graduates in 2009/10 was 8.5 per cent. Human and Social Geography graduates find employment in a range of occupations, some of which would not be considered 'graduate' occupations. In 2009/10, the most popular employment categories for Human and Social Geography graduates were 'Retail, waiting and bar staff' (18.2 per cent), 'Business and financial professionals and associate professionals' (14.0 per cent), 'Other occupations' (13.5 per cent), 'Other clerical and secretarial jobs' (12.2 per cent) and 'Commercial, industrial and public sector managers' (11.5 per cent).

**Figure 7.1: Destination of Human and Social Geography first-degree graduates 2009/10, where known**



Source: Prospects, derived from HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey, 2009/10

These 'first destination' data are limited in that they provide a snapshot at a very early point in a graduate's career of their employment situation.

### 7.2 PhD graduates<sup>15</sup>

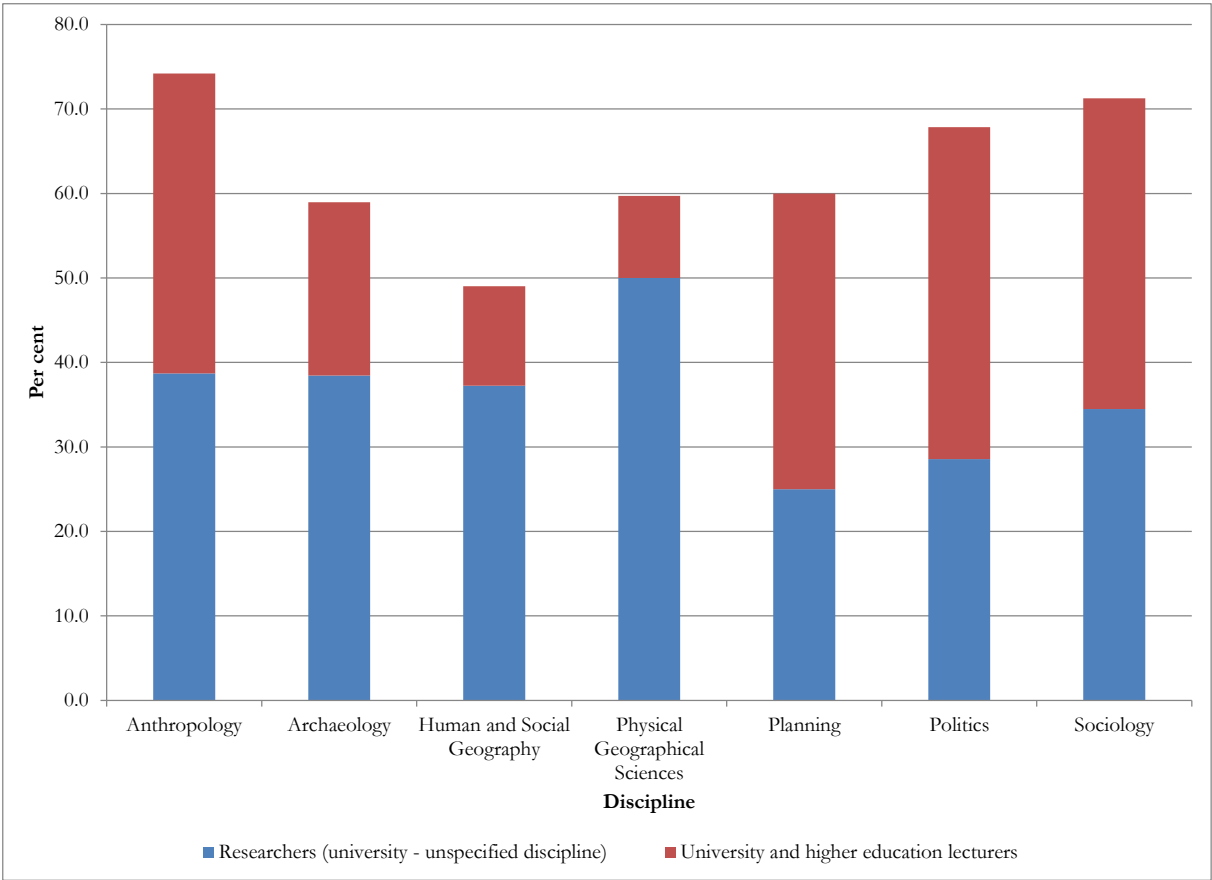
Research indicates that the majority of social science PhD holders move into academic employment. However an increasing minority pursue other career options outside of university

<sup>13</sup> For further information on this subject, see the *Future Prospects* website at: [http://www.prospects.ac.uk/what\\_do\\_graduates\\_do\\_geography.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/what_do_graduates_do_geography.htm)

<sup>14</sup> This survey obtains a response rate of around 85 per cent.

<sup>15</sup> Separate information is not available on masters graduates in geography.

**Figure 7.2: UK and EU domiciled research doctorate graduates 2009/10 in selected subjects entering higher education teaching and research (where destination known)**



Source: HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey, 2009/10 teaching and research: recent information found around one third working in non-academic settings,<sup>16</sup> a proportion which has been constant for several years.<sup>17</sup> Turning to PhD graduates in Human and Social Geography specifically, research by Vitae<sup>18</sup> which summarises the first destinations for doctoral graduates in the discipline in the period 2003 – 2007, showed 30 per cent of those entering employment worked as ‘Education and teaching professionals’, with 24 per cent working as ‘Researchers (university or unspecified)’ and a further 6 per cent as ‘Scientific research, analysis & development professionals’. Data has been procured on the first destination of those obtaining doctoral degrees by research for 2009/10 (Figure 7.2). This shows that less than 50 per cent of Human and Social Geography doctoral graduates from the UK and EU entered academic roles (teaching and/or research in higher education), a lower proportion than seen in any of the comparator disciplines. Whilst it is notable that this proportion is lower than both pure and applied disciplines, it should be noted that the total number of doctoral graduates in Human and Social Geography for 2009/10 is small (around 60). It may be the case that there is a lack of suitable openings for newly-minted geography PhDs in the academic labour market, especially as there is no obvious alternative employment destination for human geographers (as there is, for instance in psychology or chemistry); equally, with such small numbers, it is likely

<sup>16</sup> Purcell, K. and P. Elias (2006) *The employment of social science PhDs in academic and non-academic jobs: research skills and postgraduate training*. Swindon: ESRC; Vitae (2009) *What do social science researchers do?*, available at: <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/1367/Social-sciences.html>.

<sup>17</sup> UK Grad Programme (2004) *What do PhDs do? 2004 analysis of the first destinations for PhD graduates*. Cambridge: Graduate Prospects.

<sup>18</sup> Vitae (op. cit.).

that figures will be volatile from year-to-year, with the outcome for 2009/10 not being representative of any trend.

Some 4.5 per cent of doctoral graduates in Human and Social Geography were unemployed, with 69.6 per cent in full-time employment.<sup>19</sup> Only a small proportion enter self-employment (7.0 per cent) and 9.6 per cent are employed part-time. Two thirds of the doctoral graduates were employed in higher education, with the remainder evenly distributed through arrange of other sectors of the economy, including the public, private and voluntary sectors. The most commonly cited specific occupations were ‘Social science researchers’ (21 per cent), ‘Researchers (university – unspecified discipline)’ (11 per cent), ‘Researchers not elsewhere classified’ (11 per cent) and ‘University and higher education lecturers’ (7 per cent).

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<sup>19</sup> This data covers UK and EU-domiciled graduates only.

## 8 Concluding comments

What overall impression of the size and shape of human geography in the UK does this statistical overview leave? It is difficult to be definitive in answering this question, due to the limitations of the available data and specifically the variation in categorisation of human geography across different spheres of activity. No doubt some of these difficulties in categorisation are due to an underlying ambivalence in the nature of activity one would recognise as geography, which will not always readily fit into entirely separate strands of physical and human. This certainly appears to be the case with undergraduate degrees, but judging by comments made by geographers to the team completing the *Demographic Review of the Social Sciences* (op. cit., p. 64), it is likely to apply in research too: “the two disciplines are seen as strongly synergistic. As one person commented, ‘the intellectual commitment to work across boundaries is really strong just now’.” That said, the physical/human split within geography has clear similarities with boundary issues in other social science disciplines. Like geography, other subjects, notably psychology and anthropology, comprise two distinct arms, one ‘social’, the other scientific. It is difficult to do more than speculate as to whether the withdrawal of a separate categorisation of social psychology in statistical records reflected a genuine move to integration within the discipline of psychology as a whole or was simply an administrative artefact; however the overall impression gained from the statistical overview completed for the International Benchmarking Review of UK Psychology was of a discipline with strong internal coherence. The evidence seen in the current document does not seem to support such an assessment for geography, although of course the statistics only provide a partial story and geographers themselves are much better placed to assess such debates within their discipline.

Putting aside the conceptual complexities of disciplinary boundaries, the quantitative evidence suggests that geography is a medium-sized social science discipline. On its own Human and Social Geography is relatively small, but added to Physical Geographical Sciences, which is of roughly equal volume, it seems to be somewhere in size between Politics and Sociology in terms of student numbers. This impression is supported by statistics which used an integrated classification, such as staff data (Geography cost centre) and RAE data (Geography and Environmental Studies UoA). Looking at the data for Human and Social Geography alone, it would appear to fit its characterisation by Mills *et al.* (op. cit.) as a research-focused (rather than practice-based) discipline and is certainly concentrated in the more research-intensive universities. This is perhaps belied, however, by the relatively low proportion of doctoral graduates proceeding to academic careers when measured against comparator disciplines.

Problematic though measures of ‘performance’ are, there does seem to be a consistent picture emerging of Human Geography’s health as a discipline (one which closely matches that for Physical Geographical Sciences). Research is good in relation to comparator disciplines in terms of quality (measured in the RAE) and this is reflected in substantial resources for research in the discipline from the UK higher education funding councils. Income from research grants and contracts is healthy and there are a number of large and successful departments. There is a hint though that this may mask a perhaps weaker profile in Human and Social Geography, as success in obtaining ESRC funds in the discipline does not compare well to other selected disciplines. Student demand for geography appears static and a dip in numbers a few years ago has only recently been negated by steady growth. Applicants for Human Geography tend to be very well qualified however and entry grades tend to be high relative to other courses in respective institutions.

## APPENDIX A

### Full details of current ESRC-funded projects classified as Human Geography

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
<i>Administrative Data Liaison Service</i>			
Administrative Data Liaison Service	University of St Andrews	October 2008 to September 2012	£610,046
<i>Business Research and Engage</i>			
ESRC Retail Industry Business Engagement Network (RIBEN)	University of Southampton	July 2008 to June 2013	£602,800
<i>Centre Proposal (open call)</i>			
Third Sector Research Centre	University of Birmingham	September 2008 to August 2013	£7,436,609
ESRC Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance	University of Oxford	October 2008 to September 2013	£4,266,492
Centre for Population Change: Understanding Population Change in the 21st Century	University of Southampton	January 2009 to December 2013	£5,081,839
Spatial Economics Research Centre Proposal	London School of Economics & Pol Sci	December 2011 to November 2013	£902,629
<i>Charitable Giving/Philanthropy</i>			
Charity and social redistribution: quantitative and qualitative perspectives	University of Southampton	May 2008 to June 2013	£591,467
<i>Climate Change Fellows</i>			
Urban Transitions: climate change, global cities and the transformation of socio-technical systems	Durham University	October 2008 to May 2012	£384,025
<i>Collaborative Analysis (China/South Africa)</i>			
The relationship between Spatial Inequality and Attitudes to Inequality in South Africa	University of Oxford	October 2011 to September 2012	£79,844
<i>DFID/ESRC Joint Schemes</i>			
The Development of Migrant Villages under China's Rapid Urbanization: Implications for Poverty and Slum Policies	Cardiff University	June 2010 to September 2012	£266,904
Making Space for the Poor: Law, Rights, Regulation and Street-Trade in the 21st Century	Cardiff University	August 2010 to July 2013	£254,275
Urban Growth and Poverty in Mining Africa	University of Glasgow	October 2010 to March 2013	£413,137
Alcohol Control, Poverty and Development in South Africa	King's College London	November 2010 to July 2013	£204,456
The Promises of Fibre-Optic Broadband: A Pipeline for Economic Development in East Africa	University of Oxford	September 2011 to February 2014	£434,097
Lay and Institutional Knowledges of Domestic Violence Law: Towards Active Citizenship in Rural and Urban Cambodia	Royal Holloway, Univ of London	January 2012 to January 2015	£196,355
<i>Digital Social Research – sustainability call</i>			
CartoGrammar	University of Edinburgh	October 2011 to July 2012	£29,901
<i>Economic and Social Data Service</i>			
ESDS International	The University of Manchester	October 2007 to September 2012	£2,029,287
Economic and Social Data Service - Large Scale Government Surveys	The University of Manchester	October 2007 to September 2012	£1,092,608

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
<i>Energy and Communities Collaboration</i>			
Heat and the City: Comparing the trajectory of sustainable heat and energy conservation in the municipal communities of Glasgow and Edinburgh	University of Edinburgh	October 2010 to December 2014	£824,076
Energy Biographies: Understanding the Dynamics of Energy Use for Energy Demand Reduction	Cardiff University	November 2010 to September 2014	£472,849
Evaluating the impacts, effectiveness and success of DECC-funded low carbon communities on localised energy behaviours (EVALOC)	Oxford Brookes University	January 2011 to June 2014	£1,144,510
Reducing Energy Consumption Through Community Knowledge Networks	Keele University	March 2011 to September 2013	£370,882
<i>ESRC Ventures</i>			
Transport and Technology	Lancaster University	May 2011 to February 2013	£197,557
Multi-Level Governance, Transport Policy and Carbon Emissions Management	University of Leeds	May 2011 to May 2013	£247,310
<i>ESRC/ANR Bilateral Proposals</i>			
The middle classes in the city: social mix or just 'people like us'? A Comparison of Paris and London	University of Bristol	April 2010 to May 2013	£406,356
<i>ESRC/SSRC Collaborative Visit</i>			
Governing Climate Change in Urban Centres: An International Comparative Assessment	Durham University	September 2010 to March 2012	£5,032
<i>First Grants Competition</i>			
A Comparative Study of Language Change in Northern Englishes	University of York	March 2008 to March 2013	£204,383
Labour-Practice Responses to Ethical-Trading Codes of Conduct at Sites of Production: A Case Study of the Sri Lankan Apparel Sector	University of Southampton	December 2008 to March 2012	£168,081
Modelling Individual Consumer Behaviour	University of Leeds	December 2008 to December 2012	£160,745
Human Development under Colonial Rule in West Africa: Exploitation, Modernization and Legacies	University of Sussex	October 2009 to September 2012	£242,804
Global Partnerships as sites for mutual learning: teachers' professional development through study visits	University of Exeter	October 2009 to January 2013	£323,223
At Home in the Institution? Asylum, School and Lodging House Interiors in London and South-East England, 1845-1914.	Royal Holloway, Univ of London	January 2010 to July 2012	£229,792
Planning with Indigenous customary land rights: An investigation of shifts in planning law and governance in Canada and Australia.	University of Glasgow	June 2010 to May 2012	£269,411
Localising International Law: Examining the Outreach Strategies of the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Newcastle University	May 2011 to April 2013	£215,941
Public Housing Regeneration under the Private Finance Initiative: a Study about People, Place and Local Governance	University of Leeds	October 2011 to April 2014	£244,877

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
<i>Follow-on Fund</i>			
Improving the Communication and Use of Ensemble Flood Predictions	King's College London	June 2011 to May 2012	£83,920
<i>Knowledge Exchange</i>			
Sustainable Estates for the 21st Century: Furthering Landowner-Community Engagement	University of the Highlands and Islands	July 2011 to July 2012	£9,619
Brokering knowledge exchange between scientists and land stakeholders: collaborative learning for a food secure future at the North Wyke Farm Platform	University of Exeter	November 2011 to June 2012	£7,284
<i>Language-based Area Studies</i>			
Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies	University of Glasgow	October 2006 to March 2012	£2,775,331
<i>Large Grants</i>			
ARK -- A Social and Political Archive for Northern Ireland	Queen's University of Belfast	October 2006 to March 2012	£2,672,111
Conflict in Cities and the Contested State: Everyday Life and the Possibilities for Transformation in Belfast, Jerusalem and Other Divided Cities	University of Cambridge	October 2007 to March 2013	£2,559,202
Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+)	University of Cambridge	November 2007 to April 2013	£2,588,504
<i>Mid-career Development Fellows</i>			
Creating postcolonial subjectivity: subaltern geopolitics, knowledge and citizenship in Tanzania	University of Glasgow	April 2011 to June 2013	£196,289
Growing up in 21st Century Britain: spatial analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study	Cardiff University	November 2011 to July 2013	£107,913
Modelling the relationships between transport poverty and social disadvantage	University of Oxford	January 2012 to December 2013	£137,305
Law, Localism & Governance	Cardiff University	January 2012 to December 2013	£171,521
<i>National Centre for E-Social Science Nodes Continuation Fund</i>			
PolicyGrid II - Supporting Interdisciplinary Evidence Bases for Scientific Collaboration & Policy Making	University of Aberdeen	May 2009 to August 2012	£874,263
The GENESIS Project: GENerative E-Social Science	University College London	October 2008 to September 2012	£1,370,057
<i>National Centres for Research Methods Nodes</i>			
The Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD)	Cardiff University	October 2008 to March 2012	£1,448,799
<i>Open Research Area in Europe for the Social Sciences</i>			
Memorials and remains of medical research in Africa: an anthropology of scientific landscapes, ruins and artefacts	London School of Hygiene and Trop Medicine	July 2011 to June 2014	£463,299
Territories and technologies in an unstable knowledge economy : An evolutionary framework of regional resilience	Cardiff University	July 2011 to June 2014	£296,729
<i>Postdoctoral Fellowships</i>			
Developments after a Disaster: The Tsunami, Poverty, Conflict and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka	University of Oxford	May 2010 to May 2012	£84,104
Creating Common Futures - Embedding experimental methods for public engagement with innovative technologies	University College London	February 2011 to March 2012	£88,608
Geographies of Youth Citizenship in Scouting	University of Leicester	April 2011 to March 2012	£77,389

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
Playing with Toys: the animated geographies of children's material culture	University of Exeter	April 2011 to April 2012	£66,911
Transnational mobility, temporariness and political engagement: the everyday experiences of migrant women in the hospitality industry in London	Queen Mary, University of London	May 2011 to April 2012	£80,742
Policy and informal labour in the Global South: The rise of sweatshops in Argentina in a time of economic recovery (2002-2010)	The University of Manchester	January 2012 to January 2013	£74,931
<i>Professorial Fellowships</i>			
Resilient development in social ecological systems	University of East Anglia	January 2009 to March 2012	£247,544
Great Transformations: A Cultural Political Economy of Crisis-Management	Lancaster University	April 2010 to March 2013	£455,444
<i>PSF 2011 British Council</i>			
'Belief' in Cultural Relations	University of Kent	October 2011 to September 2012	£42,643
<i>Research Fellowship</i>			
Sustainable resettlement and environmental conservation: A collaborative approach to the right of return to the Chagos Archipelago	University of Edinburgh	October 2009 to September 2014	£250,753
<i>Research Grants</i>			
Indigenous women, political rights and development decision-making in Ecuador: Spaces of engagement for gendered and ethnic citizens	University of Cambridge	September 2008 to May 2012	£128,482
The Diffusion of Intensive Rearing Technologies and the Impact of Food Retailer Interventionism in British Agriculture since 1945	University of Reading	January 2009 to June 2013	£360,079
Economic inter-dependence and comparative regional dynamics in developed and developing economies: trade and regional trajectories in China and the EU	University of Sussex	April 2009 to December 2013	£265,478
New Urbanisms, New Citizens: Children and Young People's Everyday Life and Participation in Sustainable Communities	University of Warwick	May 2009 to April 2013	£647,681
Biosecurity Borderlands: making biosecurity work in a complex landscape	University of Exeter	September 2009 to January 2013	£389,926
Post Trafficking Livelihoods in Nepal: Women, Sexuality and Citizenship	Newcastle University	November 2009 to April 2012	£238,346
Situating small business regulation: A longitudinal study of how small firms receive, understand and respond to regulation	Newcastle University	November 2009 to June 2012	£190,917
Processes of Technical Change in British Agriculture: Innovation in the Farming of South West England, 1935-1985	University of Exeter	November 2009 to October 2012	£373,790
The social and political impacts of South-South migration: A comparative analysis of Chinese migrant integration in West Africa	Open University	January 2010 to March 2012	£292,627
The USSR and its contribution to global environmental scientific understanding and policy prescription, 1945-1991	University of Glasgow	January 2010 to June 2013	£135,775
Children's embodied social capital and (dis)ability: connecting micro- and macro-scales of exclusion/inclusion	Loughborough University	April 2010 to December 2012	£171,333



Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
Ordinary Lives: Class, Reproduction and Everyday Practice in Contemporary Britain	University of Bristol	July 2010 to June 2012	£183,255
Robotic and information technologies in livestock agriculture: new relationships between humans, cows and machines	University of Hull	June 2010 to November 2012	£145,224
Delivering renewable energy under devolution	Cardiff University	January 2011 to January 2013	£217,427
Geographies of missing people: processes, experiences and responses	University of Glasgow	January 2011 to January 2014	£420,486
Key factors in the international market driving process: The role of internal competencies and external network actors	King's College London	February 2011 to January 2014	£357,152
Sun, Sea, Sand and Silicone: Aesthetic Surgery Tourism in the UK and Australia	University of Leeds	March 2011 to August 2013	£472,237
Precarious lives: Asylum seekers and refugees' experiences of forced labour.	University of Leeds	March 2011 to August 2012	£178,213
Making space for queer-identifying religious young people	London South Bank University	September 2011 to July 2013	£119,680
Sexualisation, nuisance and safety: Sexual Entertainment Venues and the management of risk	University of Kent	December 2011 to December 2012	£94,271
<i>Research Resources</i>			
National Strategic Director for e-Social Science	University of Oxford	July 2010 to September 2012	£798,888
Sustainable Practices Research Group	The University of Manchester	July 2010 to June 2013	£1,633,510
Extending the Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland (LSCS) from 2011 to 2012	University of St Andrews	July 2011 to June 2012	£281,253
Centre for Longitudinal Study Information and User Support (CeLSIUS): one year extension	London Sch of Hygiene and Trop Medicine	August 2011 to July 2012	£227,525
CDU Extension 2011 to 2012	The University of Manchester	August 2011 to July 2012	£164,449
Samples of Anonymised Records Support (2011-12 extension)	The University of Manchester	August 2011 to July 2012	£80,822
Centre of Interaction Data Estimation and Research (CIDER): Extension Funding	University of Leeds	August 2011 to July 2012	£67,250
Census Registration Service / Census Portal (Contract Extension, 2011-2012)	University of Essex	August 2011 to July 2012	£202,759
UKBORDERS - Extension Funding 2011/12	University of Edinburgh	August 2011 to July 2012	£91,122
Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study Research Support Unit (NILS-RSU): One-Year (2011/12) Extension Proposal	Queen's University of Belfast	August 2011 to July 2012	£109,593
<i>Research Seminars</i>			
Feminism and Futurity: New Times, New Spaces	University of Bristol	March 2010 to March 2012	£18,662
ESRC Seminar Series: Synthetic biology and the Social Sciences	University of Edinburgh	January 2011 to June 2012	£18,167
The Prospects for Sustainable Aviation in the UK: Evaluating, Negotiating and Mediating between Competing Perspectives	University of Essex	January 2011 to September 2012	£15,117
Opportunities, Challenges and Tensions: Linking the Ageing and Disability Rights Agendas	Lancaster University	January 2011 to January 2013	£15,299
Sustainability transitions: rethinking everyday practices, identities and livelihoods	University of Leicester	February 2011 to January 2013	£17,945
Diverse Teachers for Diverse Learners: Research and Perspectives	University of Strathclyde	February 2011 to February 2013	£18,384

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
Going Nuclear? Exploring the multi-level politics of including nuclear energy in a low carbon future	University of St Andrews	October 2011 to December 2012	£14,092
<i>Researcher Development Initiative</i>			
'Building Capacity for Business Engagement with Impact'	Cardiff University	April 2011 to March 2013	£80,654
<i>Rural Economy/Land Use</i>			
Building Adaptive Strategies for Environmental Change with Rural Land Managers	Durham University	July 2010 to April 2012	£153,120
Transforming knowledge for upland change	University of Aberdeen	October 2010 to March 2012	£161,675
Adaptations to Rural Communities through Living with Climate Change	University of Leicester	December 2010 to May 2012	£161,361
<i>Small Grants</i>			
The Transnational Politics of Exile and Solidarity: Zimbabweans in Britain from 1965	University College London	April 2010 to September 2012	£78,789
The impact of neighbourhood context on attitudes to inequality and redistribution	University of Glasgow	October 2010 to March 2012	£80,584
Parental attitudes to the changing role of primary schools in British Society	Loughborough University	October 2010 to April 2012	£80,645
Allowing for cliffs and slopes in the risk surface when modelling small-area spatial data	University of Glasgow	October 2010 to September 2012	£52,557
French Capital: A Study of French Highly-Skilled Migrants in London's Financial and Business Sectors	Middlesex University	November 2010 to September 2012	£76,241
The relationship between migration characteristics and mortality rates in deprived areas of Britain	University of York	December 2010 to June 2012	£80,189
Broad-based community alliances: a comparative study of London and Sydney	University of Leeds	February 2011 to July 2012	£76,575
Development Viability Appraisal: Theory, Application and Evaluation	University of Reading	June 2011 to May 2012	£80,463
Multiple environmental deprivation and physical activity	University of Edinburgh	June 2011 to October 2012	£77,618

## APPENDIX B

### Full details of current AHRC-funded projects classified as Cultural Geography

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
<i>Collaborative Doctoral</i>			
Polished axes: object biographies and the writing of world prehistories	University of Southampton	October 2011 to September 2014	£54,250
Handle with Care: Developing Creative Strategies for 'Difficult' Natural History Museum Collections	University of Glasgow	October 2011 to September 2014	£54,250
Remembrance, Commemoration and Memory: Negotiating the politics of display in the Imperial War Museum public programmes, 1960 - 2014	University of Exeter	October 2011 to September 2014	£54,250
Geographical Projections: Lantern slides, science and popular geography, 1860-1960	University of Exeter	October 2011 to September 2014	£54,250
'Losing touch with the ground': verticality, aerial surveying and the (post)colonial representation of Africa, 1912-1957.	Royal Holloway, Univ of London	October 2011 to September 2014	£60,250
Socio-Economic Change, Contested Memories and the Cultural Re-configuration of Hull since the Decline of Distant-Water Trawling	University of Hull	October 2011 to September 2014	£54,250
<i>Communities, Culture and Creative Economy</i>			
Understanding Everyday Participation - Articulating Cultural Values	The University of Manchester	February 2012 to January 2017	£1,221,676
<i>Development Grants</i>			
Networking communities: mobility, nationalism and the historical geographies of connective infrastructures	Aberystwyth University	February 2012 to October 2012	£25,323
Connecting youth with geographic communities: youth organisations and group identities in the UK during the twentieth century	Aberystwyth University	February 2012 to July 2012	£24,281
Gypsies, Roma, and Irish Travellers: Histories, Perceptions, and Representations, A Review	University of Huddersfield	February 2012 to October 2012	£22,874
Cultural activism in the community: creative practice, activism and place-identities	University of the West of England	February 2012 to November 2012	£31,179
Crafting communities of practice and interest: connecting 'online' and 'offline' making practices	University of Exeter	February 2012 to August 2012	£31,998
Building resilience through community arts practice: A scoping study with disabled young people and young people facing mental health challenges	University of Brighton	February 2012 to November 2012	£31,970
Re-thinking, and re-connecting, communities with, and through, water issues. Situated (place-time), and therapeutic narratives.	University of the West of England	February 2012 to September 2012	£20,625
Historicising and reconnecting rural community: black presences and the legacies of slavery and colonialism in rural Britain, c.1600-1939	University of Nottingham	February 2012 to October 2012	£31,933
Community-led Heritage Knowledge Co-Production for Sustainable Development: community archaeology in Ulster and the Western Isles of Scotland	University of Ulster	February 2012 to October 2012	£18,991

Type of award/Title	Institution	Date	Amount
Sound, Craft, Vision, Place: Research for Community Heritage	University of Huddersfield	February 2012 to December 2012	£19,804
The Enfield Exchange: Sharing National Communications Collections and Local Knowledge	Science Museum Group	February 2012 to January 2013	£19,654
Communities in history: representing and building the creative power of people to improve health and well-being	Cardiff University	February 2012 to June 2012	£11,730
Creation and Publication of the "Digital Manual": Authority, Authorship and Voice	University of Edinburgh	February 2012 to August 2012	£21,882
Sloane's Treasures: a cultural and scientific exploration of the research potential of Sir Hans Sloane's collections	The British Museum	February 2012 to August 2012	£23,944
<i>Fellowships</i>			
MarketPlace: Material Culture, Representation and Performance in Maxwell Street	Royal Holloway, Univ of London	March 2012 to November 2012	£82,147
<i>Follow-on Fund</i>			
Temporal Belongings Research Network	The University of Manchester	February 2012 to January 2013	£31,967
Connection, Participation and Empowerment in Community-Based Research: the Case of the Transition Movement	Durham University	February 2012 to January 2013	£78,488
Community gardening, creativity and everyday culture: food growing and embedded researchers in community transformation and connections	University of Brighton	February 2012 to March 2013	£79,588
Remaking Society	University of Edinburgh	February 2012 to March 2013	£78,513
Revisiting the mid-point of British communities: a study of affect, affordance and connectivity in Glossop	University of Leicester	February 2012 to February 2013	£80,000
Permission to play: taking play seriously; making sport playful	University of Strathclyde	February 2012 to October 2012	£30,291
<i>Programme Direct Impact Fellows</i>			
Valuing Landscape and Environment: Arts and Humanities Perspectives	University of Nottingham	January 2011 to August 2012	£158,412
<i>Public Engagement CRT (Specialist)</i>			
London cultural connections: arts, academia and a wider audience	King's College London	November 2010 to October 2012	£10,838
<i>REC Networks</i>			
Values of Environmental Writing: Inspiration, Communication, Action	University of Glasgow	August 2010 to January 2013	£24,414
<i>Research Grants (Early Career)</i>			
Small is Beautiful? Visual and Material Cultures of Making and Mending	University of Exeter	September 2010 to August 2012	£80,762
Pumping Time: Geographies of temporal infrastructure in fin-de-siècle Paris	Royal Holloway, Univ of London	October 2011 to September 2013	£165,101
Mining Memories: social and environmental pasts at international industrial heritage sites	Aberystwyth University	September 2010 to August 2012	£137,356
Situating Craft Guilds in the Creative Economy: Histories, Politics and Practices	University of Exeter	January 2012 to July 2013	£159,909
Drawing over the Colour Line: geographies of art and cosmopolitan politics in London 1919 - 1939	University College London	January 2012 to November 2013	£159,750

<b>Type of award/Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>Research Grants (standard)</i>			
The Role of Values in Responding to Major Social Change: Christian Churches and the Transition Town Movement	University of Exeter	November 2010 to October 2012	£226,582
Living with the past at home: domestic pre-habitation and inheritance	Queen Mary, University of London	December 2011 to March 2014	£292,116
<i>Research Networking</i>			
Remembered Places and Invented Traditions: thinking about the Holy Land in the late-medieval West.	Birkbeck College	October 2011 to September 2012	£29,272

## Note on representation of numbers

Data sourced from the Higher Education Statistics Agency are subject to their rounding strategy, which they describe as follows:

“Due to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998, HESA implements a strategy in published and released tabulations designed to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. These tabulations are derived from the HESA non-statutory populations<sup>1</sup> and may differ slightly from those published by related statutory bodies. This strategy involves rounding all numbers to the nearest 5. A summary of this strategy is as follows:

- 0, 1, 2 are rounded to 0
- All other numbers are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5

“So for example 3 is represented as 5, 22 is represented as 20, 3286 is represented as 3285 while 0, 20, 55, 3510 remain unchanged.

“This rounding strategy is also applied to total figures; the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column will rarely match the total shown precisely. Note that subject level data calculated by apportionment will also be rounded in accordance with this strategy.

“Average values, proportions and FTE values prepared by HESA will not be affected by the above strategy, and will be calculated on precise raw numbers. However, percentages calculated on populations which contain 52 or fewer individuals will be suppressed and represented as ‘.’ as will averages based on populations of 7 or fewer.”

## List of abbreviations

AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council
DELNI	Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland
DTC	Doctoral Training Centre
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
FPE	Full person equivalent
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
IBG	Institute of British Geographers
JACS	Joint Academic Coding System
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
QR	Quality Related
RAE	Research Assessment Exercise
REF	Research Excellence Framework
RGS	Royal Geographical Society
SFC	Scottish Funding Council
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UoA	Unit of Assessment

## Acknowledgements

HESA data are sourced from the HESA Student Record 2005/06 – 2010/11, the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education 2007/08 - 2010/11 and the HESA Staff Record 2010/11. HESA cannot accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived from the data by third parties.

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