

Academic Portrait of Students

After years of continual growth in enrolment at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, student registration stabilized from a high of 17,865 students in 2021-22 to a baseline of 15,754 students in 2023-24. The decline in enrolment is owing to fewer applicants in recent years as well as reduced student intake in some faculties, and student leave of absences due to personal, financial and academic reasons.

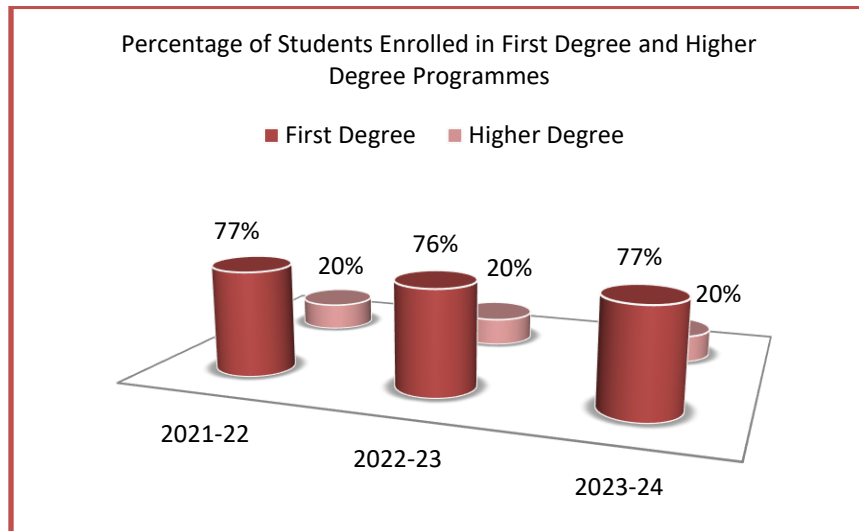
Table 1. Total Enrolment by Faculty

Faculty/Institute	2021/22	2022/23	2023-24
Engineering	322	305	330
Gender & Development Studies	76	46	28
Humanities & Education	2,446	2,143	1,899
Law	604	584	552
Medical Sciences	4,185	4,129	3,980
Science & Technology	3,004	2,875	2,905
Social Sciences	7,113	6,153	5,961
Sport	115	103	99
Total	17,865	16,338	15,754

As seen in Table 1, most faculties experienced declines in enrolment over the previous year with the exception of Engineering and Science and Technology. It is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic created financial challenges for some citizens. More recently, unemployment rates have been at their lowest which may reflect a rebounding economy and a pull for high school graduates and other persons wishing to earn a salary than enrol in university.

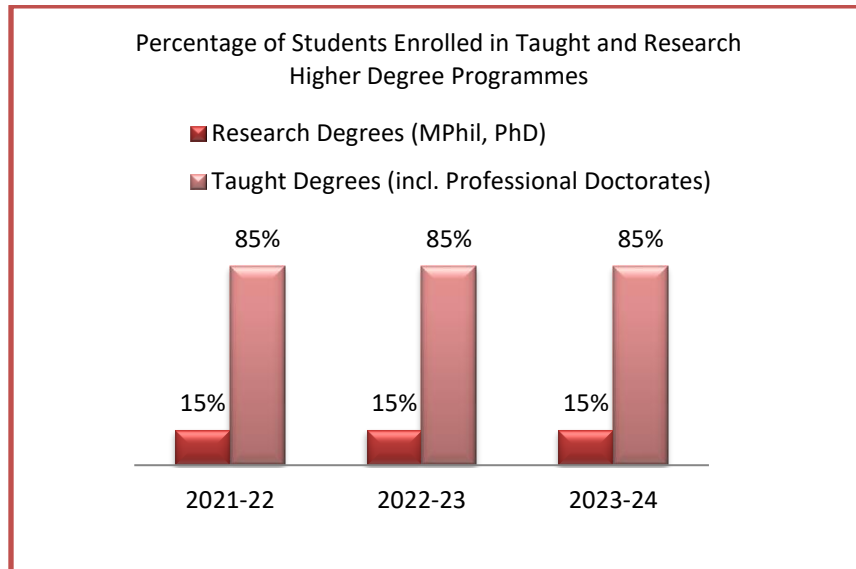
As seen in Figure 1, most students are concentrated in First-degree programmes. Over the three-year period, First-degree programmes accounted for more than 75% of total student enrolment.

Figure 1.



While enrolment in higher degree programmes has remained stable, more students are pursuing taught programmes than research programmes.

Figure 2.



The Mona Campus will continue to address the need for increased enrolment in research programmes over the coming years.

Demand for a UWI Education

The University continues to attract thousands of applicants each year for a UWI education.

The number of persons applying for undergraduate programmes was just over 9,000 in 2023-24, up from almost 8,000 in 2022-23.

In 2023-24, 45% of applicants received offers to their programme of first choice, while in 2022-23, 55% of applicants received offers to their programme of first choice. Of the applicants who accepted offers, approximately 72% enrolled in 2023-24 compared to 73% in 2022-23.

Table 2: Number of Applicants, Offers, Acceptances and Admissions in Undergraduate Degrees and Diplomas

Faculty/School	2023-24				
	Applied to 1st Choice	Offers to 1st choice	Multiple Offers	Acceptances	New Admissions
Engineering	403	152	559	221	84
Gender & Devel. Studies	8	1	13	2	1
Humanities & Education	656	279	848	357	273
Law	768	373	444	253	186
Medical Sciences	2,895	1,008	1,438	950	604
Science & Technology	1,424	791	3,388	945	760
Social Sciences	2,899	1,460	4,178	1,552	1,168
Sport	36	16	60	23	16
All	9,089	4,080	10,928	4,303	3,092
			*(5,555)		

Source: Applications and Admissions Report, August 22, 2024, MITS
 Transfer applications excluded.
 Includes On- and Off Campus
 * unique applicants

Table 3: Number of Applicants, Offers, Acceptances and Admissions in Undergraduate Degrees and Diplomas

Faculty/School	2022-23				
	Applied to 1st Choice	Offers to 1st choice	Multiple Offers	Acceptances	New Admissions
Engineering	355	151	449	180	64
Gender & Devel. Studies	12	5	19	7	1
Humanities & Education	570	325	896	356	287
Law	606	356	465	223	173
Medical Sciences	2,754	1,139	1,547	953	631
Science & Technology	1,164	867	3,429	931	757
Social Sciences	2,438	1,498	3,916	1,441	1,085
Sport	35	19	65	26	20
All	7,934	4,360	10,786	4,117	3,018
			*(5,516)		

Source: Applications and Admissions Report, August 22, 2023, MITS
 Transfer applications excluded.
 Includes On- and Off Campus
 * unique applicants

As seen in Table 4, the majority of students are less than 25 years of age. Over the three-year period, the percentage of students under 25 stood at 65% or greater.

Table 4. Total Student Body by Age Group

Age Group	2021/22	2022/23	2023-24
	% Distribution		
Under 20	16	17	18
20-24	49	48	48
25-34	22	23	22
35-49	10	10	10
50+	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100

Throughput of UWI Students

Students who are admitted to the University generally remain active throughout their course of study. The first-year retention rate among First-degree entrants has averaged 76% or higher over the three-year period (Table 5). The UWI retention rate in 2018-19 (84.3%) [not shown] compares favourably to a national rate of 80.5%¹ among four-year public institutions in the United States for the same academic year.

Table 5. Percentage of First Year, First Degree Entrants Who Returned for their Second Year of Study

Faculty/Institute	2021-22 Cohort	2022-23 Cohort	2023-24 Cohort
Engineering	73.5%	76.9%	89.0%
Gender & Devel. Studies	75.0%	0.0%	100.0%
H&E: Educ.	66.7%	73.7%	80.0%
H&E: Hum.	72.4%	86.2%	81.1%
Law (3 yr prog.)	81.6%	90.0%	93.0%
Med. Sci.	80.6%	87.2%	87.2%
Sci. & Tech.	81.9%	88.0%	88.8%
Soc. Sci.	73.8%	83.3%	85.0%
Sport	80.0%	80.0%	68.8%
Total	76.2%	85.5%	86.6%

¹ NCHEMS Information Center using NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey data. <http://www.higheredinfo.org> (accessed October 24, 2024).

Recent data shows that 58.9% of First-degree entrants completed their programme in five years (Table 6). Above-average outcomes were seen in the Faculties of Engineering; Law; and Medical Sciences among the 2019 entrants.

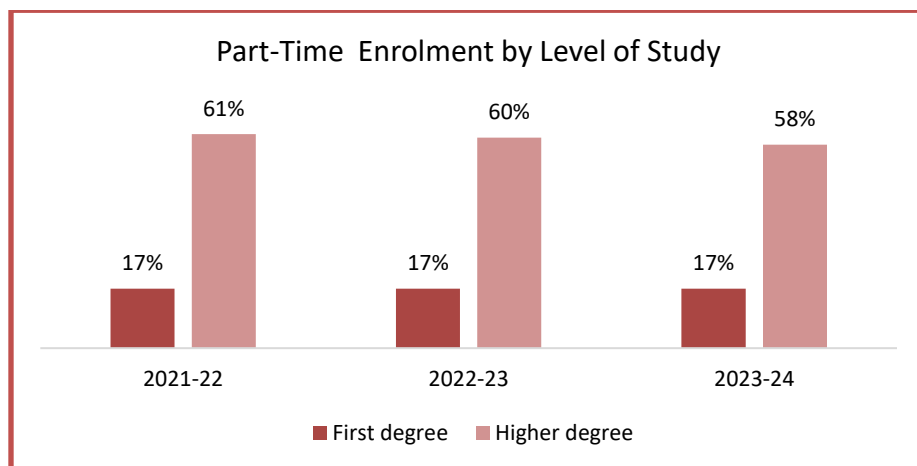
Table 6. Percentage of First Degree Entrants Graduating in Five Years

Faculty/School	2017 Entrants	2018 Entrants	2019 Entrants
Engineering (B.Sc.)	na	73.6	73.2
Gender & Development Studies (B.Sc.)	36.7	47.0	23.6
H&E: Education (B.Ed.)	36.2	65.5	44.8
H&E: Humanities (B.A.)	44.6	56.7	57.0
Law (LLB)	64.6	79.9	77.3
Medical Sciences (B.Sc.)	65.4	79.9	83.1
Medical Sciences (MBBS/DDS)	64.9	56.4	71.8
Science & Technology (B.Sc.)	46.7	54.6	56.3
Social Sciences (B.Sc.)	48.1	54.8	55.3
Total Average	50.0	58.4	58.9

Note: Includes full- and part-time students.

At the postgraduate level, students remain active for longer periods of time as many are enrolled on a part-time basis and frequently “stop out” from their studies (Figure 3).

Figure 3.



At the postgraduate level, taught programmes are approximately two years full-time. Considering that more than 50% of higher degree students are registered part-time, a five-year graduation rate is used to gauge student throughput.

As seen in Table 7, more than two-thirds of higher degree entrants complete their programme in five years. Completion rates are highest in Education, Law, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

Table 7. Percentage of Higher Degree Entrants in Taught Programmes Graduating in Five Years

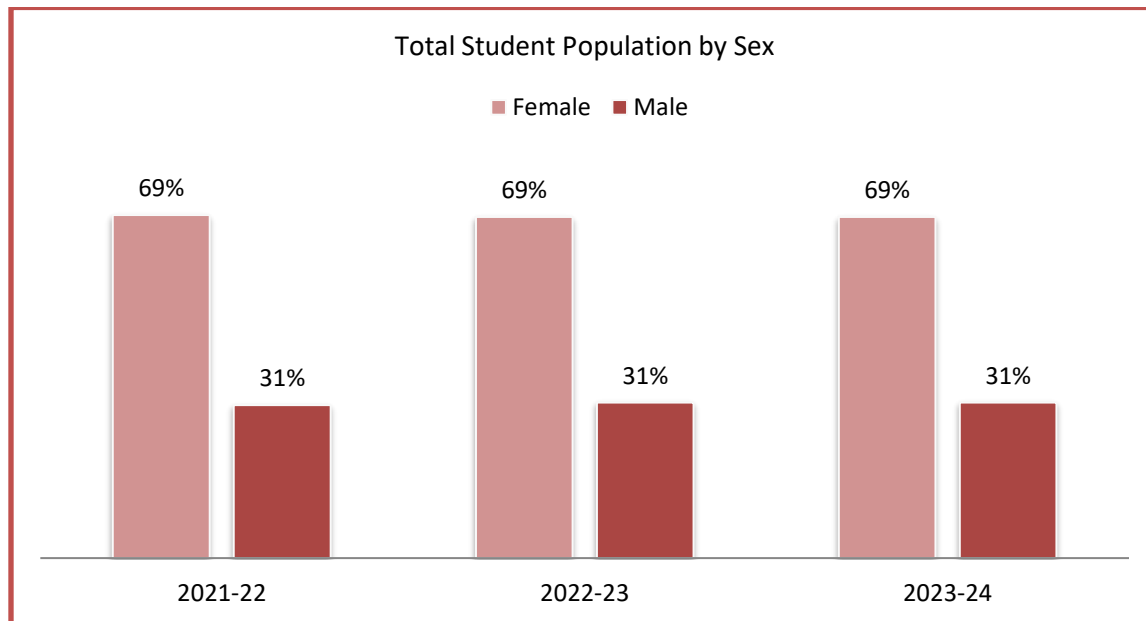
Faculty/School	2017 Entrants	2018 Entrants	2019 Entrants
Gender & Development Studies	83.4	66.6	40.0
H&E: Humanities	61.4	64.2	65.7
H&E: Education	85.7	86.9	89.5
Law	100.0	100.0	100.00
Medical Sciences	77.1	87.7	74.4
Science & Technology	59.3	29.1	52.2
Social Sciences	80.4	81.9	77.1
Total Average	76.4	78.8	76.3

Note: Includes full- and part-time students.

Student Characteristics

Administrators are cognizant of the gender imbalance at the University. A number of new programmes in Engineering, Sport, and Humanities have been introduced in an effort to attract more male applicants to The UWI. Modest gains have been made in the percentage of male students at the Mona Campus. The percentage of males remains at 31%.

Figure 4.



The UWI, Mona welcomes regional and international students. The number of students from non-contributing countries has increased over the last two years. The Mona Campus attracts students from the wider Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

Administrators plan to recruit students from the world over in the upcoming years.

Table 8. Total Enrolment by Country of Origin

Territory	2021/22		2022/23		2023-24	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Jamaica	15,991	89.5	14,492	88.7	14,059	89.2
Contributing Countries Excluding Jamaica	1,599	9.0	1,541	9.4	1,383	8.8
Non-Contributing Countries	273	1.5	302	1.8	308	2.0
Not Reported	2	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0
Total	17,865	100.0	16,338	100.0	15,754	100.0

UWI Graduates

As at November 2024, the Mona Campus graduated 3,519 students. This represented a -0.6% decline over the previous year.

Table 9. Graduates by Programme

Programme	Graduates		
	2022	2023	2024
Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma	98	103	92
Undergraduate Certificate/Diploma	22	19	21
First Degree	3,044	2,467	2,577
Higher Degree	921	951	829
Total	4,085	3,540	3,519

Seventy per cent (73%) of graduates obtained First degrees, while 24% of graduates obtained higher degrees in 2024.

By faculty, Social Sciences accounted for 39% of all graduates followed by Medical Sciences (25%) and Science and Technology (15%), respectively (Table 10).

Table 10. Graduates by Faculty

Faculty/Institute	Graduates		
	2022	2023	2024
Engineering	69	64	56
Gender & Development Studies	22	11	8
Humanities & Education	715	625	510
Law	179	167	136
Medical Sciences	855	820	892
Science & Technology	535	442	525
Social Sciences	1,689	1,393	1,375
Sport	21	18	17
Total	4,085	3,540	3,519

Among First degree graduates, 66% of students graduated with either Upper or Lower Second Class Honours in 2024 (Table 11). In comparison, 12% of students graduated with First Class Honours, while 22% of students obtained a Pass.

Table 11. First Degree Graduates by Class of Degree

Programme	2022	2023	2024
	% Distribution		
First Class			
Honours/Distinction	14	13	12
Upper Second Class Honours	41	40	36
Lower Second Class Honours	27	28	30
Third Class Honours (Eng)	0	0	0
Pass	18	19	22
Total	100	100	100

Studies of our graduates have shown success in the market place and with employers of UWI graduates. One and a half years after graduation, First- and Higher-degree graduates have enjoyed employment rates of 68% or better. This has occurred during a period of modest economic growth in Jamaica.

Table 12. Employment of First Degree Graduates

Year of Graduation	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
No. of Grads Traced	N=458	N=425	N=418	N=358	N=339
% Employed	76.0	77.0	68.0	85.0	86.0
% Unemployed	24.0	23.0	32.0	15.0	14.0

Note: Graduates surveyed 1.5 years after graduation.

The percentage of graduates traced was 18% for the Class of 2014; 18% for the Class of 2016; 13% for the Class of 2018; 11% for the Class of 2020; and 11% for the Class of 2022.

Table 13. *Employment of Higher Degree Graduates*

Year of Graduation No. of Grads Traced	2014 N=174	2016 N=152	2018 N=168	2020 N=152	2022 N=158
% Employed	78.0	73.0	87.0	94.0	96.0
% Unemployed	22.0	27.0	13.0	6.0	4.0

Note: Graduates surveyed 1.5 years after graduation.

The percentage of graduates traced was 21% for the Class of 2014; 21% for the Class of 2016; 21% for the Class of 2018; 17% for the Class of 2020; and 17% for the Class of 2022.

In a recent survey of Graduates, Class of 2022, conducted in 2024, respondents were employed in key industries, with postgraduates concentrated in the *Education* sector while undergraduates were spread among *Financial Intermediation*; *Health and Social Work*; and *Education* (Figure 5). Undergraduates were also more likely to be employed in the private sector than were postgraduates.

For the Survey of Employers of UWI Graduates, Class of 2022, employers reported being satisfied with the academic preparation of graduates, as well as their professional ethics; presentation skills; and ability to apply theory to practice. Despite their satisfaction with UWI graduates, employers suggested the need for graduates to sharpen their critical thinking, oral and communication skills and for administrators to consider an arts education master’s programme and, for students in international relations, courses in the art of diplomacy; diplomatic writing; and diplomatic negotiation techniques. These, the Mona Campus will improve upon through curricular and extra-curricular intervention.

Figure 5.

