



ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES

Widening Access: A College Perspective

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What I'll cover

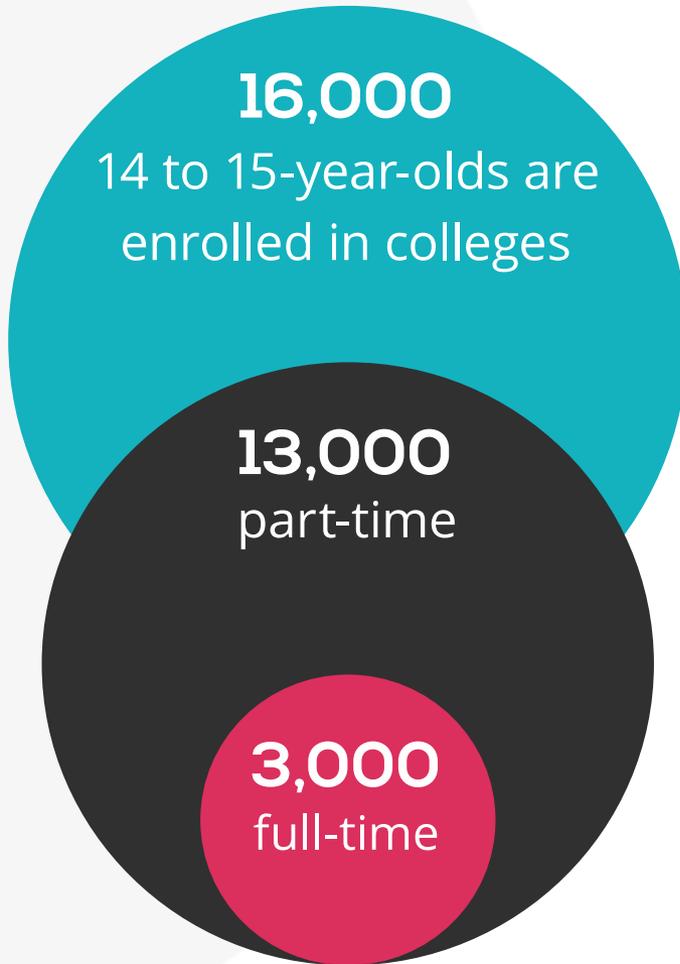
- Some college facts
- Routes to HE from a College
- Applied Generals
- T levels
- Impact of unconditional offers
- Why % recruitment from Polar cold spots is higher for colleges
- Considerations

Some college facts

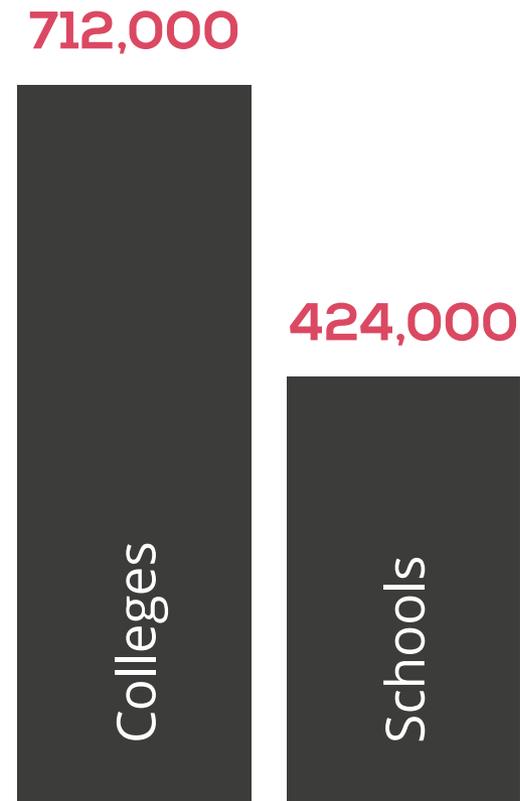
Number of colleges in England



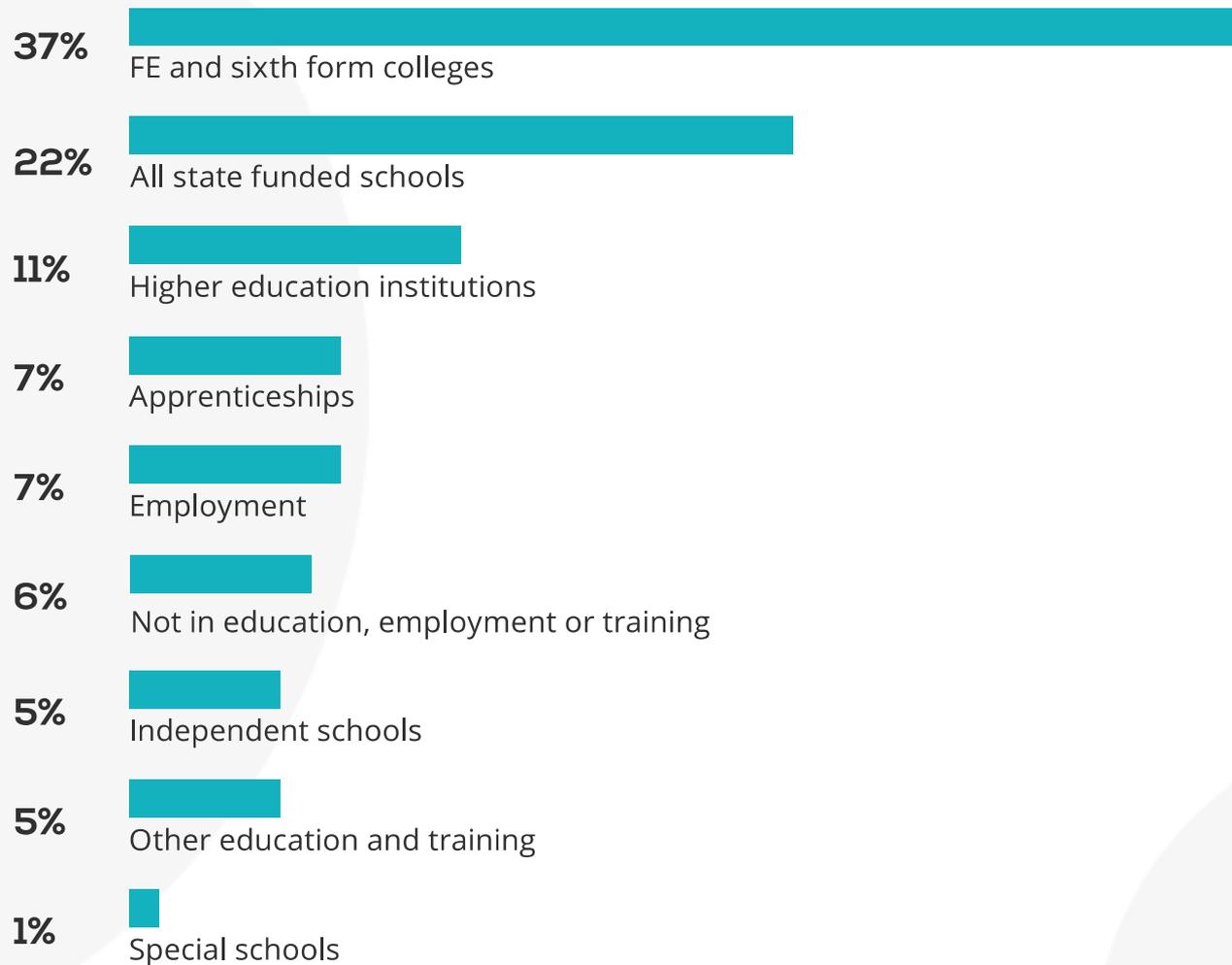
Students



16 to 18-year-olds studying in colleges vs state funded schools



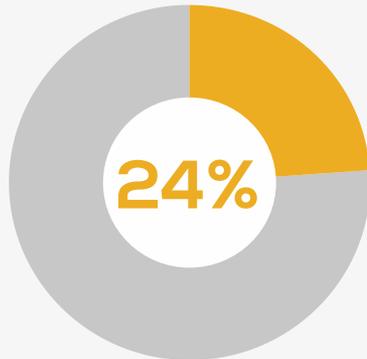
Where 16 to 18-year-olds are studying or working



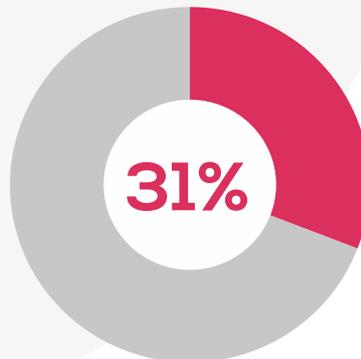
Diversity

Ethnic minority background of college students

16 to 18-year-olds



Adults



16 to 18-year-olds claiming free school meals at age 15

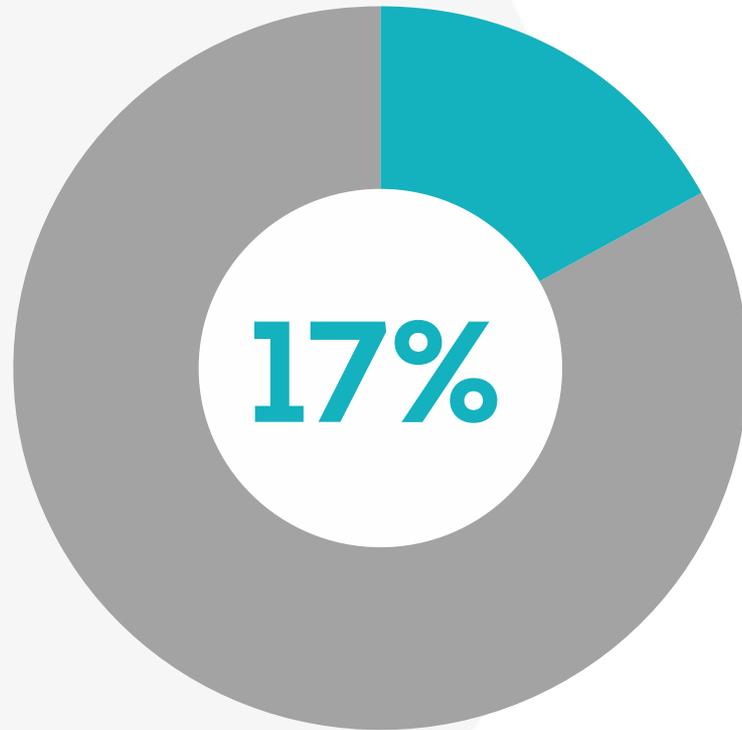
Colleges

17%

Maintained school and academy sixth forms

9%

Diversity



of students on FE and skills provision have a learning difficulty and/or disability

Routes to HE from a college

Applications at 18

- Tertiary and Sixth Form Colleges (also some General Further Education colleges) offering A levels: some in regions with no school sixth forms
- Applied General Qualifications (AGQs)
- Mixed model of A levels and Applied General qualifications
- Technical qualifications, such as CITB qualifications or C&G technical certificates

Applications from 19+

- Level 1 or level 2 entry at 16, with progression that takes 3 or 4 years instead of 2 (AGQ or possibly an A level route)
- Access to HE students returning for fast track study (often needing English and/or maths at level 2)
- Students completing an HNC/D or FdA applying for entry to HE into year 2 or 3 of an undergraduate programme

Applied Generals

BTECs

- Applied general qualifications do not start and end with Btec, however...

*‘Analysis by Ucas shows that **26 per cent** (102,700) of English university entrants had a BTEC in 2015, compared with 14 per cent in 2008. Most of these had BTECs only, but some combined the qualification with A levels.’*

*‘Students with BTECs, either on their own or in combination with A levels, accounted for **15 per cent** of all UK 18-year-old applicants’ (THS, 28 January 2016)*

- Full GCSE re-sit programmes now few and far between
- Level 2 vocational route allowing for maths and English re-sits leads to a level 3 vocational course not A levels

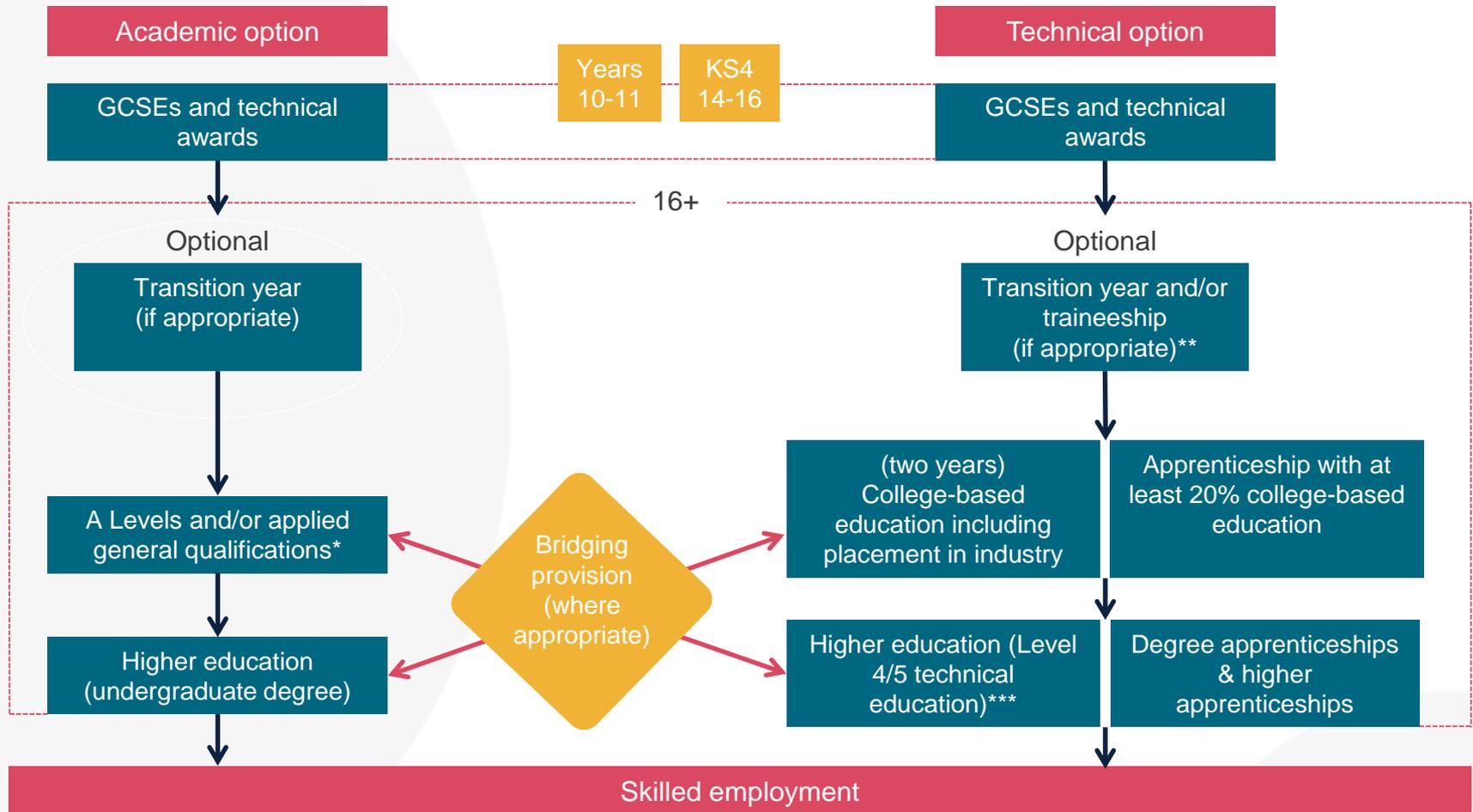
Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

- Delays to implementation in many subjects
- Examined and controlled assessment elements suppressing achievement for many students
- Many colleges reverting to Qualifications Credit Framework as mandatory implementation is pushed back
- Implications on the achievement of learners with EHCPs, SEND needs, mental health issues.
- Are exams the only way to ensure robust assessment and standardisation?

The image features a solid yellow background with three large, overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of yellow. The circles are arranged horizontally, with the middle one overlapping the other two. In the center of the middle circle, the text "T levels" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

T levels

How the academic and technical options would work



*Some students will move directly from A Levels and/or applied general qualifications to degree and higher apprenticeships.

** Where a student does both, the traineeship will follow the transition year. Students doing both the transition year and a traineeship may progress directly to employment.

*** HNC, HND, Foundation Degree

Unconditional Offers

Ucas End of Cycle report 2017: offer making

2008 – 2013

- <1% of 18 year olds receive an unconditional offer (2,985 offers made in 2013)

2017

- 5.3% of 18 year olds receive an unconditional offer (51,615 offers made in 2017)
- 28% of Btec students receive an unconditional offer (in spite of data suggesting they are less likely to achieve a first or 2.1)

Removal of SNC and demographic dip in 18 year olds has driven a competitive market in recruitment. Numbers start to increase in 2020... what then?

Current impact

- 38%-58% of 'older' applicants receive an unconditional offer.
- 19-year-olds who have undertaken a level 2 first?
- Attrition of students with unconditional offers (specifically those with Btecs, entering as an 'older' student)
- Students in Polar cold spots less incentivised to complete level 3 (many reasons)
- Potential for student debt and only a level 2 (GCSE equivalent) qualification at age 20

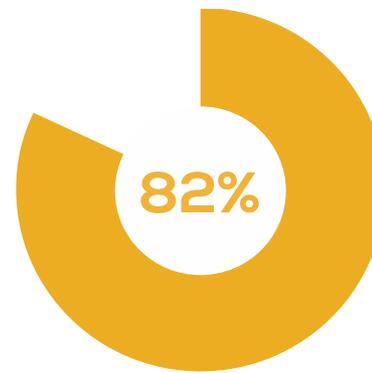
College HE offer

Higher Education

Colleges deliver



HNCs



HNDs



foundation degrees

Colleges recruit double to % of students from Polar cold spots to HE courses compared to Universities: Why?

- Many colleges are still making conditional offers when HEIs are making unconditional offers
- Students know their environment and staff
- They understand the support they will receive
- They can stay at home while they study/maintain p/t jobs, responsibilities
- Feel part of a community
- Supportive recruitment and induction processes: focus on study skills

Considerations

To widen access...

- A higher proportion of students eligible for FSM study at college
- The journey may take longer
- If using GCSE profile for entry criteria, many students ruled out, even though there may be valid reasons for this
- Larger concentrations of subject specific groups
- Implications of T levels
- Unconditional offers for those not yet completing their level 3 lowers aspiration
- Could AGQ be a more secure route if HEIs co-designed some assessment?
- The demographic profile begins to rise in 2020