



ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES

Widening Access: A College Perspective

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What I'll cover

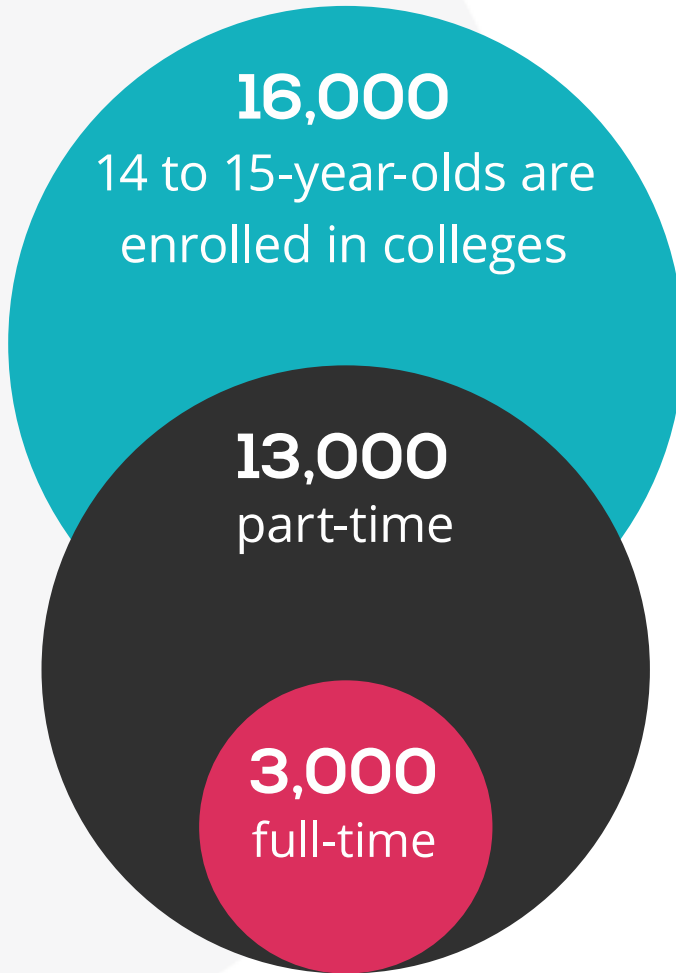
- Some college facts
- Routes to HE from a College
- Applied Generals
- T levels
- Impact of unconditional offers
- Why % recruitment from Polar cold spots is higher for colleges
- Considerations

Some college facts

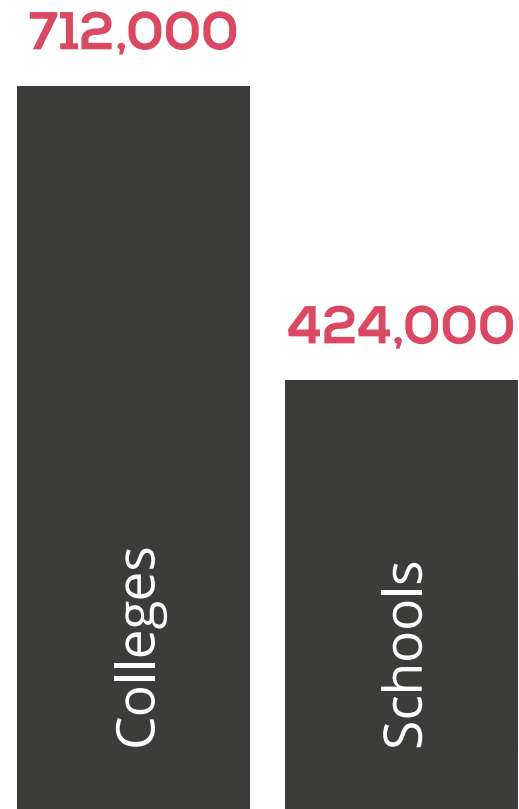
Number of colleges in England



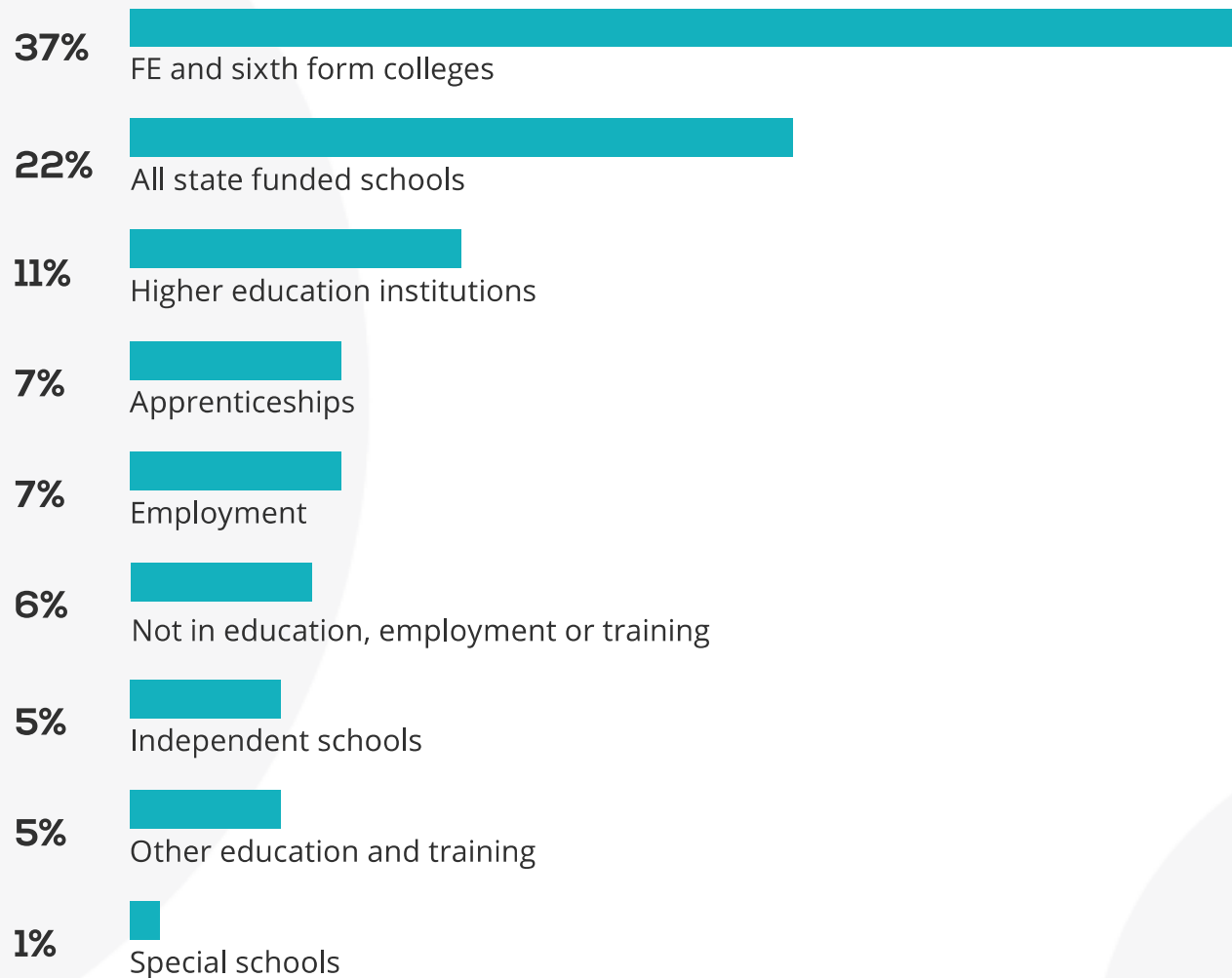
Students



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



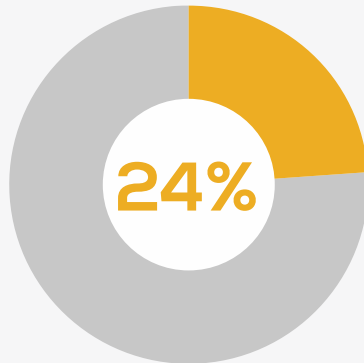
Where 16 to 18-year-olds are studying or working



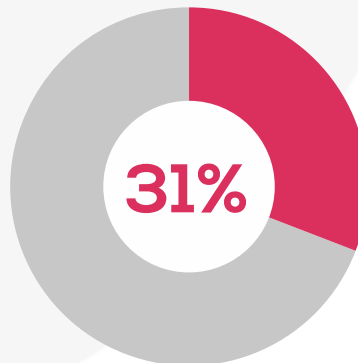
Diversity

Ethnic minority background of college students

16 to 18-year-olds



Adults



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

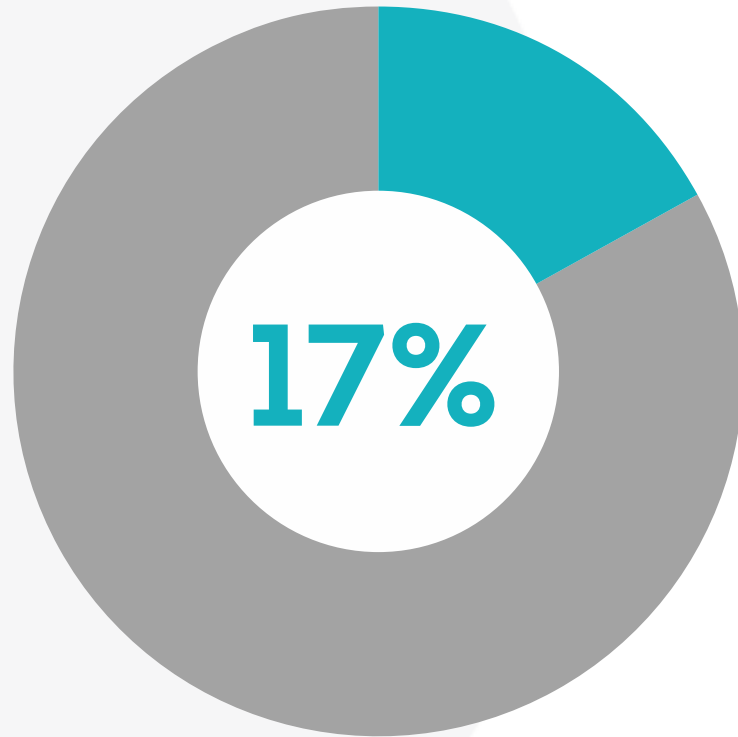
Colleges

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

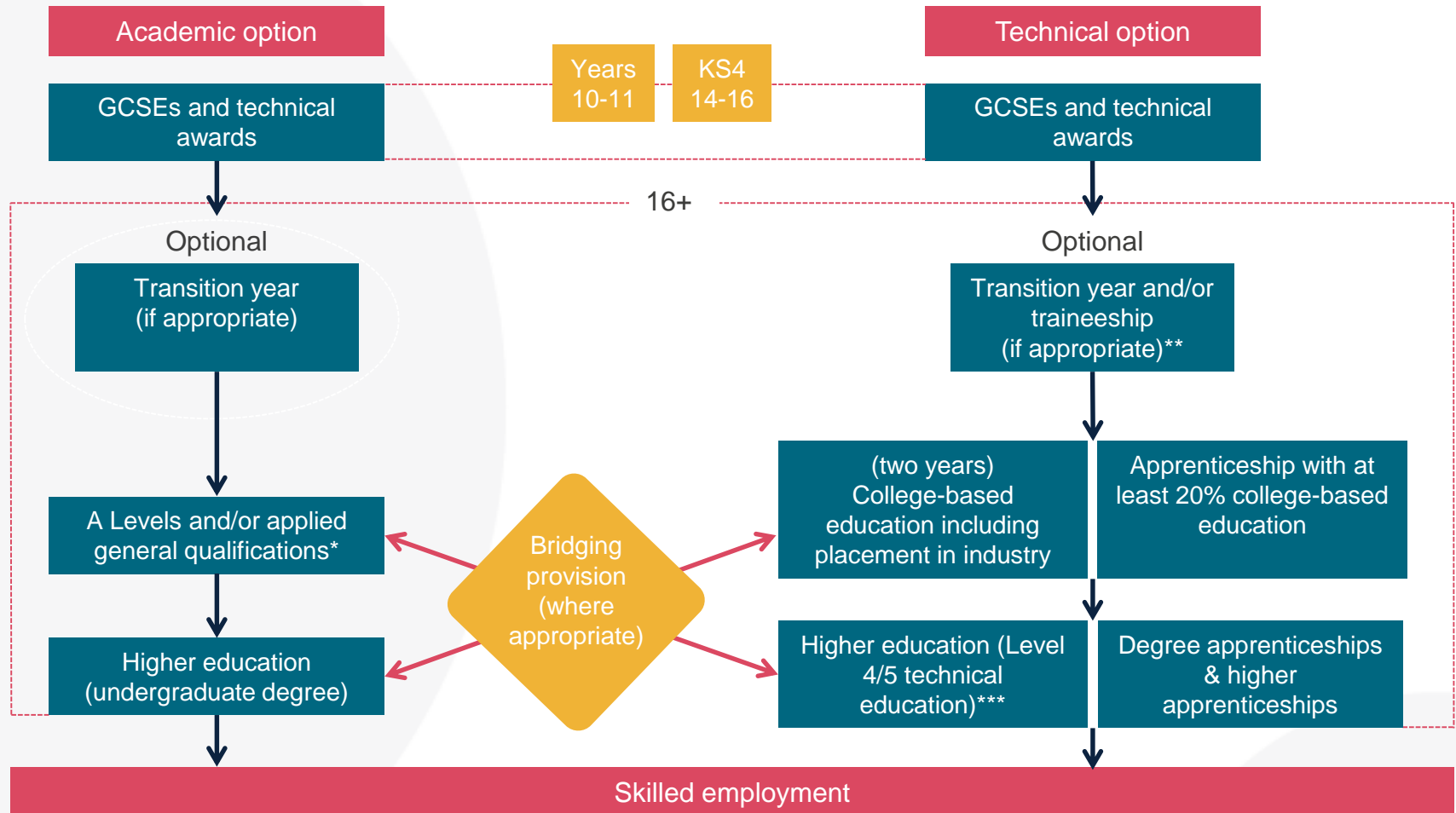
Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

- 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 background consists of a solid yellow color with several overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades of yellow. A central circle is the most prominent, containing the text 'T levels'.

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

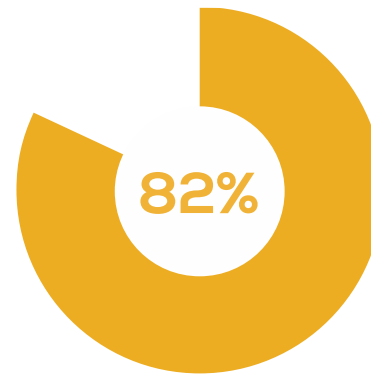
College HE offer

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