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Press Release - TPS Annual Transport Masters Census 2017/18

The number of Transport Masters Students continues to rise

The total number of students currently studying for a Transport Masters at 11 UK universities has continued to grow and is at a 4year high. The total number of full time students and part timers, recorded in FTE's (Full Time Equivalents) is 381.7 compared with 376 last year and 352 the previous year.

The number of UK students has increased significantly at 208.3 compared with 117 last year and 121 in 2015/16 and is split fairly evenly between full time students and part timers.

On the International front students from the EU/EEA have remained steady compared with last year halting the 20 % decline in the previous year but the numbers coming from the rest of the world has shown a worrying 40% decrease after years of steady growth.

Note: the above figures are based on 'Full Time Equivalents' (FTEs) and include rounding errors

	Total 2017/18	Total 2016/17	Change 2017 relative to 2016	% change 2017 relative to 2016
Student Category	Total FTE's	Total FTE's	Total FTE's	
UK full time students	114.0	52.2	62.1	119%
UK part time students	94.0	65.4	28.6	44%
Total UK	208.3	117.6	90.7	77%
Other EU/EEA	40.6	38.8	1.8	5%
Rest of World	132.8	220.0	-87.2	-40%
Overall Total	381.7	376.4	5.3	1%

Funding for UK Students

The statistics in Table 2 are only indicative as not all universities have the complete information but shows that 45.3 of the 114 full time UK students had some form of financial

support and again nearly all the part timers. The most significant form of financial support comes from employers. This has seemingly decreased significantly compared with last year, although there was probably some under reporting of total part timers in 2016/17.

Table 2

	2017/18		2016/17	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
University Bursary	1.00	0.00	9.00	1.00
Rees Jeffreys	2.00	3.00	6.00	1.00
Full Bursary	1.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Other Bursary	8.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Full employer	8.00	28.10	25.30	63.90
Partial Employer	0.00	9.60	13.13	13.40
Other	4.00	14.30	0.00	0.00
Total	45.30	63.80	58.43	79.30

Note: the above figures are based on 'Full Time Equivalents' (FTEs) and include rounding errors

Keith Buchan, the Society's Director for Skills, said "At a time when transport planning is in high demand, the dramatic growth in UK students is encouraging. On the other hand, the fall in MSc students from outside the UK and EU is both surprising and concerning. It remains to be seen if these trends will be maintained in future years. Support from employers for staff studying for an MSc demonstrates their commitment to the future of the profession despite a fall from last year's high. Nevertheless, together with the continuing growth in the number of trainees registered with the Society's Professional Development Scheme (PDS), now over 420, this is a very encouraging picture.

With the first apprentices completing their transport technician courses this summer, and an apprenticeship degree under development, this emphasises the importance of in-house graduate training, in particular the TPS PDS, to work alongside Masters degrees to provide the knowledge and experience professional transport planners require."

The Participating Universities

The universities participating in the annual TPS census are Cardiff, Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow, Imperial College, ITS Leeds, Newcastle, Salford, Southampton, UCL, UWE and Westminster.

For further information contact

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