



TPS Annual Transport Masters Census 2018/19

The number of Transport Masters Students dips for the first time in four years.

The total number of students currently studying for a Transport Masters at 11 UK universities is the lowest recorded in the past 4 years. The total number of full time students and part timers, recorded in FTE's (Full Time Equivalents) is 343.50 compared with 381.4 last year, 376 the year before and 352 in the academic year before that.

The most significant decline is in the number of UK students which has dropped from 208.3 to a concerning 129 – a fall of nearly 38.00% compared with the previous year.

On the International front students from the EU/EEA have dipped a little but remain buoyant.

By contrast the numbers coming from the rest of the world has shown an encouraging increase of 33.66 % increase reversing a decline in the previous three years.

Overall the total numbers are down by almost 10%

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

	Total 2018/19	Total 2017/18	Change relative to 2017/18	% change 2018/9 relative to 2017
Student Category	Total FTE's	Total FTE's	Total FTE's	
UK full time students	59	114	-55	-48.25%
UK part time students	70	94	-24	-25.53%
Total UK	129	208	-79	-37.98%
Other EU/EEA	37	40.6	-3.6	-8.87%
Rest of World	177.5	132.8	+44.7	+33.66%
Overall Total	343.5	381.4	-37.9	-9.94%

Funding for UK Students

The statistics in Table 2 are only indicative as not all universities have the complete information but shows that approx. nearly a half of full time UK students (58 out of 123) had some form of financial support – a higher proportion than last year. Part timers experienced a drop in financial support a but with employer support remaining steady.

	2018/19		2017/18	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
University Bursary	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Rees Jeffreys	9.00	0.00	2.00	3.00
Full Bursary	6.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Other Bursary	9.00	0.00	8.00	0.00
Full employer	11.00	30.00	8.00	28.10
Partial Employer	6.00	9.00	0.00	9.60
Other	17.00	2.00	4.00	14.30
Total	58.00	41.00	24.00	55.00

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

Keith Buchan, the Society's Director for Skills, said

“At a time when many employers are recruiting, there are more options than before including apprenticeships and the new degree apprenticeship. However, support from employers continues for staff studying for an MSc, although this has declined, and for the Society's Professional Development Scheme (PDS), which continues to perform strongly and now has now over 400 trainees. This demonstrates the employers commitment to the future of the profession and overall is an encouraging picture.

The international reach of transport planning work is reflected in the fact that 52% of MSc students are from outside the UK and EU. Although there is always year to year fluctuation, there has been a significant fall in UK students, even allowing for the strong increase last year. It will be interesting to discover whether there is some interaction between employers recruiting significant numbers of apprentices (now 30 to 40 a year) and MSc numbers. On the other hand, there has been no slowing down in relation to the numbers following the TPS PDS. We continue to believe that the diversity of entry is one of the strengths of the profession and that the PDS and apprenticeship routes will 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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