

**UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND**  
**STUDENT RESIDENCES POLICY PAPER**  
**MARCH 2011**

**1. What is the proportion of undergraduates to post graduate students?**

In total there are 9,116 full time on campus students: 86% (7,852) are UG and 14% (1,264) are PG (data source: 2009/10 returns).

**2. What is the proportion of students drawn from the region and attending the University on a daily basis rather than moving to the area to study?**

	N.E	UK (ex NE)	Non UK
UG	5,156	1,154	1,542
	65.50%	15%	19.50%
PG	424	72	768
	33.50%	6%	61%
Total	5,580	1,226	2,310
	61%	13.50%	25.5%

On the assumption that students living outside the Northeast are the students who may need to travel to the region to live and study then this equates to 1,226 + 2,310 = 3,536 of the total 9,116 Full time student @39%.

**3. How has this changed over time? How is it projected to change in the future?**

Sunderland has developed its reputation as being a community University and has had a high % of local students for the last 3 to 4 years. Future forecasting is difficult due to the new fee arrangements effective from the 2012/13 academic year. However the University has no reason to assume this pattern is likely to change dramatically.

**4. Does the University have sufficient bed-space to meet all its demand? Has that always been the case? Will there be pressure in the short to medium term?**

The University has sufficient space to meet demand, and has done for the last 10 years. Each year the University carries surplus beds. In 2009/10's intake it had an un-anticipated peak in demand and this resulted in the University referring a minimum of 34 students into the Private sector. The accommodation team approached the Private Sector (via Property agents and known landlords) bed availability was found to be plentiful.

Unsold beds over the years:

Intake Period	Unsold Beds
2005/06	440
2006/07	350
2007/08	78
2008/09	36
2009/10	34
2010/11	81 <sup>note 1</sup>

Note 1: Excludes the under write for the private sector partnership at the Forge

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5. **What is the proportion of first year students joining the University straight from school or after a gap year?**

1,859 full time students at 20.4%. This is the traditional source of demand for student residence beds and it is a low proportion of student numbers compared to institutions elsewhere in the country.

6. **In addition to undergraduate study, what is the proportion of post graduate students?**

Total full and part time on campus students: 10,995 of which:

PG Total	1,779	14%
PG Full Time	1,264	71%
PG Part Time	515	29%

Taken together with the answer to Question 5, it indicates that the majority of students are mature under graduates based in the North-East. This limits the demand for student beds. It results in the surplus shown in the table.

7. **How many PG students attend either on a day release basis or on a short-term basis undertaking further lifetime learning rather than studying for a degree?**

In the region of 29% (515 Students).

8. **What is the University's opinion about the impact of its business following the changes to fee structure? Is this likely to impact on demand?**

The demand for academic places in 2011/12 is expected to be high with students anxious to register in advance of the fee structure change in 2012. The University is undertaking scenario planning which includes a projected decrease in 2012/13 due to the impact of the new fee arrangements.

Students coming to study from the region and students living in residences do not necessarily follow the same pattern or trend. Therefore it is difficult to correlate academic and residential planning.

However the answers to Question 4 indicate that even in a time of growth, the general trend was a surplus of bed spaces.

9. **Are there any other institutions within Sunderland that have a significant demand for residences?**

- a) City of Sunderland College: The University assists the College in the provision of accommodation. Over the years the University has provided some beds in support of this (approximately. 40). In 2009/10 the City arranged accommodation in Kensington House. This year they have re-approached the University indicating their preference to partner directly with the University.

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- b) City of Sunderland Hospital Trust: The Accommodation Manager has provided the following data:
- 5% Staff (250) are non local (our total staff of 5,000). The majority of foreign nurses have bought houses and put down roots in Sunderland so these are not counted in the total.
  - In the hospital's accommodation stock there is currently 62 beds. In addition, total University rented beds are 57.
  - The Accommodation Manager is aware that staff who do not live in hospital organised accommodation have no problem in sourcing a property from the private rental market. The hospital receives calls every week from private landlords enquiring whether our staff would be interested in renting their properties.

Therefore, there is limited demand for bed space from other institutions. That demand can be accommodated by the University's surplus bed spaces.

**10. Does the price of housing mean that central services such as emergency services and teachers moving to the area cannot afford to purchase properties and need rooms to rent?**

House prices are generally affordable. The hospital's Accommodation Manager referred to the fact that many nurses purchased their own properties.

**11. Does the University believe that there has been an increase in student numbers over the last 15 – 20 years as a result of Government policy?**

Government policy has resulted in an increase in student numbers.

New information provided by the Survey of Student Accommodation in the Private Rented Sector 2010 found:

- A total of 40 responses were received from 116 UK Higher Education Institutions invited (a 34% response).
- A total of 36 (90%) HEI's surveyed believe there are sufficient beds available in the Private Rented Sector (not including Private Halls) to accommodate their students.
- A total of 19 (47.5%) HEI's surveyed believe there is an oversupply of beds available in the Private Rented Sector (not including Private Halls) to accommodate their students. (This included Sunderlands response).

This means there is limited scope for additional bed spaces.

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