

CROSS-BORDER FLOWS BETWEEN WALES AND ENGLAND:

Domicile, destinations and student characteristics

Evidence submitted to the *Review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements in Wales*.

Susan Whittaker, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Introduction

This paper reports findings drawn from research exploring internal cross-border movement between the four countries of the UK, the extent to which this may contribute to inequalities in HE participation, and how this differs across countries of the UK. The research includes descriptive and inferential analysis of Higher Education Statistics Agency¹ student record data on young (under 21) full-time undergraduate entrants, as those students for whom cross-border movement is most common and on which the richest data on student characteristics were available in the dataset. The analysis has focused principally on those who entered undergraduate study in a higher education institution (HEI) in 2012². In recognition of the major policy changes that took place in 2012 that could affect cross-border flows, entrants' data from 1996, 2004, 2010 and 2011 are also drawn on for comparison over time. The data on mature entrants are more limited, but main findings on these students are also provided.

These findings relate to movers-out, defined as those whose normal domicile before entering HE was Wales and who entered an HEI in another country of the UK; movers-in, defined as those whose normal domicile was another UK country and who entered a Welsh HEI; and stayers, defined as those whose normal domicile and country of study were Wales.

This paper provides a simple descriptive summary of findings on a recent cohort of entrants, as evidence potentially useful to the Review. Further inferential analysis of the association between student characteristics and mobility, using regression models, is available but not currently included. UK-wide findings for 2011 and 2012 entrants and discussion of these are available in various publications produced under the auspices of the ESRC Fellowship³ on '*HE in Scotland, the devolution settlement and the referendum on independence*' (listed at the end of the paper).

There are seven sections:

1. The extent of flows
2. Outflows and inflows by domicile
3. Institutional destinations
4. Student characteristics – outflows
5. Student characteristics – inflows
6. Mature entrants
7. Summary

¹ HESA cannot accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived from the data. All data derived from HESA data are Copyright Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited 2013.

² Names of Welsh HEIs reported are those that were correct in 2012.

³ Awarded to Prof Sheila Riddell, University of Edinburgh.

1. The extent of flows

Table 1: Domicile of young full-time entrants to Welsh HEIs, percentage by year of entry

	1996	2004	2010	2011	2012
Wales					
Home	39	45	44	40	44
RUK	54	48	46	50	43
EU	5	2	3	3	4
Overseas (non-EU)	2	5	7	7	8
Total (N)	14505	16470	20020	21395	19130

Source: HESA student record 1996-97, 2004-05, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

In relation to student domicile, Table 1 shows that RUK entrants made up a smaller percentage of entrants to Welsh HEIs in 2012 compared with the previous two years. The number of English students entering Welsh HEIs decreased in Wales, as did the overall entry rate for England-domiciled students that year.⁴ The increase in RUK entrants in 2011 and the decrease in home entrants that year may have reflected anticipatory effects of the fee changes in 2012. Overall, the percentage of overseas entrants to Welsh HEIs has increased over time but RUK students remain an important entrant group.

Table 2: Outflows of Wales-domiciled young full-time entrants and inflows of RUK entrants into Welsh HEIs – year of entry

	1996	2004	2010	2011	2012
Movers-out					
%	48	39	34	36	42
N	5815	5715	5360	5570	6100
Movers-in					
%	55	46	47	51	49
N	7790	7870	9120	10640	8310

Source: HESA student record 1996-97, 2004-05, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

Table 2 shows the percentage and number of outflows from Wales, in terms of Wales-domiciled young full-time undergraduate entrants who entered an HEI located in another country of the UK. They also show the movers-in to Welsh HEIs from the rest of the UK (RUK) as a percentage of all UK entrants. Both outflows and inflows have fluctuated over the years, but inflows have always been greater than outflows. Despite the large outflows from Wales into England, Welsh inflows into England are a small percentage of UK entrants. Outflows from England have a big impact on the Welsh HE system but comprise a small percentage of England-domiciled entrants.

2. Outflows and inflows by domicile

Table 3: Percentage of young full-time Wales domiciled entrants to region of study in 2010, 2011 and 2012

	2010	2011	2012
North East	0.8	0.9	1.0
Yorks & Humber	3.0	3.0	2.8
North West	8.7	8.8	10.1
East Midlands	2.6	2.6	2.7
West Midlands	4.1	4.2	4.3
Eastern	1.0	1.2	1.2
Greater London	3.7	3.8	3.8
South East	4.5	4.6	5.0

⁴ While this may be due to the general decrease in participation by England-domiciled students in 2012, English movers into Scotland increased that year. However given the differences in the student groups and institution types amongst movers to Scotland compared to Wales, it is difficult to directly compare the impact of policy changes in 2012 on movers to Wales and movers to Scotland.

	2010	2011	2012
South West	8.8	9.6	10.4
Scotland	0.6	0.5	0.7
Wales	62.2	60.7	58.2

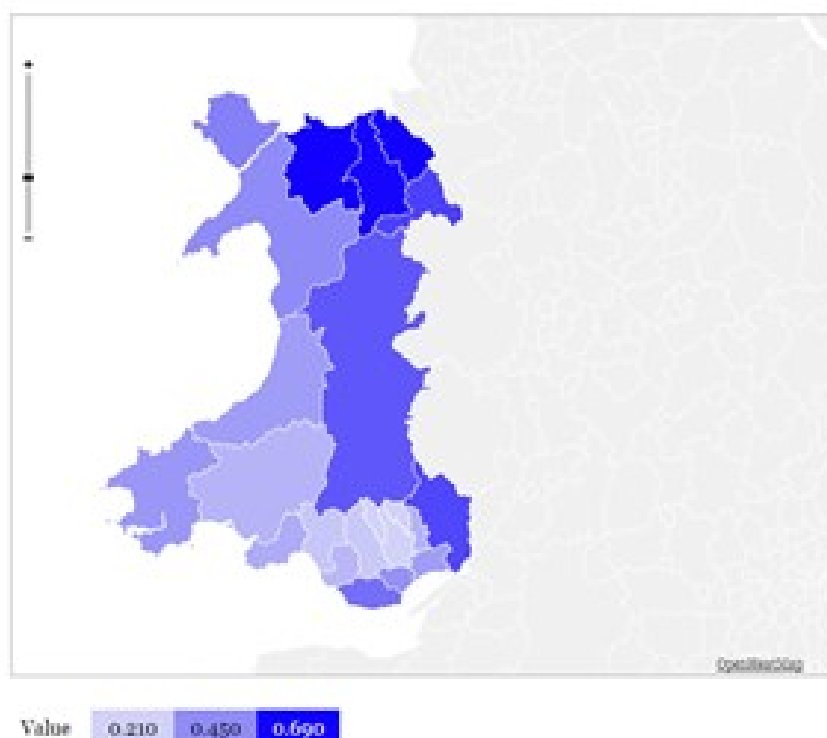
Source: HESA student record 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

Movers-out of Wales enter HEIs in the North-West and South-West to the greatest extent. Table 3 compares three years of data. Perhaps the most useful comparison is between 2012 when fee increases and other recruitment changes in England took place, and 2010 before entrants were able to take these changes into account in deciding whether or not to defer entry, enter a Welsh or English HEI, or indeed enter HE at all. The percentage of entrants to all regions outside of Wales increased in 2012 compared to 2010, but the increases were greatest to the North-West and South-West, suggesting greater propensity in 2012 for movers-out to move to regions relatively close to Wales.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of 2012 entrants from each council area who were movers-out. In comparison to other countries of the UK, there are no counties from which there is a low percentage of movers-out. Entrants were however more likely to be movers-out if living in proximity to the border with England. Entrants from six counties were more likely to leave Wales than stay in Wales: Flintshire (70% of entrants were movers), Conwy (69%), Denbighshire (68%), Wrexham (58%), Monmouthshire (57%), and Powys (54%). The counties with the lowest percentages of movers among entrants were all in the south of Wales: Blaenau Gwent (15%), Merthyr Tydfil (21%), Caerphilly (22%), Rhondda Cynon Taff (24%), Neath Port Talbot (25%). These include areas with low HE participation rates (HEFCW, 2014).

Figure 1: Percentage of movers among young full-time 2012 entrants by Welsh county domicile

Young Welsh movers – local authority domicile



(Source: HESA student record 2012-13)

To explore any change from the preceding years, Table 4 compares three years of entry from the counties with highest mover-out rates. The percentage of entrants who were movers-out was high in 2010 and 2011 also, but in 2012 the percentage of movers increased, notably so in the cases of Flintshire, Conwy and Denbighshire.

Table 4: Welsh counties with the highest percentage of movers-out among entrants – percentage of movers in 2010, 2011 and 2012

	2010	2011	2012
Flintshire	65	66	70
Conwy	62	63	69
Denbighshire	64	64	68
Wrexham	52	55	58
Powys	48	53	54
Monmouthshire	58	57	57

Source: HESA student record 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

County of domicile seems strongly associated with the region in which movers enter HEIs (Table 5). Those from the North of Wales most commonly went to the North-West of England (or Yorkshire and Humber); those from the South of Wales to the South-West of England. Movers from Powys went mainly to the North-West, West Midlands and South-West. Table 5 shows that there has been a lot of consistency in the most frequently entered regions over recent years, though generally increased levels of movement in 2012, and in Powys movement was slightly more concentrated in the North-West in 2012 than in the previous years.

Table 5: Welsh counties with the highest percentage of movers among entrants – percentage of all entrants and movers only to most frequent region destinations in 2010, 2011 and 2012

	Entrants			Movers		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Flintshire	35 (NW)	36 (NW)	40 (NW)	53 (NW)	54 (NW)	57 (NW)
Conwy	30 (NW)	31 (NW)	39 (NW)	48 (NW)	49 (NW)	56 (NW)
Denbighshire	32 (NW)	32 (NW)	37 (NW)	50 (NW)	50 (NW)	54 (NW)
Wrexham	28 (NW)	25 (NW)	28 (NW)	55 (NW)	45 (NW)	49 (NW)
Powys	10 (NW)	11 (NW)	13 (NW)	20 (NW)	21 (NW)	24 (NW)
	10 (WM)	11 (WM)	10 (WM)	17 (WM)	20 (WM)	19 (WM)
	8 (SW)	11 (SW)	10 (SW)	12 (SW)	20 (SW)	19 (SW)
Monmouthshire	18 (SW)	18 (SW)	22 (SW)	31 (SW)	32 (SW)	39 (SW)

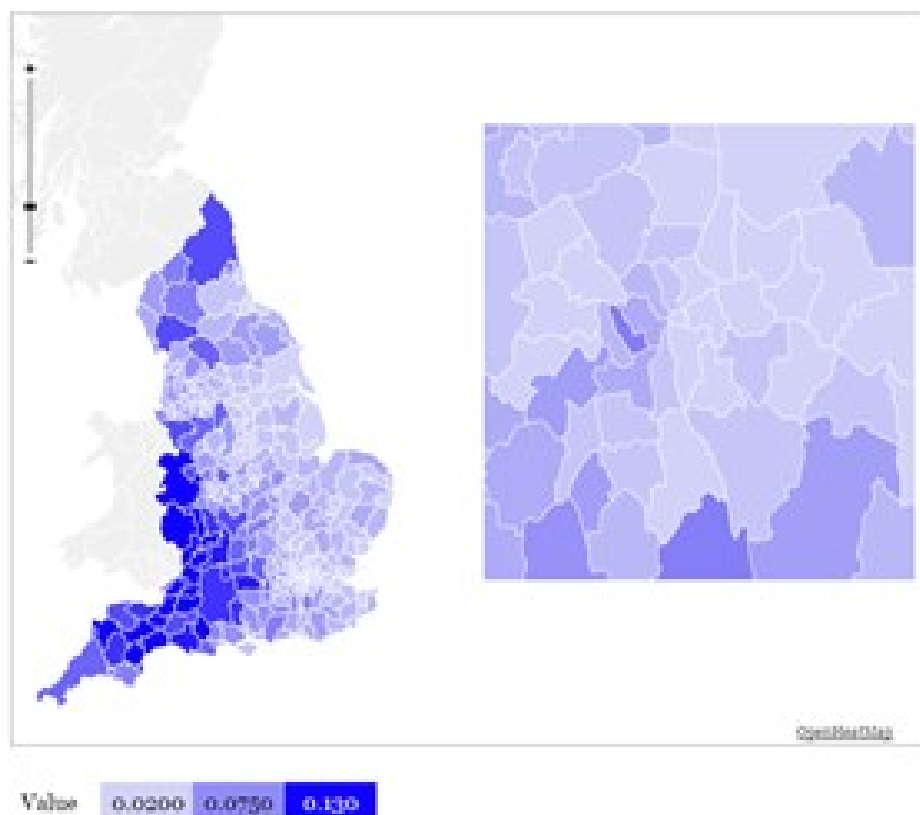
NW = North-West England; WM = West Midlands; SW = South-West England

Source: HESA student record 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

Almost all flows into Wales are from England. There were over 8000 movers-in from England in 2012, compared to 6000 movers-out (Table 7 below). Figure 2 shows the percentage of 2012 entrants from each local authority area in England who were movers-out. Movers ranged from only 2% to 13% of entrants by local authority, but the map shows that movers were much more likely to be from areas close to Wales.

Figure 2: Percentage of movers among young full-time 2012 entrants by English local authority domicile

Young English movers – local authority domicile



(Source: HESA student record 2012-13)

As identified in the map and in Table 6, movers-in were mainly from the South-West of England, but also more likely to come from the West Midlands and the South-East than the North-West of England.

Table 6: Percentage of young full-time 2012 entrants from English regions entering HEIs in Wales

Region of domicile								
North East	Yorks & Humber	North West	East Midlands	West Midlands	Eastern	London	South East	South West
1	1	3	3	5	2	1	4	10

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

The notable flows were between Wales (and also specifically North Wales) and the North-West; and between Wales (and specifically the south of Wales) and the South-West.⁵ Apart from the flows between North of Wales/North West England, inflows from England were greater than outflows to England (Table 7).

⁵ North Wales as a place of origin is defined here as Flintshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, and Anglesey; South Wales is defined here as Torfaen, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, and Swansea. North Wales as a destination for movers-in is defined as Bangor and Glyndwr universities; South Wales as a destination for movers-in is defined as Cardiff, Cardiff Metropolitan, Swansea, Glamorgan, and Newport universities.

Table 7: Flows between Wales and England: number of young full-time entrants

Place of domicile/study	No of movers	Place of domicile/study
Wales	5600 → ← 8080	England
Wales	1470 → ← 965	North-West
North Wales	850 → ← 475	North-West
Wales	1510 → ← 2160	South-West
South Wales	925 → ← 1855	South-West

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

3. Institutional destinations

In terms of institution types entered (Table 8) movers out of Wales were more likely than stayers to enter high/highest tariff institutions, but also low tariff institutions. As this tariff typology was generated by the author, a more established classification of institution grouping is also provided (Table 9) and shows movers were more likely than stayers to enter Russell Group and Post-92 universities.

Table 8: Institution type of young FT stayers and movers by country of domicile (% of entrants in each row category who entered institution type)

Domicile	Stayer/mover	Highest tariff	High tariff	Medium tariff	Low tariff	Lowest tariff	n=100%
Wales	Stayed in Wales	0	17	21	28	35	8485
	Moved out of Wales	18	24	15	33	10	6100
England	Stayed in England	12	22	18	27	21	231295
	<i>Stayed within region</i>	6	16	17	34	28	103750
	<i>Moved between regions</i>	16	27	19	21	16	127545
	Moved out of England	19	29	21	18	12	11680
	to Wales	0	32	27	24	17	8100
	<i>to Scotland</i>	65	20	9	6	1	3400

Highest tariff >450 UCAS tariff points for average entry; High tariff 350-450 UCAS tariff points; Medium tariff 300-349 UCAS tariff points; Low tariff 275-299 UCAS tariff points; Lowest tariff <275 UCAS tariff points

Source: HESA student record 2012-13; average UCAS tariff points of entrants in 2012 taken from Guardian University Guide 2013 and Complete University Guide 2013

Table 9: Institution type of stayers and movers by country of domicile (% of entrants in each row category who entered institution type)

Domicile	Stayer/mover	Russell Group	Other Pre-1992	Post 1992	Other HEI	n=100%
Wales	Stayed in Wales	17	41	42	0	8485
	Moved out of Wales	24	22	49	6	6100
England	Stayed in England	20	20	54	6	231295
	<i>Stayed within region</i>	12	17	65	7	103750
	<i>Moved between regions</i>	27	22	46	6	127545
	Moved out of England	39	42	18	1	11680
	to Wales	32	46	22	0	8100
	<i>to Scotland</i>	52	36	8	4	3400
		72 (to ancients)	16	8	4	

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

Movers into Wales from England were more likely than stayers to enter high and medium tariff institutions or Russell Group and Other Pre-92 institutions (Tables 8 and 9). Movers-in to Wales were therefore more concentrated in higher tariff institutions than were movers-out.

The most frequently entered institutions were also explored. A frequency analysis for young full-time entrants is provided in Table 10, and the final column compares the frequency of movers entering these institutions with entrants from 2004 and 2010, to indicate the level of consistency over time.

Table 10: Most frequently entered universities by movers by country of domicile, young full-time entrants 2012, and rankings for 2004 and 2010 entrants

Movers' country of domicile	Name of institution	Region/country location	Percentage of movers from country domicile	Ranking		
				2004	2010	2012
Wales	UWE Bristol	South-West	8	1	1	1
	Chester	North-West	5	6	5	2
	Liverpool John Moores	North-West	4	3=	2	3
	Exeter	South-West	4	7	9	4
	Liverpool	North-West	3	5	3	5
	Manchester Met	North-West	3	8	4	6
	Manchester	North-West	3	2	6	7
	Plymouth	South-West	3	10	7	8
	Bath	South-West	3	9	11	9
	Bristol	South-West	2	3=	8	10
	Birmingham	West Midlands	2	11	10	11
	Reading	South-East	2	12	13	12
	Bath Spa	South-West	2	27	12	13
	Gloucestershire	South-West	2	21	19	14
England	Cardiff	Wales	22	1	1	1
	Edinburgh	Scotland	13	2	7	2
	Aberystwyth	Wales	11	3	2	3
	Bangor	Wales	10	5	4	4
	Swansea	Wales	8	4	3	5
	Glamorgan	Wales	7	8	5	6
	Cardiff Metropolitan	Wales	6	6	6	7
	St. Andrews	Scotland	4	7	8	8

Source: HESA student record 2004-05, 2010-11, 2012-13

The Wales-domiciled entrants who crossed borders in 2012 entered 146 different HEIs outside of Wales. Around 45% of movers were accounted for by 14 institutions (Table 10). These included five Russell Group universities, two Other Pre-92 universities and six Post-92 universities.⁶ Comparison over the three years of entry shows fairly high levels of consistency in which institutions were amongst those frequently entered, but in 2012

⁶ Movement into specific institutions is of course affected by the relative intakes of each institution, as well as success in being offered a place. The extent to which universities focus recruitment activity in Wales may also be factor, but has not explored.

compared to previous years, Chester, Exeter, Bath Spa and Gloucestershire were all more popular.

England-domiciled movers entered 29 different HEIs outside of England. Eight of these universities accounted for 90% of movers. Six of these were in Wales and two in Scotland. Cardiff University alone accounted for over a fifth (22%) of all English movers (Table 10). These eight most popular universities for movers have been consistently so, and while there has been some ranking position change over the years this is most notable in the case of Edinburgh rather than the Welsh HEIs.

The impact of movers-in from England on the student bodies in Welsh institutions results in high percentages of RUK students among entrants at all institutions, but particularly Bangor, Aberystwyth and Cardiff (Table 11).

Table 11: Domicile of entrants to Welsh HEIs which are most frequently entered by movers-in, 2012

	Home	RUK	EU and Overseas	Total
Aberystwyth	700 30%	1350 57%	320 14%	2370 100%
Bangor	600 30%	1150 58%	240 12%	1990 100%
Cardiff	1440 30%	2635 55%	725 15%	4795 100%
Cardiff Metropolitan	1080 55%	700 36%	195 10%	1975 100%
Glamorgan	1740 61%	820 29%	275 10%	2835 100%
Glyndwr	260 56%	110 23%	100 21%	470 100%
Swansea	1050 46%	905 39%	355 15%	2310 100%
UW Newport	515 63%	240 29%	65 8%	820 100%
UW Trinity St David	1100 71%	400 26%	60 4%	1560 100%

EU and other overseas students combined due to small numbers at some HEIs.

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

4. Student characteristics – outflows

The data in Table 12 indicate higher levels of advantage among movers than stayers. A greater percentage of movers than stayers were from a managerial and professional class background, while stayers were more likely than movers to be from a working class background. However, movers did come from across the range of class backgrounds.

Movers were also more likely than stayers to have a parent with an HE qualification (as opposed to being first generation students), and those who had been to independent school made up a higher percentage of movers than stayers. Movers were less likely than stayers

to be from an area with a low HE participation rate⁷. Moving was also associated with high attainment. In addition, BME entrants made up a higher percentage of movers than stayers overall and this was most strongly the case for those from the Mixed/Other ethnic group.

Table 12: Wales-domiciled young full-time undergraduate stayers and movers, 2012 entrants

	Stayers (%)	Movers (%)	Stayers (N)	Movers (N)
Gender				
Female	55	57	4650	3460
Male	45	43	3830	2635
Social class				
Higher managerial and professional	18	27	1520	1630
Lower managerial and professional	30	33	2525	2015
Intermediate	22	20	1875	1205
Working class	30	21	2565	1255
Parental education				
Parent with HE qualification	57	66	4865	4000
No parent with HE qualification	43	34	3620	2100
Ethnicity				
White	94	92	7860	5570
Black	1	1	85	70
Asian	3	4	290	225
Mixed/ Other	2	3	170	205
<i>All BME</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>500</i>
Attainment				
Highest quintile	13	27	1105	1670
High quintile	16	20	1345	1235
Medium quintile	20	20	1690	1200
Low quintile	26	20	2185	1220
Lowest quintile	25	13	2155	775
Home area				
Not low participation area	87	91	7305	5520
Low participation area	13	9	1110	535
School type				
State school	98	91	7950	5405
Independent school	2	9	170	510
Total	58	42	8485	6100

Note: the N total within each characteristic grouping will not necessarily equal the total movers, due to rounding of numbers following multiple imputation for some variables; and missing data for other variables, where the missing data equal less than 5% of cases.

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

Examining the characteristics of movers-out and the English region in which they enter HE (Table 13), those who went to HEIs in North-West England were more likely, compared to movers to other regions, to be from an intermediate or working class background, to be first generation students, to be lower attainers, and were less likely to have gone to an

⁷ Defined as POLAR3 bottom quintile.

independent school. Those who went to the West Midlands were also relatively likely to be from an intermediate or working class background.

Table 13: Wales-domiciled movers by region of HEI entered, young full-time entrants, 2012

	NE	YH	NW	EM	WM	East	London	SE	SW
Gender									
Female	47	56	59	50	59	55	59	54	57
Male	53	44	41	50	41	45	41	46	43
Social class									
Managerial and professional classes	61	61	52	61	56	65	66	62	62
Intermediate + Working classes	39	39	48	39	44	35	34	38	38
Parental education									
Parent with HE qualification	67	66	57	67	64	74	71	66	69
No parent with HE qualification	33	34	43	33	36	26	29	34	31
Attainment									
Low + Lowest	-	36	40	27	33	-	29	30	33
Medium	-	18	21	21	19	-	20	20	19
High + highest	70	46	39	52	48	54	34	29	48
Total (N)	143	404	1469	391	629	175	549	727	1511

- NE = North-East; YH = Yorkshire and Humber; NW = North-West; EM = East Midlands; WM = West Midlands; East = Eastern; London = Greater London; SE = South-East; SW = South-West.
- Low+lowest/medium attainers not reported where one of these categories has fewer than 52 cases.
- Home area and school type not reported due to small cell sizes.
- Columns within characteristics = 100%
- Source: HESA student record 2012-13.

Table 14 shows the combined entrants to lowest and low tariff groups, and to high and highest tariff groups, and the breakdown of stayers and movers to each institution grouping. On measures of advantage – social class, parental education and schooling – there was greater similarity between movers and stayers amongst those entering lower tariff institutions than there was amongst those entering higher tariff institutions. However moving was still associated with higher levels of advantage on these measures. Amongst entrants to lower tariff institutions, movers were more likely than stayers to be female, and slightly more likely to be BME. Amongst entrants to higher tariff institutions, movers were more likely than stayers to be male, and slightly more likely to be White.

Table 14: Wales-domiciled young full-time undergraduate entrants to lower and higher tariff institutions - percentage of stayers and movers by characteristics, 2012

	Lower tariff		Higher Tariff	
	Stayers	Movers	Stayers	Movers
Gender				
Female	56	61	58	52.1
Male	44	39	42	47.9
Social class				
Higher managerial and professional	16	20	24	35.1
Lower managerial and professional	28	32	33	34.2
Intermediate	22	21	22	17.7
Working class	34	28	21	13.1
Parental education				
Parent with HE qualification	54	58	67	73.5
No parent with HE qualification	47	42	33	26.5
Ethnicity				
White	94	92	89	90
BME	6	8	11	10
Attainment				
High + highest quintile	18	24	68	77
Low + lowest quintile	63	55	14	7
Home area				
Non low participation area	85	89	92	94
Low participation area	16	11	8	6
School type				
State school	99	96	95	86
Independent school	1	7	5	14
Total (N)	5092	2531	1438	2569

Columns within characteristics = 100%; attainment level does not add to 100% as medium attainers not reported

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

5. Student characteristics - inflows

Table 15 provides a breakdown of the characteristics of England-domiciled entrants to all Welsh HEIs, and specifically Cardiff University which attracts about a fifth of all English movers (including those who go to Scotland or Northern Ireland). Compared to all movers into Wales those entering Cardiff were more likely to be female, from a managerial and professional class background, to have been to independent school, and were less likely to be from a low participation area. They were also marginally more likely to be BME than entrants to all HEIs. As would be expected, they were also more likely to be in higher attainment groups.

Table 15: Percentage of England-domiciled young full-time 2012 entrants who were movers-in to all Welsh HEIs and to Cardiff University, by social characteristics

	All Welsh HEIs	Cardiff University
Gender		
Female	50	58
Male	50	42
Social class		
Managerial and professional classes	62	69.3
Intermediate + Working class	38	30.7
Parental education		
Parent with HE qualification	63	69.9
No parent with HE qualification	37	30.1
Ethnicity		
White	90	88
Black	2	-
Asian	5	-
Other	4	-
<i>BME</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>
Attainment		
Low + Lowest quintiles	43	12
Medium quintile	23	23
High + Highest quintiles	34	65
Home area		
Not low participation area	90	95
Low participation area	10	5
School type		
State school	87	78
Independent school	13	22
Total (N)	8100	2575

'-' cell sizes too small to report separate percentages

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

Finally for young entrants, to explore the impact of RUK students entering Wales and Welsh entrants moving out on the aggregate characteristics of the student population in Wales, Table 16 compares home-domiciled entrants to Welsh HEIs with all UK-domiciled entrants to Welsh HEIs. Compared to Welsh entrants in Wales, amongst all UK entrants combined there was a greater proportion of male students, those from a managerial and professional class background, students with an HE qualified parent, BME students, those who had been to independent school, and a lower proportion from a low participation area. Overall they had lower attainment levels.

Table 16: Percentage of young full-time Wales domiciled and UK domiciled 2012 entrants to Welsh HEIs by social characteristics

	Home domiciled	All UK domiciled
Gender		
Female	55	53
Male	45	47
Social class		
Higher managerial and professional	18	23
Lower managerial and professional	30	32
Intermediate	22	21
Working class	30	25
Parental education		
Parent(s) with HE qualification	57	60
No parent(s) with HE qualification	43	40
Ethnicity		
White	94	92
BME	6	8
Attainment		
Highest quintile	25	23
High quintile	33	24
Medium quintile	20	21
Low quintile	16	18
Lowest quintile	13	14
Home area		
Low participation area	13	11
Non-low participation area	87	89
School type		
State school	2	7
Independent school	98	93
Total entrants	8485	16800

Columns within characteristics = 100%

Source: HESA student record 2012-13

6. Mature entrants

Mature entrants (those aged 21 or over) are a lot less likely to be movers than young entrants. While outflows have been relatively consistent since 2004, inflows notably reduced in 2012 compared to the preceding years (Table 16). Cross-border movement is much more likely for full-time than part-time entrants (7% of part-time mature entrants in 2012 were movers-out compared to 18% of full-time entrants).

Table 17: Outflows of Wales-domiciled mature full-time entrants and inflows of RUK entrants into Welsh HEIs, percentage by year of entry

	1996	2004	2010	2011	2012
Movers-out , by country of domicile	24	17	18	19	18
Movers-in , by country of study	31	24	26	25	19

Source: HESA student record 1996-97, 2004-05, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

Mature full-time entrants were most likely to be movers if from Flintshire (45.5% of entrants were movers), Denbighshire (40.4%), Powys (39.3%) or Monmouthshire (32.5%) - these are four of the counties which had the highest percentages of young movers too. Those from North Wales were more likely to go to the North-West than other regions if movers-out (but unlike young entrants were more likely to stay in Wales than move to the North-West), and those from Monmouthshire to the South-West. Those from Powys were more likely to enter West Midlands HEIs than other regions as movers. Overall, full-time mature movers were most likely to enter HEIs in the North-West (5.3% of all entrants) and the South-West (4.1%).

Movers-out were much more likely than stayers to enter low tariff universities. Young and mature full-time movers most frequently entered the same three universities (UWE, Chester, Liverpool John Moores), but mature movers were slightly more concentrated in these three universities than was the case for young movers. Movers-in from England were most likely to enter lowest tariff institutions, but more likely than England-domiciled stayers to enter high tariff institutions. Movers-in indeed most frequently entered Cardiff University (14% of all England domiciled full-time mature movers), with similar percentages entering the other Welsh HEIs (6-8% of movers).

The data available on student characteristics are much more limited than for young entrants. Male entrants (24%) were more likely than female entrants (15%) to be movers-out. However, movers were more likely to be female than male if moving to the North-West or South-West, ie regions closer to Wales. Movers were as likely to be BME as White. The overall gender and ethnicity findings for mature full-time entrants differ to those for young full-time entrants.

7. Summary

This paper has provided an overview of descriptive data on student outflows and inflows, mainly for 2012 young full-time entrants. Key points emerging from the findings are:

- Movement in both directions is most common for those living close to borders, and the regions in which HEIs are entered also tend to be those in closest proximity to place of domicile. The most frequently entered institutions by movers-out have been largely consistent over recent years. Proximity, accessibility and following well-established routes appear to matter in cross-border movement.
- Students from a wide range of backgrounds and all areas in Wales cross borders. Movement out of Wales is to a range of institution tariff levels, which reflects in part the sector characteristics in Wales compared to England, and also reflects the fact that cross-border movement concerns a large proportion of students rather than being more strongly concentrated among relatively advantaged students (as is seen in flows between Scotland and England).
- However at the aggregate level, movers are more advantaged than stayers in terms of social class background, parental education, school attended, and participation rate of their home area. This is more strongly the case amongst entrants to higher tariff than lower tariff institutions.
- The characteristics of movers-out also differ across areas of domicile. Movement out of the North of Wales is particularly prevalent and movement is commonly into North-West HEIs, and these students tend to be less advantaged, in relation to the measures included, than movers to other regions of England.
- RUK students are an important entrant group for Welsh HEIs, and this is the case for the range of Welsh HEIs, although the percentage of entrants from outside the UK has increased. Flows into Wales from England are both greater than outflows and have a much larger impact on the student population in the Welsh HE system than Welsh movers-out have on the English system. The effect of both inflows and outflows is that UK-domiciled entrants (including Wales-domiciled entrants) to Welsh HEIs are more advantaged at the aggregate level than Wales-domiciled stayers at Welsh HEIs. Movers-in to Cardiff University are particularly advantaged.
- Mature movers-out are less common than young movers-out and appear more concentrated in terms of location and institution destination. Both of these findings suggest that mobility is subject to more constraints for mature entrants. Movers-in constitute a smaller percentage of all mature full-time entrants than was the case for young entrants, but nonetheless make up a notable percentage of UK mature entrants to Welsh HEIs.
- Cross-border movement has remained high throughout changes in policy and changes in the Welsh and English HE sectors. Cross-border movement is a well-established route in HE participation for Welsh students, and to a lesser extent English students living close to Wales, that has withstood these changes. However

there are indications that policy and sector changes may have an impact on these flows, if only a relatively marginal one, as identified in previous research (Bruce, 2012; Raffe and Croxford, 2013; Rees and Taylor, 2006; Wakeling and Jeffries, 2013). The findings here suggest that in 2012 there was an increase in movement out of North Wales, and that movement out was more concentrated in closer regions. Overall outflows increased in 2012, which may reflect any or all of the change in student number policies for English HEIs, the general increase in Wales-domiciled participants, or the lack of additional financial disincentive to leave Wales (due to the fee grant). This latter point can be compared with the decrease in movers-out of Northern Ireland and Scotland that year when fee changes created a disincentive to study outside the home country. However, although cross-border movement from Wales is not equally associated with all social backgrounds, the backgrounds of movers-out changed little in 2012 compared to the previous year (Croxford and Raffe, 2014b). Inflows decreased in 2012, which suggest that changes in participation in England affect flows into Wales (compared to the increase in flows to Scotland that year). Wider discussion of these issues is provided in the ‘further publications’ listed below.

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Notes

- In line with HESA reporting requirements, numbers are rounded to the nearest 5, and percentages based on fewer than 52 cases are not reported.
- Multiple imputation was carried out to estimate values for missing cases, for variables with greater than 5% of cases missing (social class, parental education, and attainment quintile). The student characteristics findings reported use the pooled data following 10 imputations.
- In the case of social class, values were estimated for missing and unclassified cases to create the four-category version of social class used (higher managerial and professional, lower managerial and professional, intermediate, and working class). The intermediate category includes those classed as self-employed. The working class category comprises routine and semi-routine occupations. These are all based on the occupation of the student’s highest earning parent, as provided by the student.
- Attainment quintile is based on students’ UCAS tariff points.
- Independent schools are classed as fee-paying schools. State schools are classed as non-selective and selective non fee-paying schools.

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Rees, G and Taylor, C (2006) Devolution and the restructuring of participation in higher education in Wales, *Higher Education Quarterly*, 60(4), 370-391

Wakeling, P and Jefferies, K (2013) The effect of tuition fees on student mobility: the UK and Ireland as a natural experiment, *British Educational Research Journal*, 39(3), 491-513

Further publications

Croxford, L and Raffe, D (2014a) *Student flows across the UK's internal boundaries: Entrants to full-time degree courses in 2011*, Edinburgh: CREID

http://www.docs.hss.ed.ac.uk/education/creid/Projects/34ii_e_ESRCF_WP4.pdf

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