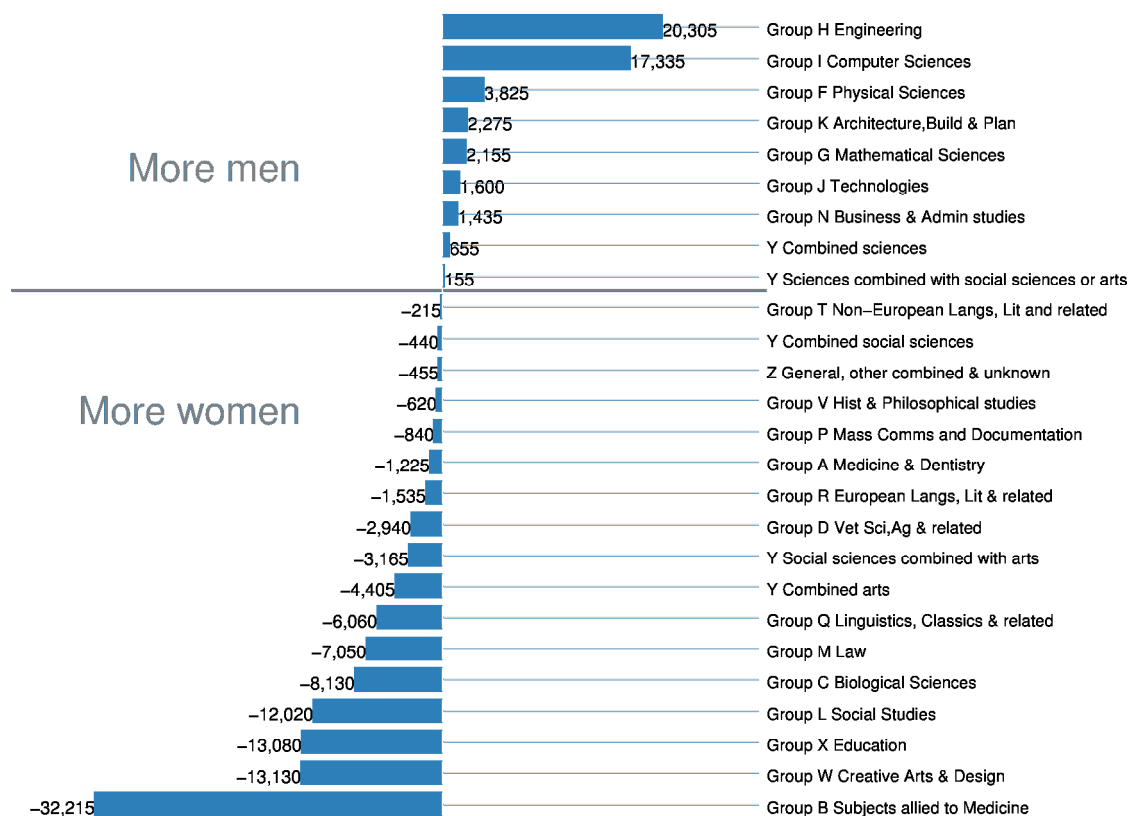




More women than men in two thirds of subject areas

In 2014, there were 58,000 more women than men placed at higher education courses through UCAS. This pattern varies between different subjects of study, with most of the differences between men and women concentrated in a small subset of subjects. More men than women enter “Engineering” courses (20,300 more men) and “Computer Science” courses (17,300 more men). Over 10,000 more women than men enter each of “Creative Arts and Design”, “Education” and “Social Studies”, with the largest difference being in “Subjects allied to Medicine” with 32,200 more women than men.

Figure 1: Difference in number of acceptances between men and women by each subject group in 2014



In 2014, there were 512,000 people accepted to higher education courses through UCAS. Of these, 227,300 were men and 285,100 were women - 57,800 more women than men. This overall difference between women and men has increased steadily from 47,200 in 2008.

Although there are more women than men accepted overall there is a varying pattern of differences in the numbers of men and women across subjects of study. In around one third of subject areas there are more men than women, totalling 49,700 more men than women across these subjects. For two subject areas there are many more men than women: 17,300 more men than women enter “Computer Science”, and 20,300 more men enter “Engineering”. In both these areas men make up over 85 per cent of acceptances.

In around two thirds of subject areas there are more women than men, totalling 107,500 more women than men across subjects. There are four subject areas where there are over 10,000 more women than men. In “Subjects allied to Medicine” there are 32,200 more women than men, and women form 81 per cent of acceptances. In each of “Creative Arts and Design”, “Education” and “Social Studies” there are between 12,000 and 13,000 more women than men, with the proportion of women varying from 62 per cent in “Creative Arts and Design” to 85 per cent in “Education”.

This pattern of differences between men and women across subjects of study has been consistent in each cycle between 2008 and 2014.

Technical notes

1. This analysis is based on the table 'DR3_014_01 Acceptances by subject group and sex' published by UCAS on 21 January 2015. The PDF version of the above table includes the full technical notes and definitions for the fields used.
2. The difference between men and women is shown in the table below for each JACS subject group. Accepted applicants are reported by their subject of acceptance. The JACS3 classification has been used in 2014.

Table 1: Difference in number of acceptances between men and women by each subject group in 2014 (UK, EU and not EU)

	Total accepted	Total men	Proportion men	Total women	Proportion women	Difference (Men-Women)
Group A Medicine & Dentistry	8,915	3,845	43%	5,070	57%	-1,225
Group B Subjects allied to Medicine	52,405	10,095	19%	42,310	81%	-32,215
Group C Biological Sciences	48,815	20,340	42%	28,470	58%	-8,130
Group D Vet Sci, Ag & related	6,740	1,900	28%	4,840	72%	-2,940
Group F Physical Sciences	19,920	11,870	60%	8,050	40%	3,825
Group G Mathematical Sciences	8,470	5,315	63%	3,160	37%	2,155
Group H Engineering	29,110	24,710	85%	4,405	15%	20,305
Group I Computer Sciences	23,585	20,460	87%	3,125	13%	17,335
Group J Technologies	2,585	2,090	81%	495	19%	1,600
Group K Architecture, Build & Plan	7,685	4,980	65%	2,705	35%	2,275
Group L Social Studies	43,325	15,655	36%	27,675	64%	-12,020
Group M Law	23,695	8,320	35%	15,375	65%	-7,050
Group N Business & Admin studies	63,660	32,550	51%	31,115	49%	1,435
Group P Mass Comms and Documentation	12,715	5,935	47%	6,780	53%	-840
Group Q Linguistics, Classics & related	12,525	3,230	26%	9,290	74%	-6,060
Group R European Langs, Lit & related	3,780	1,125	30%	2,655	70%	-1,535
Group T Non-European Langs, Lit and related	1,115	450	40%	665	60%	-215
Group V Hist & Philosophical studies	15,285	7,335	48%	7,955	52%	-620
Group W Creative Arts & Design	53,330	20,100	38%	33,230	62%	-13,130
Group X Education	18,440	2,680	15%	15,760	85%	-13,080
Y Combined arts	10,580	3,090	29%	7,490	71%	-4,405
Y Combined sciences	8,295	4,475	54%	3,820	46%	655
Y Combined social sciences	5,205	2,385	46%	2,825	54%	-440
Y Sciences combined with social sciences or arts	15,190	7,675	51%	7,520	49%	155
Y Social sciences combined with arts	10,140	3,490	34%	6,650	66%	-3,165
Z General, other combined & unknown	6,860	3,200	47%	3,660	53%	-455