

Physics and the EU in Scotland



The Institute of Physics in Scotland is a scientific membership society devoted to promoting physics and bringing physicists together for the benefit of all. We have more than 2,500 members and are part of the Institute of Physics, a charitable organisation and leading scientific society.

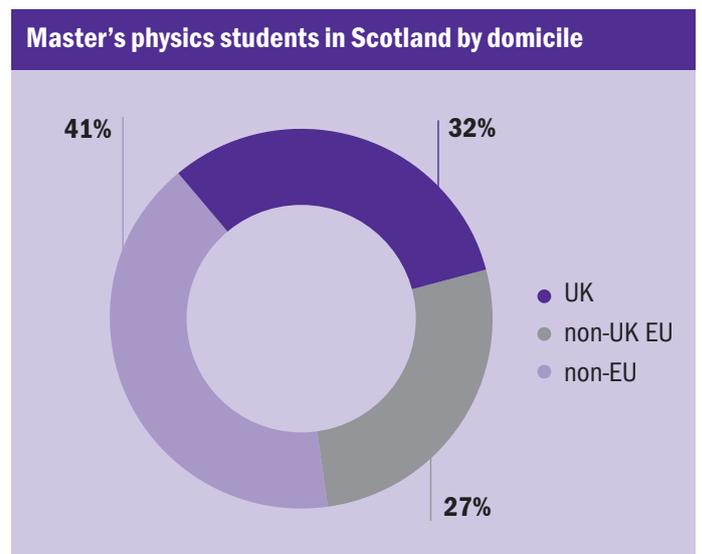
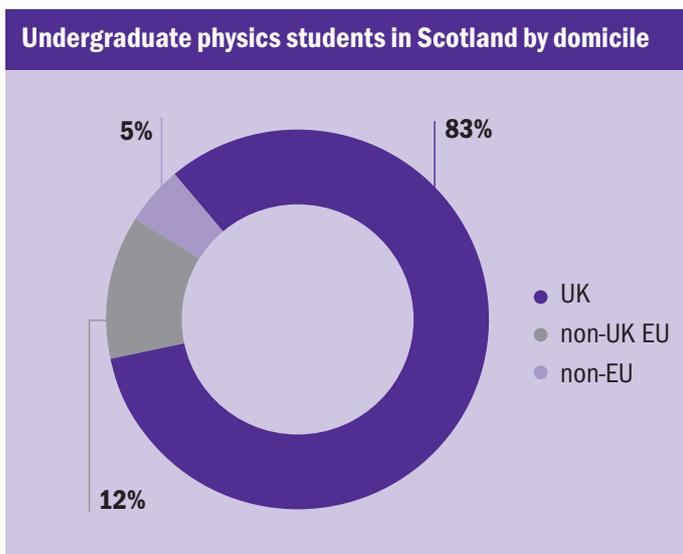
This briefing outlines a short set of statistics on the impact of the UK's current relationship with the EU on physics in Scotland, and comparative data with other UK nations and subjects.

Scottish higher education physics departments:

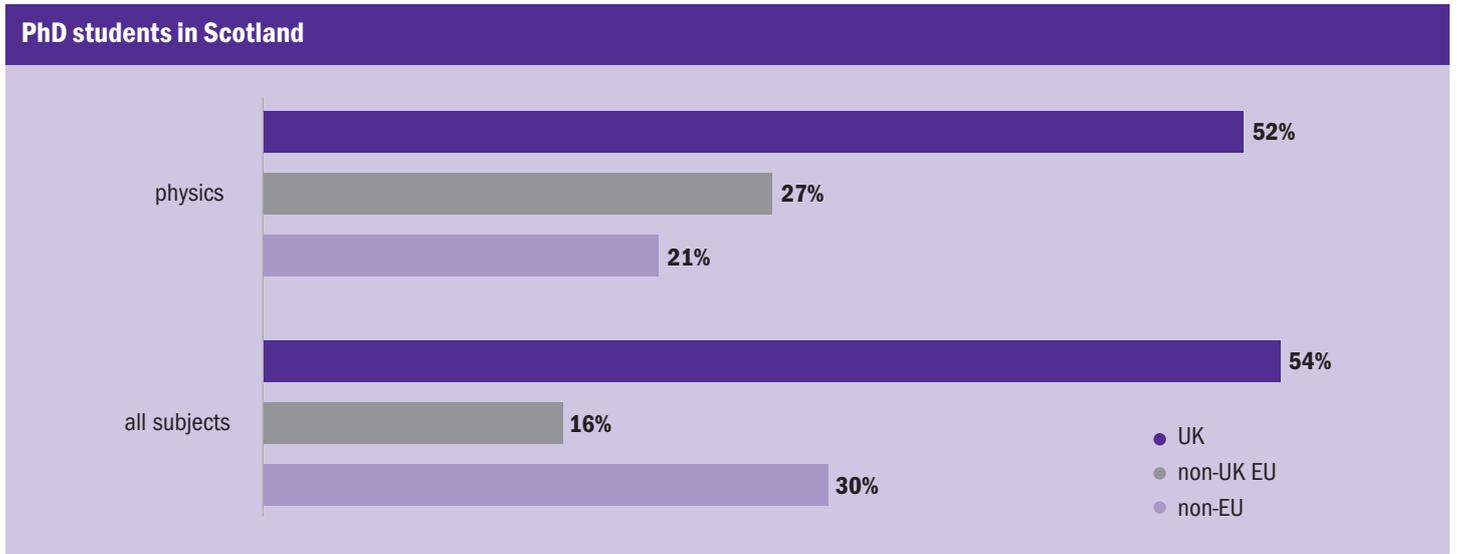
- Receive higher proportions of undergraduate, master's and PhD students from non-UK EU countries than physics departments in each of the other UK nations.
- Receive a higher proportion of research grants and contracts from EU sources than physics departments in each of the other UK nations.
- Have higher proportions of non-UK EU students and staff and receive a larger proportion of funding from EU sources when compared to the average for all subjects in Scotland.
- Employ lower proportions of professors from non-UK EU countries than departments in all other UK nations, but slightly higher proportions of all academic staff members employed in Scottish physics departments are from non-UK EU countries than for the average UK physics department.

Students

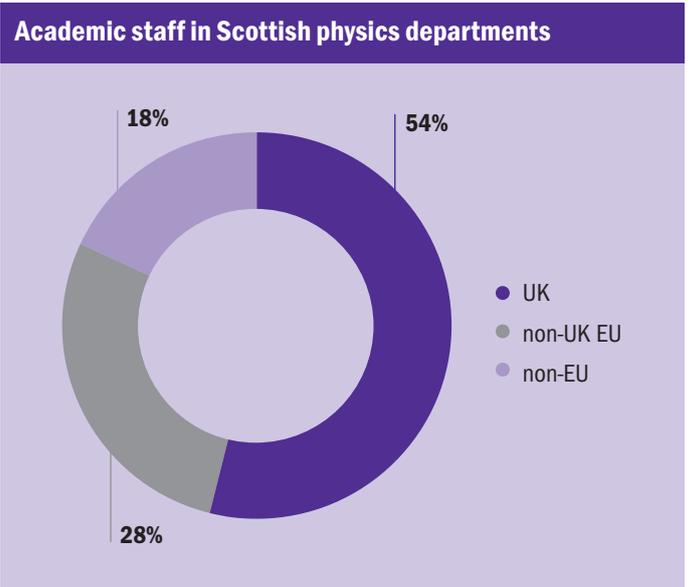
EU nationals make up 12% of physics undergraduate students and 27% of physics master's-level students in Scottish universities. This is higher than the average for all subjects in Scotland, where non-UK EU students make up 9% of undergraduates and 13% of master's students.



Higher Education Statistics Agency (2016). Data described in more detail in IOP consultation response on the impact of leaving the EU on Scotland, available at http://www.iop.org/policy/consultations/file_68077.pdf.

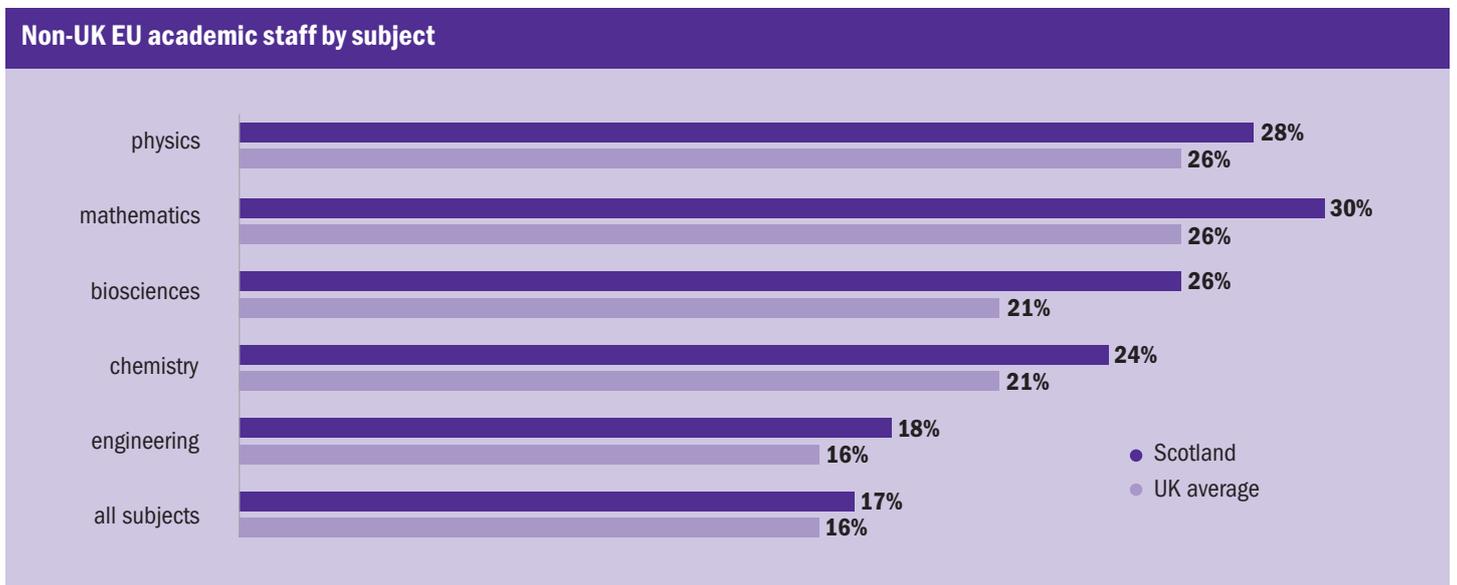


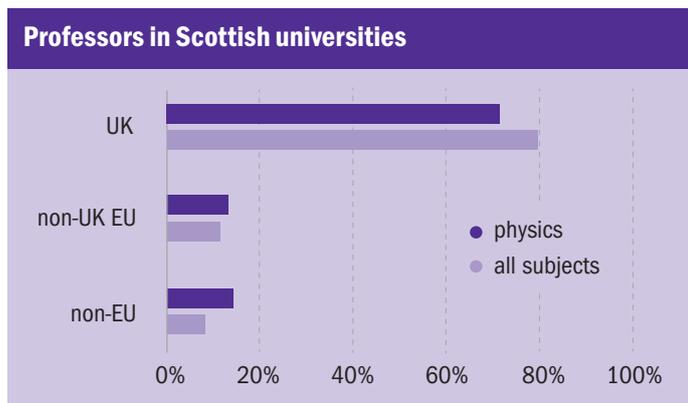
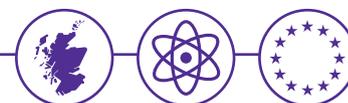
27% of PhD students in physics departments in Scotland are from non-UK EU countries – this compares to an average of 16% for all subjects.



Staff

Non-UK EU nationals make up 28% of all academic staff in Scottish universities' physics departments, which is higher than the average for all subjects in Scotland (17%). This pattern is replicated in other STEM subjects in Scotland, as illustrated in the graph below.



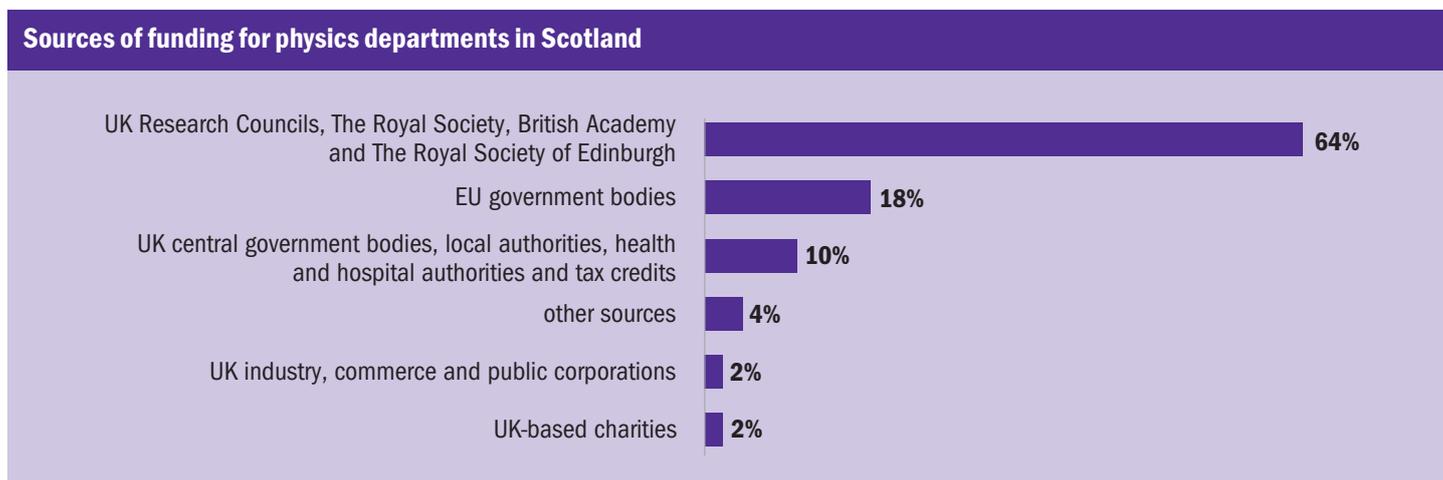


Professors are senior academics and responsible for some of the high-quality research produced in Scottish universities. Scottish physics departments employ a smaller proportion of professors from non-UK EU countries than the UK average (14% compared with 17%). However, physics departments in Scotland have a higher proportion of non-UK EU professors than for other subjects in Scotland, as shown in the graph.

'All academic staff' refers to levels F1, IO, JO, KO of job titles as defined by HESA and staff on Teaching only, Research only, and Teaching and Research contracts, available at https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c15025/combined_levels/html/.

Research grants and contracts

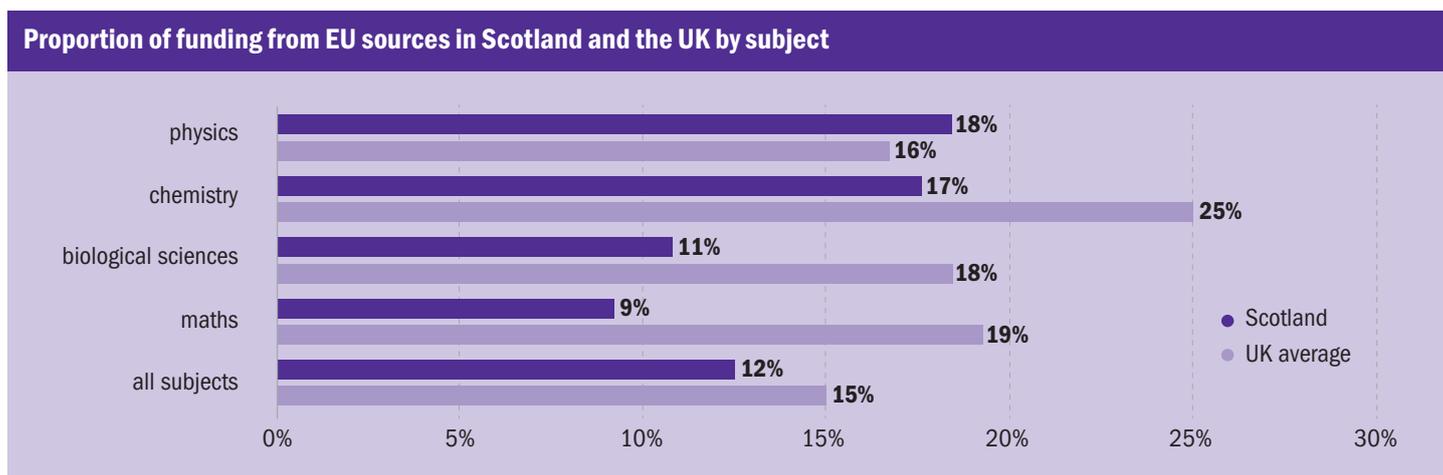
Physics departments in Scottish universities receive funding from a number of different sources, as shown in the graph below.

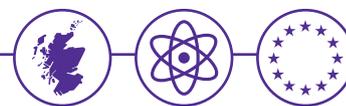


Quality-related research funding from the Scottish Funding Council is not included in these statistics.

18% of income from grants and contracts received by Scottish physics departments come from EU sources. This is in line with physics departments in England, but higher than physics departments in Wales (13%).

Physics departments in Scotland are funded by a higher proportion of grants and contracts from EU sources than other subjects in Scottish universities, and all subjects overall. The proportion of funding from EU sources for Scottish physics departments is also higher than the UK average (16%). This is not the case for other subjects, as shown in the graph below.





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