



BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Bar Training 2024

Statistics on enrolment, results, and student progression overall

Produced by the Bar Standards Board Research Team
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Executive Summary

This report details trends in vocational training to become a barrister, and student progression on to the professional stage of training in England and Wales. It covers the period from 2011/12 to 2023/24, a period which contains the transition from the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), which ran from 2011/12-2019/20 to the Bar training courses offered from 2020/21 following the Future Bar Training reforms.

There are several areas detailed within the report, and these can broadly be divided into:

- Details on course providers and course fees;
- trends in enrolment on Bar training courses;
- trends in student results; and
- progression on to pupillage following on from Bar training.

Course providers and the cost of training over time

- As of the 2023/24 academic year, there are 10 providers offering Bar training courses at 20 sites. There have been two additional providers of the course and six additional sites added by an already existing provider compared to the final year of the BPTC, 2019/20. Vocational Bar training courses are offered via several different pathways and on a part-time basis at several providers.
- On average, course fees from 2020/21 onwards have decreased quite substantially compared to the fees charged for the BPTC. On average, the drop in the cost of Bar training would have saved students over £4,000 in tuition fees in 2023/24 compared to 2019/20 after adjusting for inflation.¹

Enrolment on Bar training courses

- Enrolment on Bar training courses increased in 2020/21 compared to the final year of the BPTC and has continued increasing for subsequent academic years of the new course. In 2023/24 2,406 students enrolled on Bar training courses, compared to 1,685 in 2019/20.
- **Pathways** – Enrolment on the four-step training pathway declined slightly in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. However, uptake of this pathway increased notably between 2022/23 and 2023/24. Only two providers currently offer this format: the Inns of Court College of Advocacy and the University of Northumbria.
- **Study mode** – The number of students enrolling part-time on Bar training courses has remained relatively stable over time, but as the number of students enrolled overall has increased, the proportion of students studying part-time has decreased. Throughout the period of analysis, most part-time students have been UK domiciled prior to enrolment.

¹ To Q1 2022/23 prices using the UK Government GDP deflator.

- **Degree class** – The proportion of Bar training students with a first-class degree has increased over time, and the proportion enrolling with a lower second-class degree has decreased.
- **Domicile**² – The proportion of overseas domiciled students, including students from the EU, undertaking vocational Bar training each academic year remained relatively stable at around 45 per cent of all students between 2015/16 and 2021/22, having increased from 35 per cent of all students from 2011/12. In the last two academic years, this has increased to 50% of students.
- **Ethnicity** – From 2011/12-2023/24, around 80 percent of students domiciled overseas prior to enrolment on Bar training were from an Asian/Asian British ethnic background each year. The proportion of UK domiciled students from a White ethnic background has decreased throughout the period of analysis, going from around 70 per cent in 2013/14 to 58 per cent in 2023/24 – this decrease has seen a corresponding increase in the proportion of students from minority ethnic backgrounds, with the increase principally driven by those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds, and those from Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.
- **Gender** – There has been a greater proportion of female students enrolling in more recent years compared to that seen in 2011/12-2015/16 – this change has been mostly driven by differences seen for UK domiciled students. For example, in 2011/12 around 53 per cent of UK domiciled students were female, compared to around 63 per cent in 2023/24.

Student results on Bar training

- It is difficult to determine trends in student results between years from this report, given the change in the format of Bar training from 2020/21 onwards, and due to this report not including snapshots of results taken in the past for comparison between years.
- It is possible to comment on differences seen within demographic groups, but with the caveat that we only control for degree classification when presenting results, and there are other variables related to student results that are not controlled for. When looking at differences within demographic groups, the following trends are seen:
 - **Degree class** – Based on trends seen on the BPTC, it would appear that well over half of those with any degree classification will go on to pass the course overall, and that there are relatively large differences in the proportion of students passing Bar training courses by first degree classification, with those with a first class degree performing better than those with a 2:1, who in turn are more likely to pass than those with a 2:2 overall.
 - **Study mode and age** – For BPTC students enrolled between 2011/12-2018/19 (a period which may represent longer term trends better than more recent years), part-time students are slightly less likely to have completed the course, and more likely to have withdrawn from the course in comparison to full time students. This may be partly related to age, as part time students are more likely to be aged 35+, and such students also appear to be slightly more likely to withdraw/not complete a Bar training course.

² Guidance note for residence, domicile and remittance basis [here](#).

- **Disability** – There appears to be some relationship between disability and results on Bar training, with those with a declared disability slightly more likely than those with no declared disability to have not yet completed Bar training when controlling for first degree classification.
- **Domicile** – Overall, results across degree classification are quite similar for those domiciled in the UK and those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment, and differences seen may be more related to study mode (as more UK students are part-time, it will take such students longer to finish the course, and this will affect the proportions passing to some extent).
- **Ethnicity** – For those with a 2:1 degree (there are more students with a 2:1, giving more reliable comparisons by ethnicity), there are some differences between those from different ethnic backgrounds in the proportion passing the course. The differences seen are particularly pronounced for those from Black/Black British backgrounds, with such students slightly less likely to pass the course compared to those from other ethnic groups for several cohorts.
- **Gender** – When comparing results on Bar training between male and female students, there does not appear to be any clear trend seen across all years and degree classifications. Differences in pass rates by gender are generally quite small across years.

Student progression onto pupillage

- It is also difficult to determine trends in student progression on to pupillage between years from this report, given that Bar training graduates have up to five years in which to gain pupillage, and so those graduating in more recent years would be expected to have lower pupillage rates than those graduating five or more years ago. There are some trends that we can comment on within demographic groups, but with the caveat that only first-degree classification, and degree institution have been controlled for.
- **Degree class** – Overall, out of those who pass the course, those with a first-class degree go onto gain pupillage in the greatest proportions, with around 70 per cent of such UK domiciled course graduates gaining pupillage in the long run. Those with other degree classes do not gain pupillage in such proportions, with typically between 40 and 50 percent of UK domiciled course graduates with a 2:1, and less than one in five UK domiciled course graduates with a 2:2, going onto pupillage. It is likely that some of the difference in the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage for each degree class is due to differences in results on vocational training for BPTC students (which co-vary alongside degree class).
- **Degree institution** – There is a clear difference in the proportions gaining pupillage when comparing different groupings for university. Oxbridge graduates gain pupillage in greater proportions than those who attended another Russell Group university, who in turn gain pupillage in greater proportions than those attending other UK universities - part of this trend may be due to vocational course results correlating with degree institution, but it is unlikely it can solely be explained by this given results from previous research, which found a strong relationship between degree institution and likelihood of gaining pupillage and controlled for BPTC grade.

- **Age** – When controlling for degree class, similar proportions of UK domiciled course graduates aged under 25 and those aged 25-34 go on to gain pupillage. It appears that a lower proportion of those aged 35+ go on to gain pupillage when controlling for degree class, although this may be partly related to studying the course on a part-time basis. These trends also appear to be present when degree institution is controlled for.
- **Disability** – No clear trend emerges from the data regarding student progression by disability status. In some instances, for degree class groupings, those with a declared disability have gained pupillage in greater proportions, and in some instances, the opposite is seen.
- **Ethnicity** – Ethnic background does show some relationship with the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage following on from a vocational Bar training course. UK domiciled course graduates from minoritised ethnic backgrounds do not appear to gain pupillage in the same proportions as UK domiciled students from White ethnic backgrounds. This appears to be the case when degree class and first-degree institution are controlled for and appears to affect Asian/Asian British and Black/Black British students to a greater extent than those from Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.
- **Gender** – When controlling for degree institution, differences in the pupillage rate of female and male UK domiciled Bar training graduates are relatively small throughout the period of analysis. However, across the period of analysis, we have a record of around 6,500 females and 5,000 males completing Bar training. We also have a record of 2,374 females gaining pupillage, and 2,096 males. So, while the total number of female pupils does outnumber that of males, it is not to the same extent as may be expected based upon the extent to which female Bar training graduates outnumber male Bar training graduates.

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Contents	5
Cost of and format of Bar training	6
Format of Bar training	6
Cost of Bar training over time	7
Enrolments	9
Overall	9
Study mode and pathway	11
First degree classification	13
University Attended	14
Age	15
Disability	15
Domicile	16
Ethnicity	17
Gender	18
School Attended	19
Student results	20
Overall	20
Study Mode	22
Age	23
Disability	24
Domicile	25
Ethnicity	26
Gender	27
Student Progression	28
Progression onto pupillage – of entire cohort	29
Progression onto pupillage - course graduates only	32
University Attended	33
Age	34
Disability	35
Ethnicity	36
Gender	39
Appendices	40

Cost of and format of Bar training

Format of Bar Training

Table 1 below gives an overview of the courses offered by providers for the last three academic years.

Table 1. Options for Bar training offered by provider - 2021/22-2023/2024

Provider	2021/22				2022/23				2023/24			
	3- step	4- step	LLM	PT	3- step	4- step	LLM	PT	3- step	4- step	LLM	PT
BPP Birmingham	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
BPP Bristol	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
BPP Leeds	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
BPP London ³	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
BPP Manchester	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
Cardiff University	X		X		X		X		X		X	
City St George's*, U of London ⁴	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Inns of Court College of Advocacy	X	X			X	X				X		
Manchester Metropolitan University	X			X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Nottingham Trent University	X		X		X		X		X		X	
U of Law Birmingham	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
U of Law Bristol	X		X		X		X		X		X	
U of Law Leeds	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
U of Law Liverpool	X		X		X		X		X		X	
U of Law London	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
U of Law Manchester	X		X		X		X		X		X	
U of Law Nottingham	X		X		X		X		X		X	
U of Hertfordshire					X		X		X		X	
U of Northumbria ⁵	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
U of the West of England	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	

*Previously known as City Law School

³ BPP offers Bar training with a specialist legal studies option as well.

⁴ CLS offers a specialist add on to the Bar training course as well.

⁵ UNN also offers an undergraduate degree with vocational Bar training incorporated

The variety of pathways offered by the providers has stayed relatively stable year-on-year. Two providers still offer the course in two parts via the four-step pathway: the Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA) and the University of Northumbria. Since 2022/23 the University of the West of England has stopped offering the four-step pathway and the Inns of Court College of Advocacy has stopped offering the three-step pathway. Most providers provide the option of incorporating vocational Bar training into a Master of Laws (LLM) course. Undertaking the course as a master's degree may enable students to access a Postgraduate Master's Loan offered by the government. Students are also able to apply for scholarships specific to Bar training.⁶

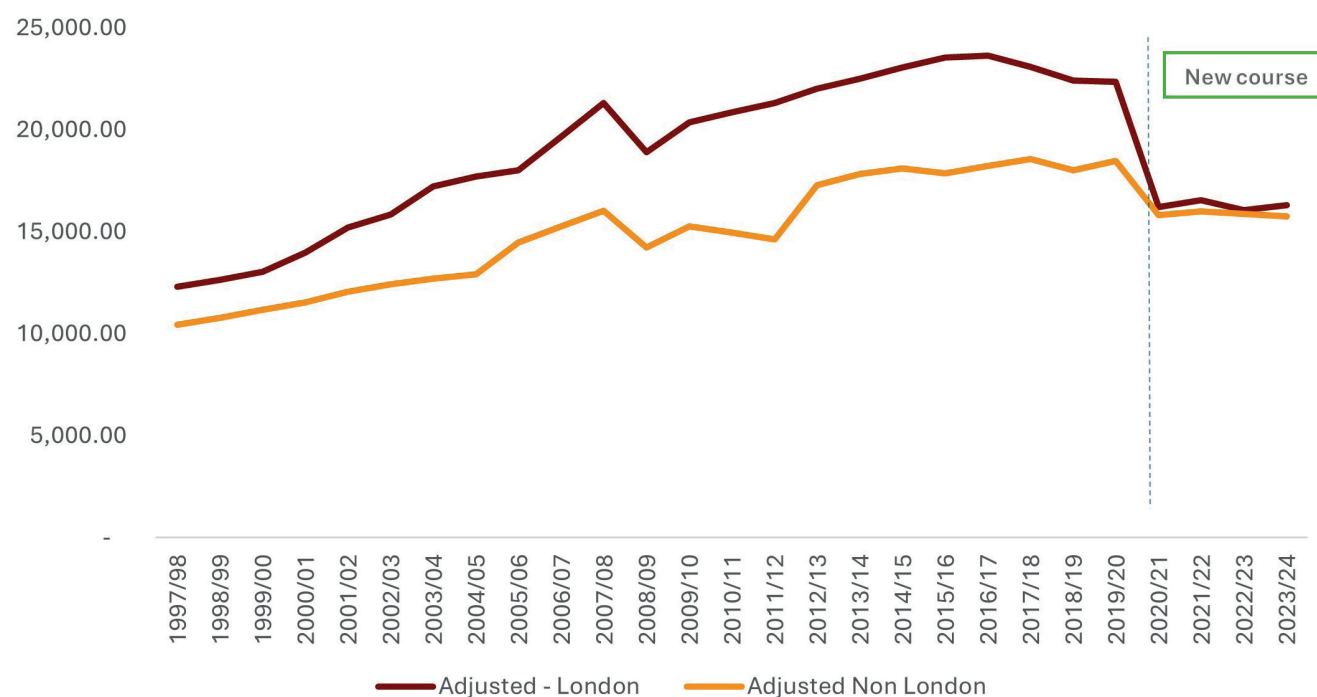
Cost of Bar training over time

The chart below shows the inflation adjusted cost of vocational Bar training courses over time by location of provider (the figures are for the course overall – i.e. the full vocational stage of training). Figures are adjusted to 2022/23 prices using a UK Government published GDP deflator.

Chart I. Inflation adjusted cost of vocational Bar training courses over time

Simple inflation adjusted average of Bar training fees for course providers.

Adjusted to 23/24 prices using UK government GDP deflator (£gdp)



*Data for the academic years 05/06, 06/07 and 10/11 has been recalculated due to missing data.

⁶ For more information on this see - <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/students-and-graduates/student-funding-and-scholarships.html>

⁷ Found here - [GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP September 2024 \(Quarterly National Accounts\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-september-2024)

Overall, the cost of training has increased above inflation over time, with large increases occurring from the latter half of the 1990s all the way up to the first half of the 2010s, after which fee increases seen on the BPTC were lower. The implementation of the new courses from 2020/21 onwards saw a drop in the fees charged across the majority of providers. The drop in the cost of the course is particularly notable for providers based in London, as shown in Chart 1.

On average, the drop in the cost of Bar training tuition fees was almost £4,000 in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 after adjusting for inflation (and around £2,500 in tuition fees when not adjusting for inflation). This is a simple average of course providers' fees, and not what the average student would pay, as some providers have more students than others.

When weighting the average tuition fee with regard to the number of students at each provider in the relevant year, the average student in 2019/20 would have paid around £19,700 in tuition fees when adjusting for inflation (to 2022/23 prices), compared to an average of around £15,600 in 2022/23, and around £15,700 in 2023/24. When not adjusting for inflation, the figures for 2019/20, 2023/23, and 2023/24 are £16,000, £14,700, and £15,700 respectively.

For the latest year of entry, 2023/24, the average fees charged by Bar training provider for UK domiciled students taking the three-step pathway was around £15,700, with London sites charging around £16,500 on average, and non-London providers charging nearly £15,000 on average. The University of Cardiff is one of the most expensive providers of Bar training, if removed from the non-London providers calculation the average cost is reduced by around 6% to £14,200.

Overall, based on the fees charged by provider and enrolment figures, the sum of fees paid across all providers when not adjusting for inflation is estimated at around £29 million in 2019/20, £34 million in 2022/23, and more than £37.5 million in 2023/24. An increase in student numbers (which is detailed in the next section) appears to have largely made up for the decrease in tuition fees in terms of the total revenue generated by Bar training courses across all providers.

Enrolments

This section of the report provides information on the demographics of those enrolling on Bar training in England and Wales from 2011/12 to 2023/24. The statistics presented have been calculated based upon the BSB's record of student results and progression as of August 2024.

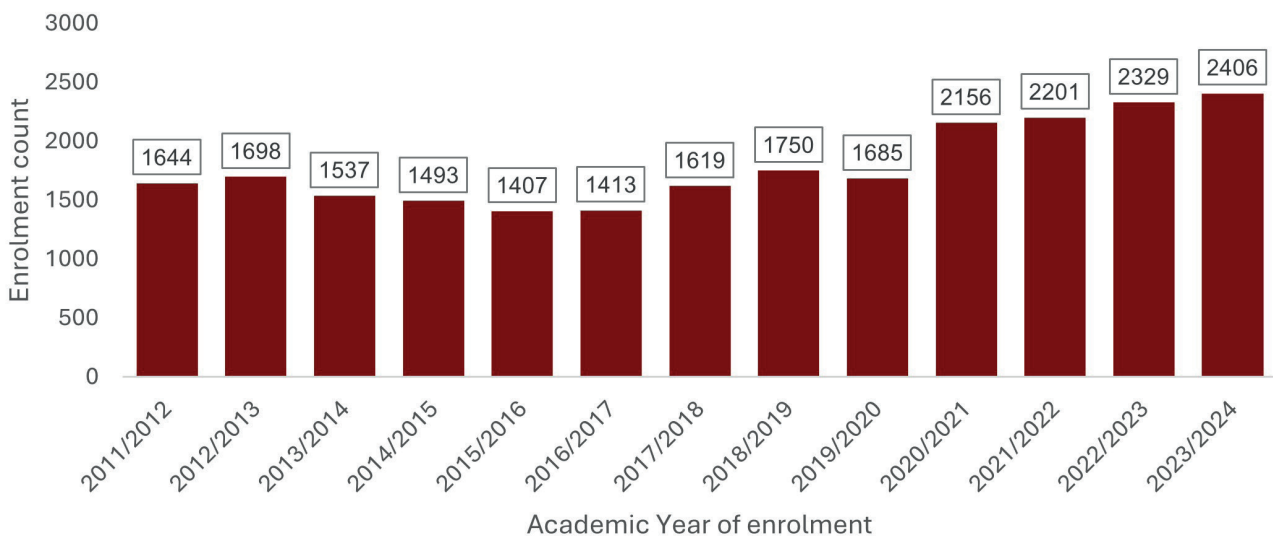
Our record of enrolment data for the 2022/23 academic year has been updated since the last report, as when the previous report was published, we did not have complete enrolment data for that academic year.

Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

Overall

Chart 2 below shows the number of students enrolling in each academic year on Bar training courses from 2011/12 to 2023/24. The charts in this section have been refreshed for the 2022/2023 cohort when compared to the 2023 edition of this report, and now represents a full academic year.

Chart 2. Enrolments by year overall



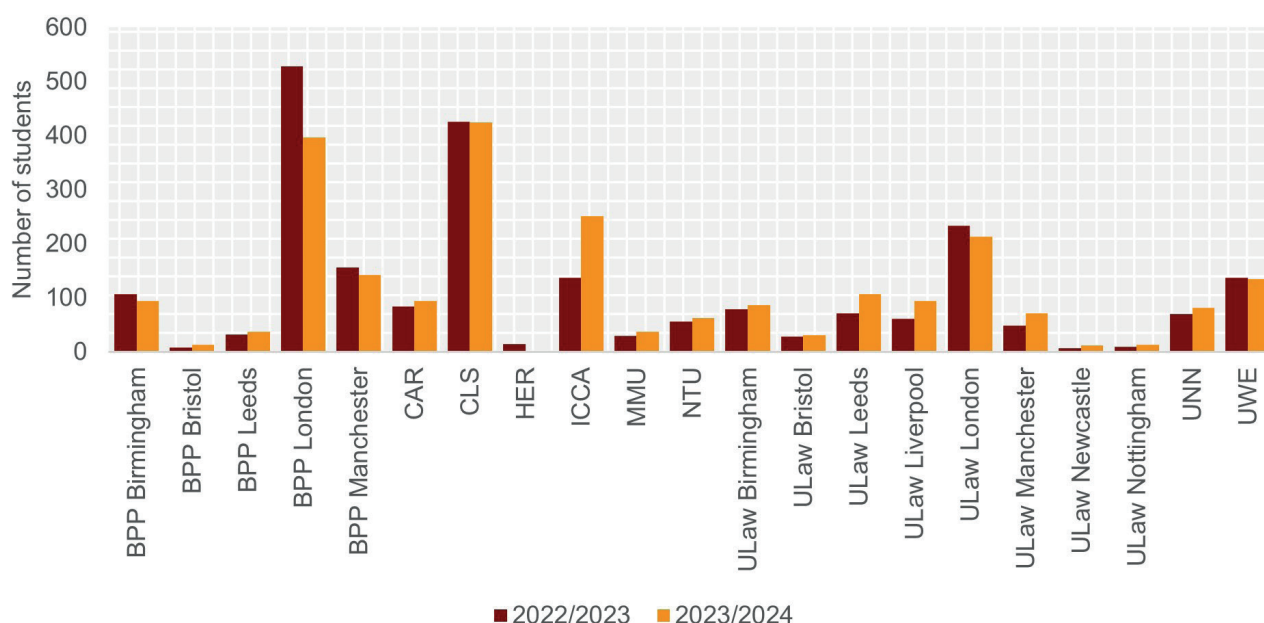
From 2011/12-2019/20 the vocational stage of training to become a barrister in England and Wales was the BPTC. Enrolment on the BPTC declined overall from 2011/12 to 2016/17, and then increased in the last few years of the course. For courses offered from 2020/21 onwards, overall enrolment figures have increased once again compared to the numbers on the BPTC. In 2023/24 there were nearly 10% more students enrolling on Bar training courses than during the 2021/2022 academic year.

This increase in student numbers may lead to a lower proportion of students going on to pupillage, if the number of pupillages available does not increase proportionately. Chart 3 below, gives the number of enrolments by provider for the last two academic years. Enrolment is now possible at multiple starting times per year across training providers – prior to 2020/21 this was not the case.

The largest sites in terms of number of students in 2023/24 were BPP London, City St George's, University of London (CLS, previously known as City Law School), The Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA) and University of Law (ULAW) London - enrolment at each in 2023/24 was greater than 200 students. There were also several providers with more than 100 students in 2023/24 – BPP Manchester, ULAW Leeds and University of West of England (UWE). ICCA had approximately 100 more students in 2023/2024 than in 2022/2023

In 2020/21 the overall number of students based at London providers was 1,214 compared to 942 students based at providers outside London. The comparative figures for 2023/24 are 1,287 and 1,119 respectively.

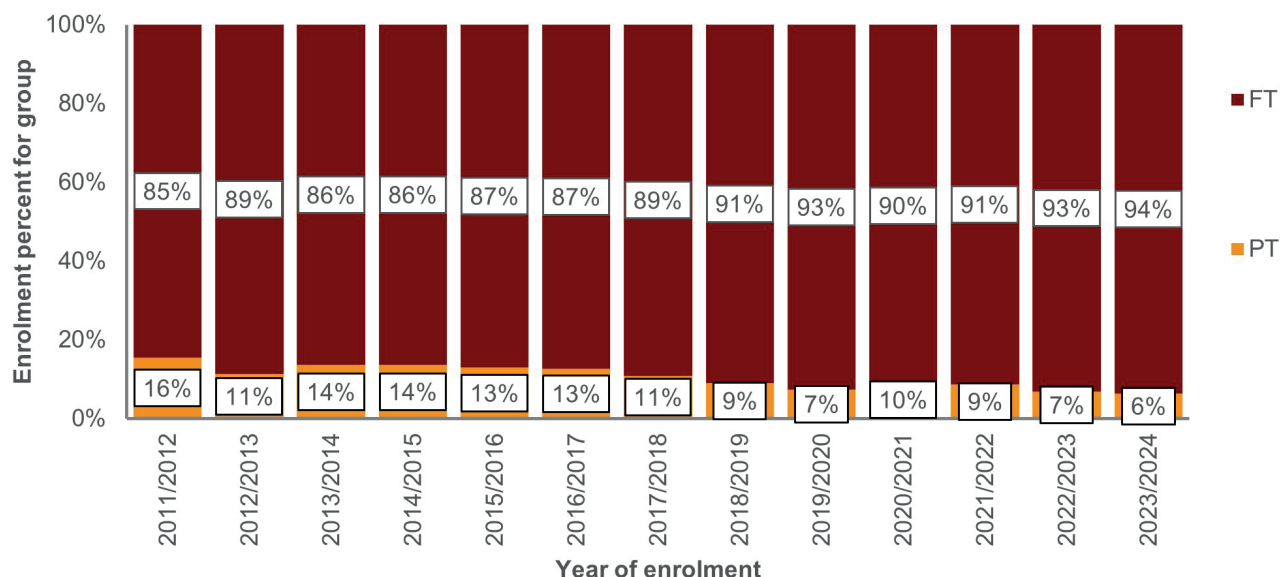
Chart 3. Enrolments by training provider for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024



Study mode and pathway

The chart below shows enrolments for each academic year by study mode (full time or part time).

Chart 4. Enrolment on Bar training over time by study mode (% of cohort)



Proportionally the percentage of part-time students has steadily decreased since 2011/2012. This trend could be related to the number of full-time students who are overseas domiciled students, as such students are more likely to study full-time than UK domiciled students.

When looking at Table 2, the total number of part-time students, 1% of overseas domiciled students took a Bar training course on a part-time basis, compared to around 17% of UK domiciled students. Study mode also has a strong relationship with age, particularly for students domiciled in the UK prior to Bar training enrolment.

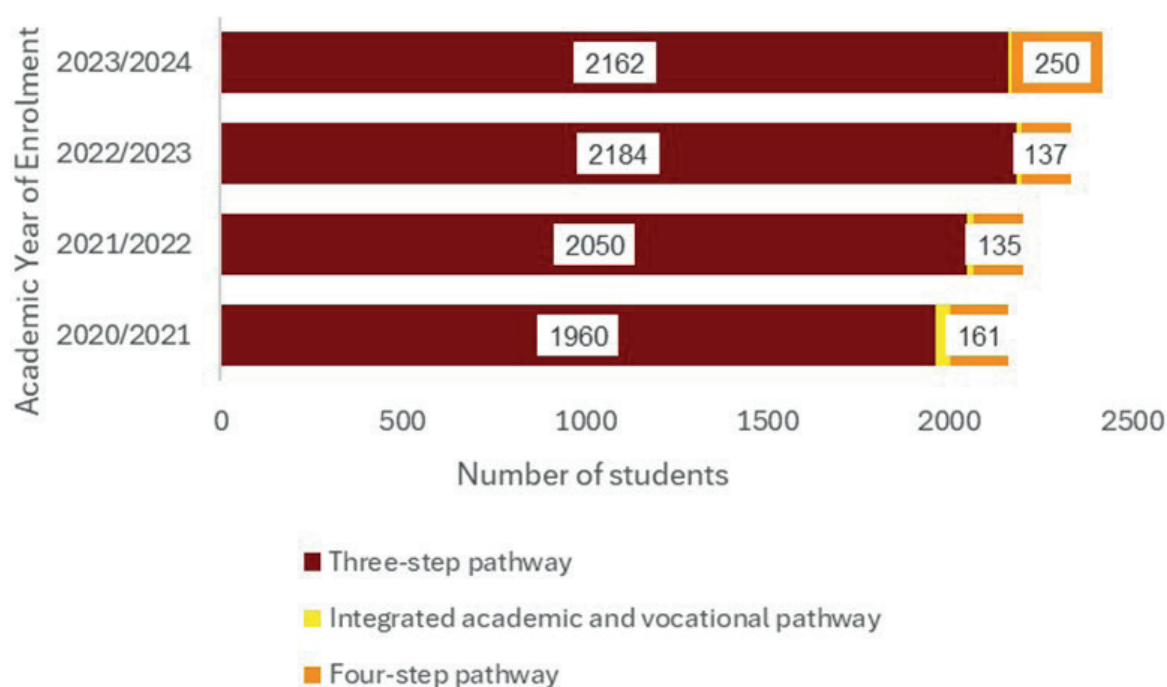
Table 2. Study mode by age range for students enrolling on Bar training

Data is based on since recording began in 2011/2012.

Age range	Overseas			UK		
	FT	PT	Total	FT	PT	Total
18 to 24	99%	1%	100%	90%	10%	100%
25 to 34	96%	4%	100%	77%	23%	100%
35+	86%	14%	100%	58%	42%	100%
Total	98%	1%	100%	83%	17%	100%

Chart 5 below shows the number of students enrolling in 2022/23 and 2023/24 by training pathway.

Chart 5. Enrolment on Bar training over time by training pathway (numbers)



The three-step pathway consists of vocational Bar training as a one-part course, and the four-step pathway includes the two-part vocational Bar training course. As shown in Chart 5, the three-step pathway is the predominant way of undertaking vocational Bar training. The number of students who enrolled in the four-step pathway has increased by 83% year-on-year. Table 2 shows the profile of the Four-Step pathway, the data displays a slight skew towards an older age group.

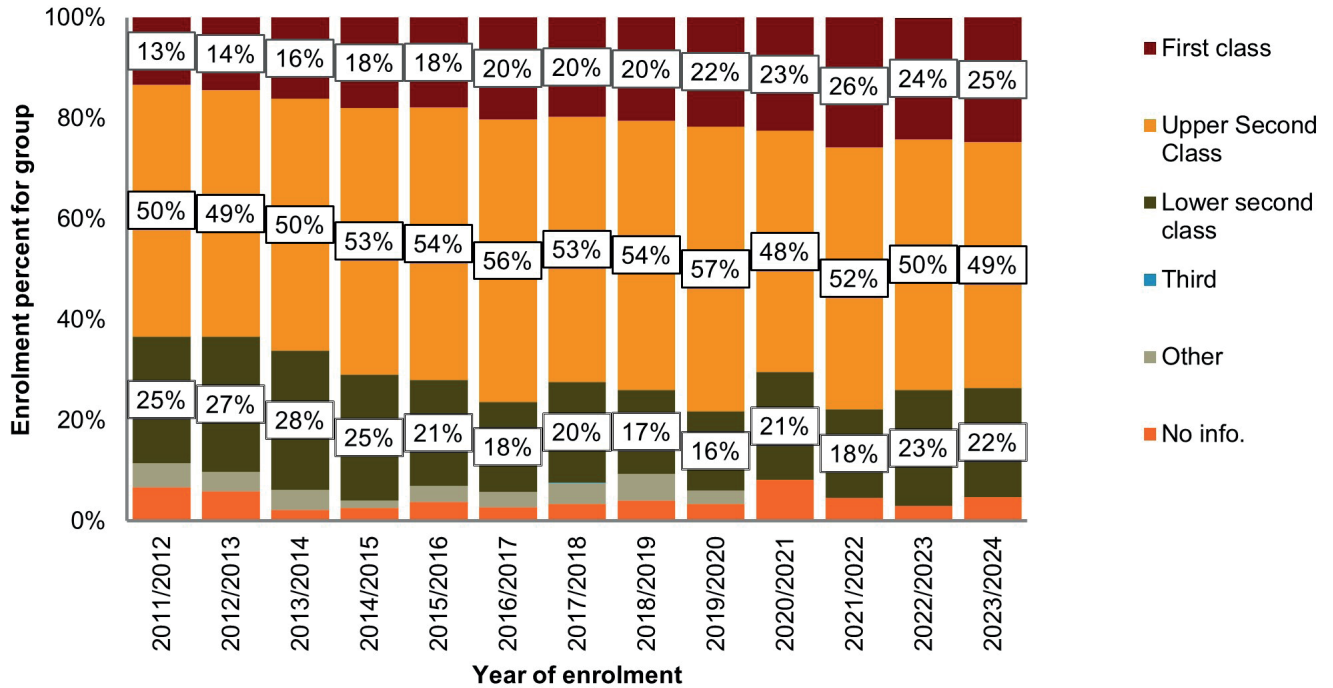
Table 3. Comparison of enrolment on Four-Step Pathway by age range for students enrolling on Bar training

Age range	Overseas			UK		
	FT	PT	Total	FT	PT	Total
18 to 24	99%	1%	100%	90%	11%	100%
25 to 34	95%	5%	100%	73%	27%	100%
35+	86%	14%	100%	58%	42%	100%
Total	98%	2%	100%	83%	17%	100%

First degree classification

Chart 6 below shows the first-degree classification of those enrolling on Bar training courses over the last five academic years.

Chart 6. Enrolment on Bar training over time by first degree classification (% of cohort)

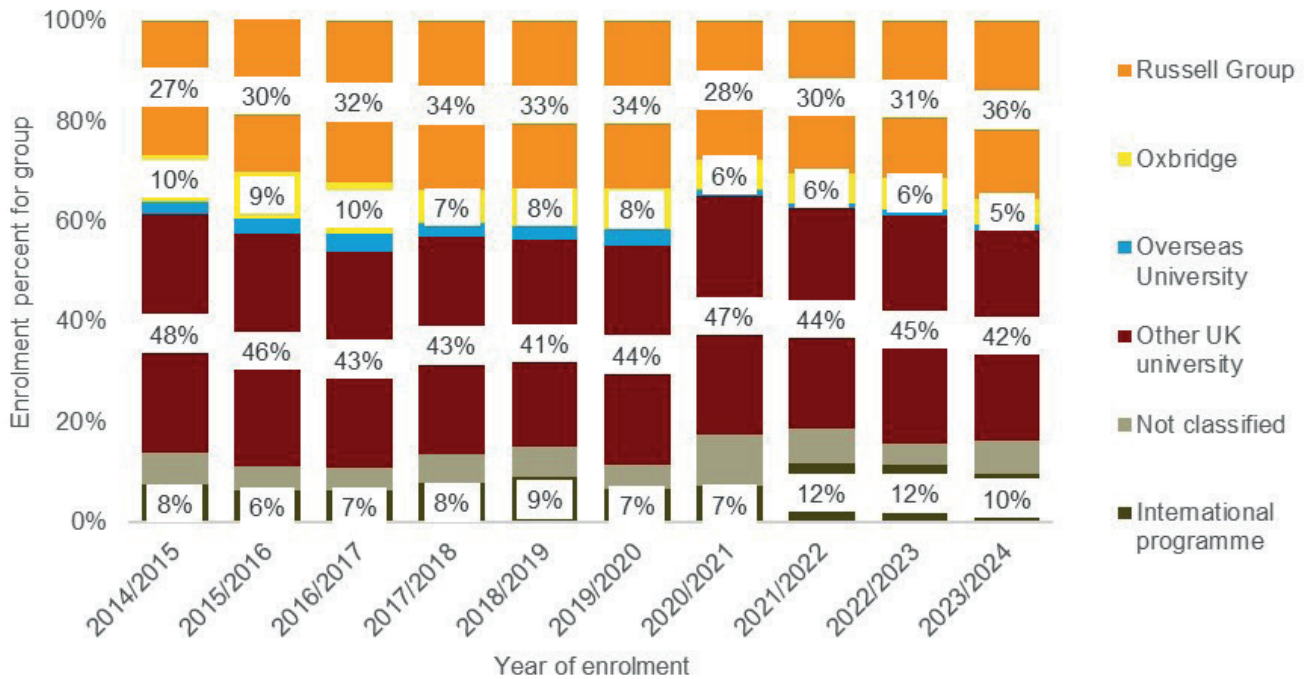


Since 2011/2012 there has been an increase in the proportion of students enrolling with a first-class degree, and a reduction in the proportion of students enrolling with a lower second-class degree over time, although this has started to trend upwards in more recent years.

University Attended

Chart 7 below shows the university institution attended of those enrolling on Bar training courses from 2020/2021 to 2023/2024. Data prior to this point has not been included in the analysis.

Chart 7. Enrolment on Bar training over time by first degree institution (% of cohort)



Age

Chart 8. Enrolment on Bar training over time by age when enrolling (% of cohort)

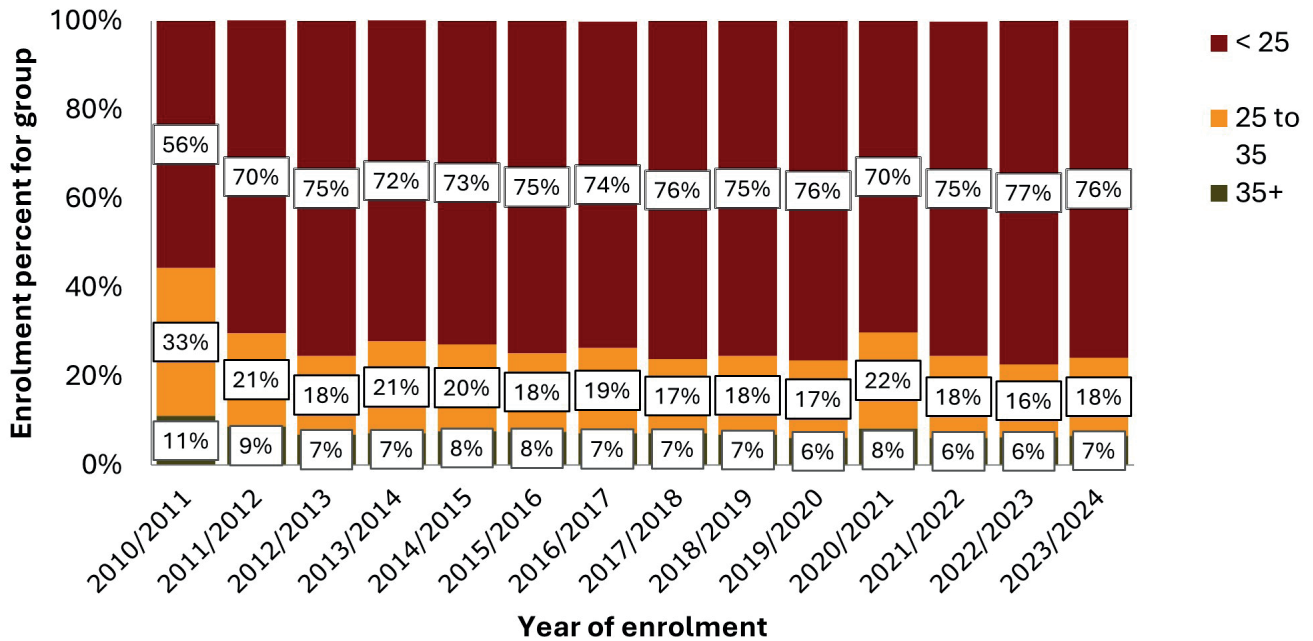
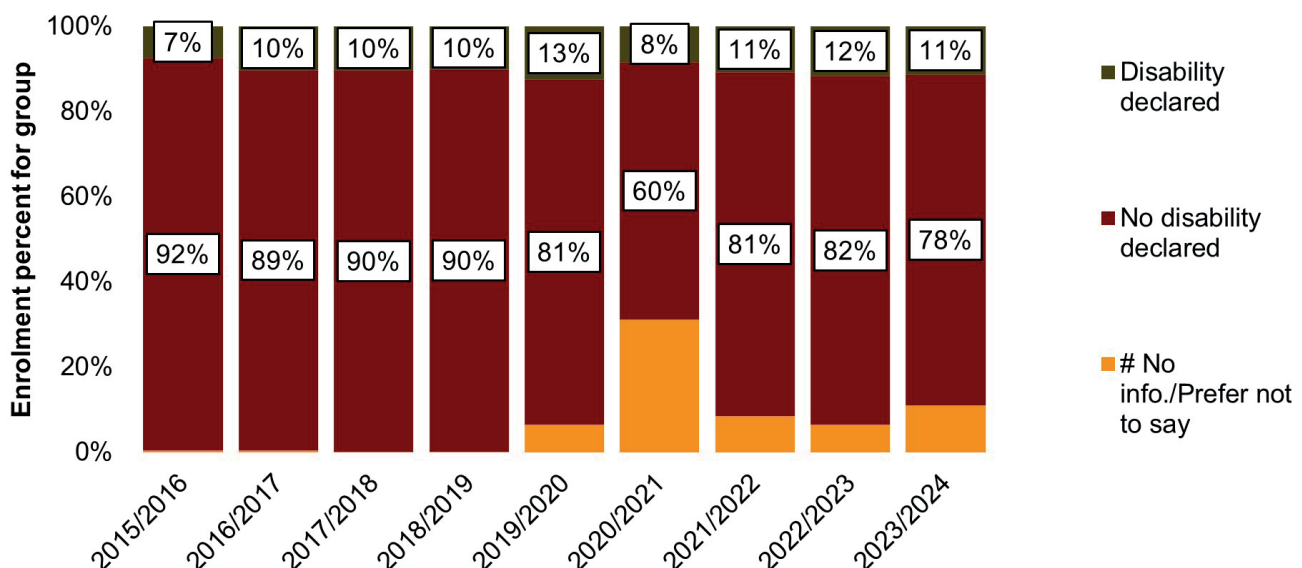


Chart 8 above breaks the enrolments for each academic year down by age range. Overall, the average age of the students enrolled on the Bar Training course has remained stable at approximately 25 years old.

Disability

Chart 9 below breaks down the proportions of students on vocational Bar training courses by disability status. Overall, the proportion of those with a declared disability has remained relatively stable over time, at around 10 per cent of students. Data is not shown for 2011/12-2013/14 as we do not have a good record of disability data for students during this time.

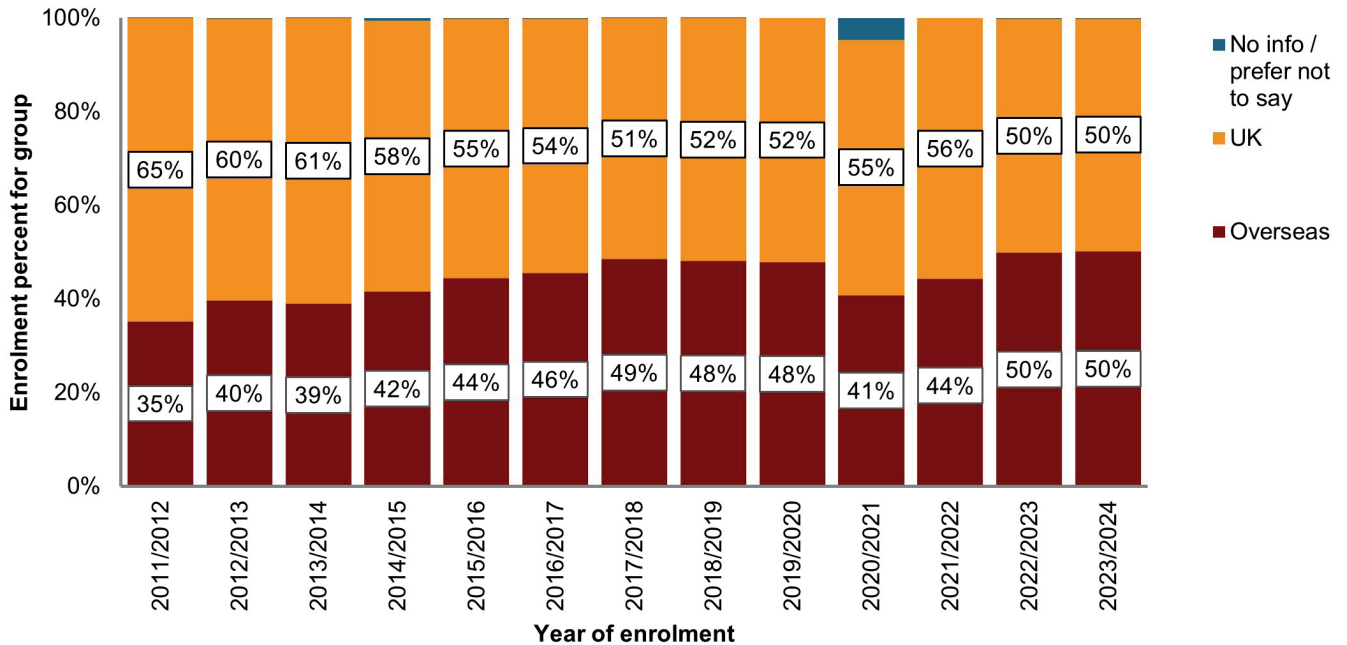
Chart 9. Enrolment on Bar training over time by disability status (% of cohort)



Domicile

Chart 10 below breaks down the proportions of students on vocational Bar training courses by region of domicile prior to enrolment. The proportion of overseas domiciled students undertaking Bar training has remained half of the cohort over the last 2 academic years.

Chart 10. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile (% of cohort)



Since the Bar Training reforms were introduced in 2020/2021 the number of overseas domiciled students has steadily increased. We are seeing a steady increase in both the proportion of overseas domiciled students and the actual number of overseas students enrolling in Bar Training.

Ethnicity

Chart 11 and Table 4. below give a breakdown of the ethnicity of those enrolling on vocational Bar training courses by domicile and academic year of enrolment. They are separated by domicile as overseas domiciled students have a different ethnic profile compared to UK domiciled students. The date range for each group ranges from 2012/2013 to 2023/2024 as opposed to the entirety of the Bar Training data collection period. Overseas domiciled students include those domiciled in the European Union.

Chart 11. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile and ethnicity (% of cohort)

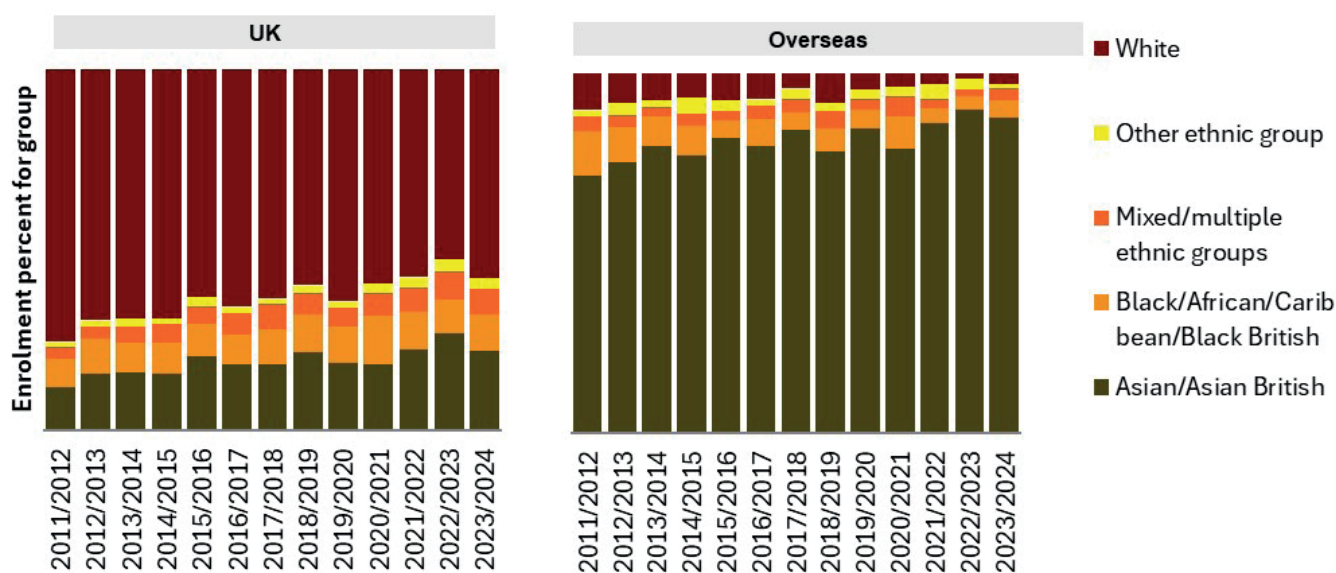


Table 4. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile and ethnicity (% of cohort – excluding non-responses) – every other year is included

Academic year of enrolment	Overseas					UK				
	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Mixed/Multi. eth. grps	Other ethnic grp	White	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Mixed/Multi. eth. grps	Other ethnic grp	White
13/14	80%	8%	3%	2%	7%	16%	8%	5%	2%	69%
15/16	82%	5%	3%	3%	8%	21%	9%	5%	3%	63%
17/18	84%	5%	4%	3%	4%	18%	10%	7%	2%	63%
19/20	85%	6%	3%	3%	4%	19%	10%	5%	2%	64%
21/22	86%	4%	3%	4%	3%	22%	10%	7%	3%	58%
23/24	88%	5%	3%	1%	3%	22%	10%	7%	3%	58%

Each year, more than eight in ten overseas domiciled students are from an Asian/Asian British background.

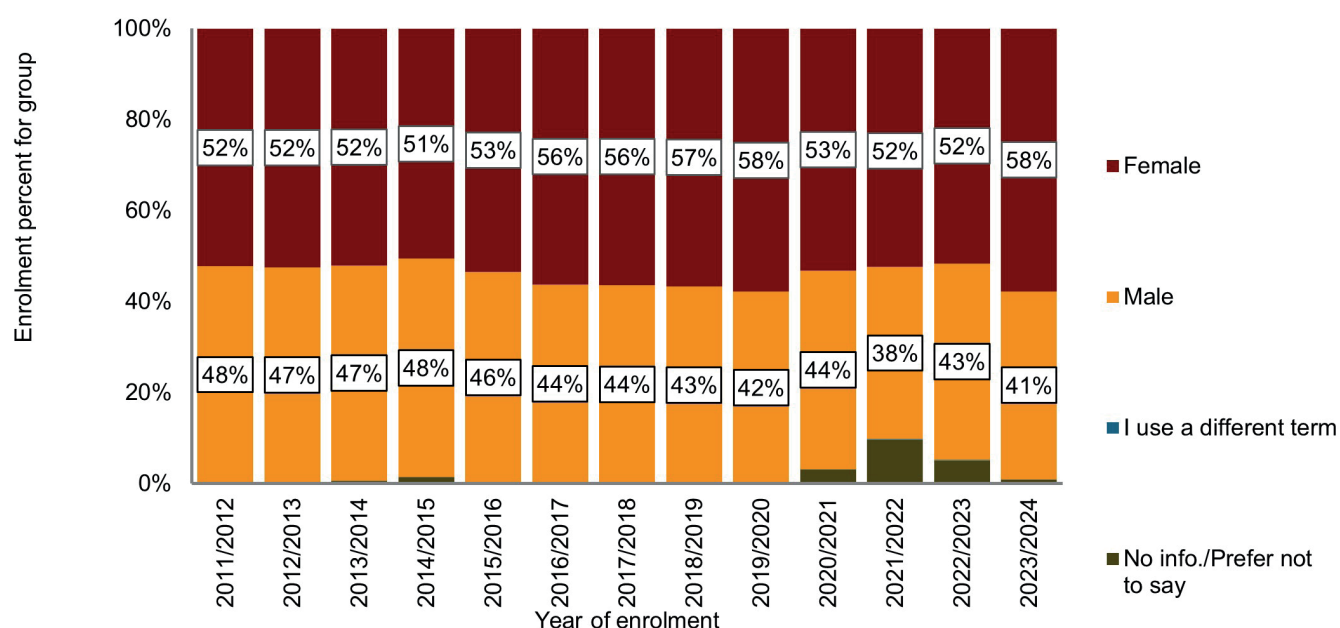
In both the Overseas domiciled and UK domiciled students' the proportion of Asian/Asian British backgrounds has been increasing since 2013/2014. The growth in the proportion of UK domiciled students from Black/Black British backgrounds has not been as large (8% in 2013/2014 to 10% in 2023/2024). The percentage of UK domiciled students from White ethnic backgrounds has decreased over time, from

69 percent for students enrolled in 2013/14 to 58 percent in 2023/2024. In overseas domiciled students there has been a decrease in the percentage of students from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds (8% in 2013/2014 to 5% in 2023/2024).

Gender

Chart 12 below gives a breakdown of gender on vocational Bar training courses over time. Since 2011/2012 the actual number of males enrolling in the Bar Training has fluctuated over the years, but looking at the percentage profile, the proportion of male students is decreasing.

Chart 12. Enrolment on Bar training over time by gender (% of cohort)



When further analysing the age data by domicile, the proportion of female overseas students, and the proportion of UK domiciled female students by gender were similar on each year of the BPTC. From 2020/21, the difference between gender by UK domiciled students is significantly different, whereas Overseas domiciles the gender profile between male and female students is the same.

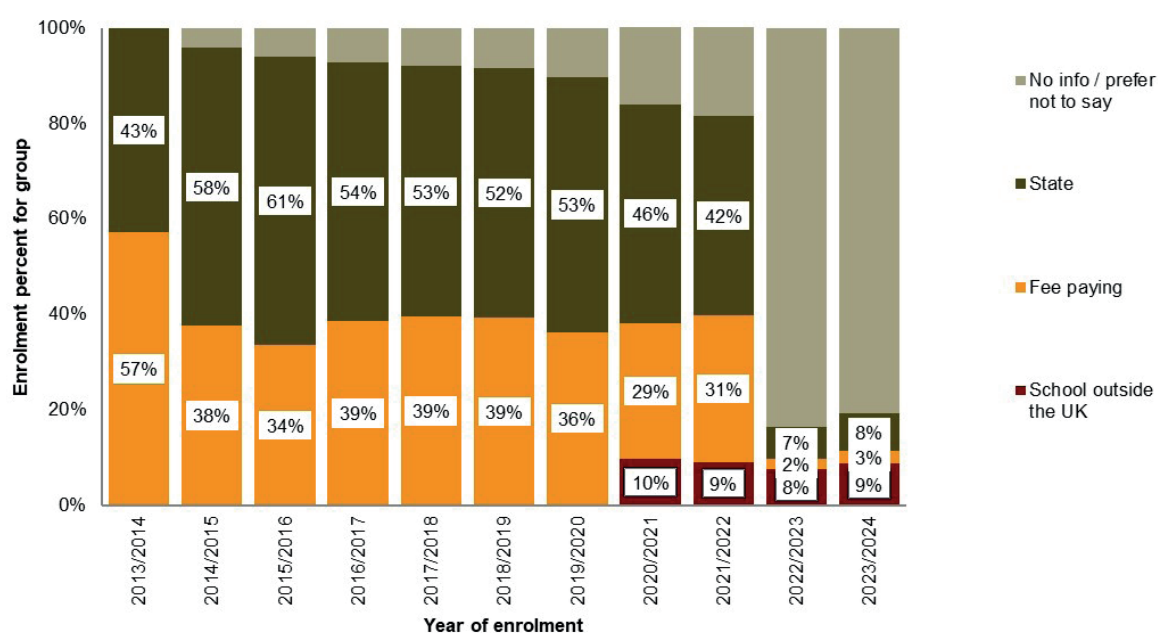
Table 5. Enrolment on Bar training courses by gender and domicile

Year of enrolment - Grouped	Overseas			UK		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
11/ 12 to 15/16	52%	48%	100%	53%	47%	100%
16/17 to 19/20	56%	44%	100%	57%	43%	100%
21/22 to 23/24	50%	50%	100%	62%	38%	100%

School Attended

Chart 13 below breaks down the type of school mainly attended between the ages of 11-18 for those enrolling on vocational Bar training. Data are not shown for 2011/12-2013/14 as data on school attended were collected through the BCAT, and the BCAT was not in existence for much of this time. From 2022/23 onwards, following the removal of the requirement for students to take the BCAT, the BSB is reliant on students providing information on school attended via registration on MyBar (as unlike other demographic data, this information is not collected by Bar Training providers). As a result, the proportion of students providing this information has fallen from over 80% to less than 20%.

Chart 13. Enrolment on Bar training over time by type of school attended (% of cohort)⁸



⁸ From 2020/21, data on school attended has been collected via MyBar in addition to data collected via the Bar Course Aptitude Test. MyBar includes an 'outside the UK' option for school attended, which is why this category first appears in 2020/21.

Student results

This section of the report presents statistics on student results over time. The statistics are calculated from the BSB's record of student results as of August 2024. An important aspect to consider regarding the lower pass rates for recent years is that this is due to more recent cohorts of students having had less time in which to complete the course. This makes comparing between years difficult, as we would need to compare with relevant snapshots taken at set points in time to understand how students enrolled in recent years are performing in comparison to those enrolled in prior years.

To note, the new course data only read passed and not yet complete – students have five years from first enrolment to complete the vocational course, and none has yet reached that period. In this report “Not yet complete” means the student has not yet passed all the assessments on the course, whether this is due to not yet having taken all assessments, or not passing one or more assessments if they have taken them all.

Some years of enrolment on the BPTC have been grouped together to make it easier to display trends over a greater period. Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

Overall

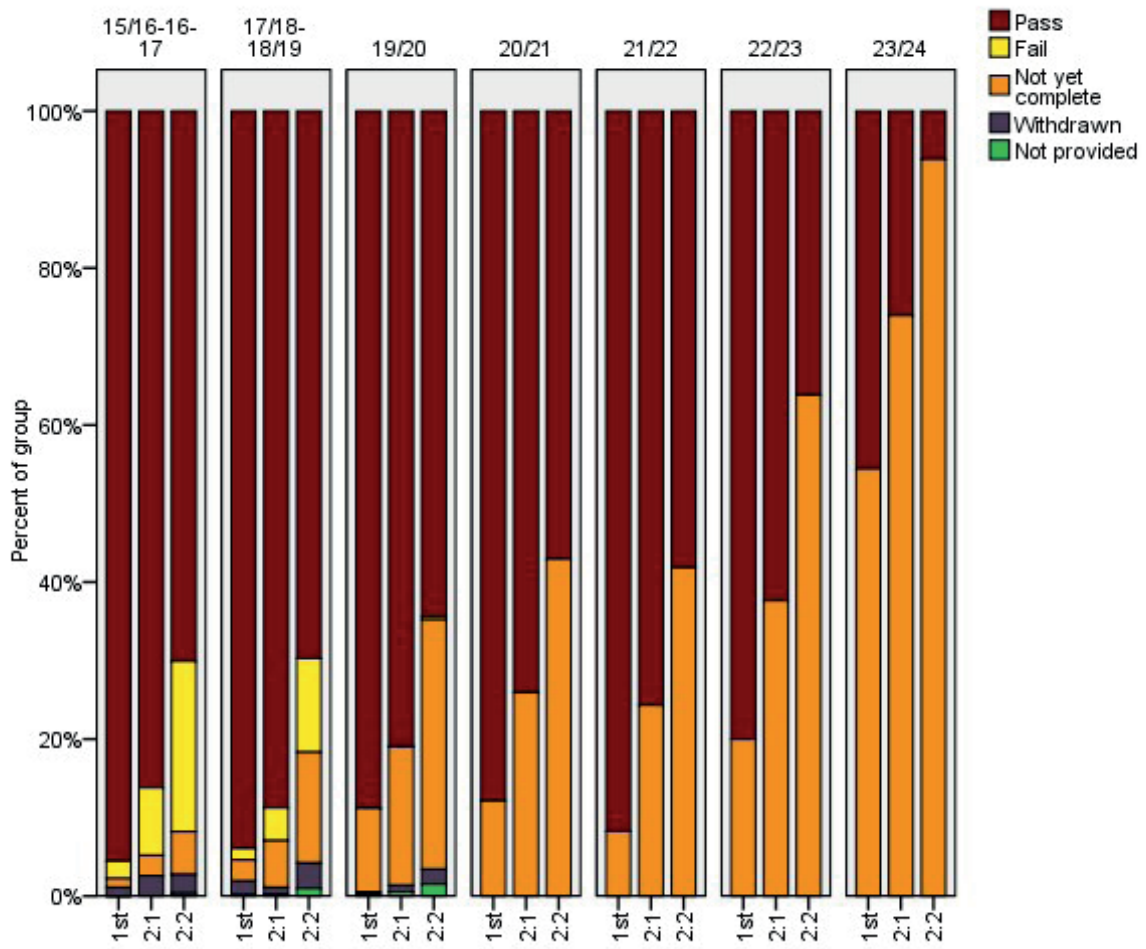
Chart 14 below shows results by degree classification on Bar training courses over time. Differences between those with different degree classifications in terms of the proportion who failed or who are not yet complete on a Bar training course can clearly be seen.⁹

Overall, students with first class degrees typically have a higher pass rate compared to those with an upper second degree. The same trend can be seen with students who have achieved a 2.1, they will typically have a higher pass rate for the Bar training course compared to those who achieved a 2.2 in their first degree.

Based on trends seen on the BPTC (bar training pre 2020/21), it would appear that eight in ten with any degree classification will go on to pass the course overall – for those enrolled from 2011/12-2019/20, the BSB has a record of around 93 per cent of those with a first-class degree, 85 per cent of those with a 2:1, and 66 per cent of those with a 2:2 having passed the course as of September 2024.

⁹ Many of those in our records who are not yet complete on a course and who enrolled during the first half of the 2010s will be likely to have withdrawn from the course.

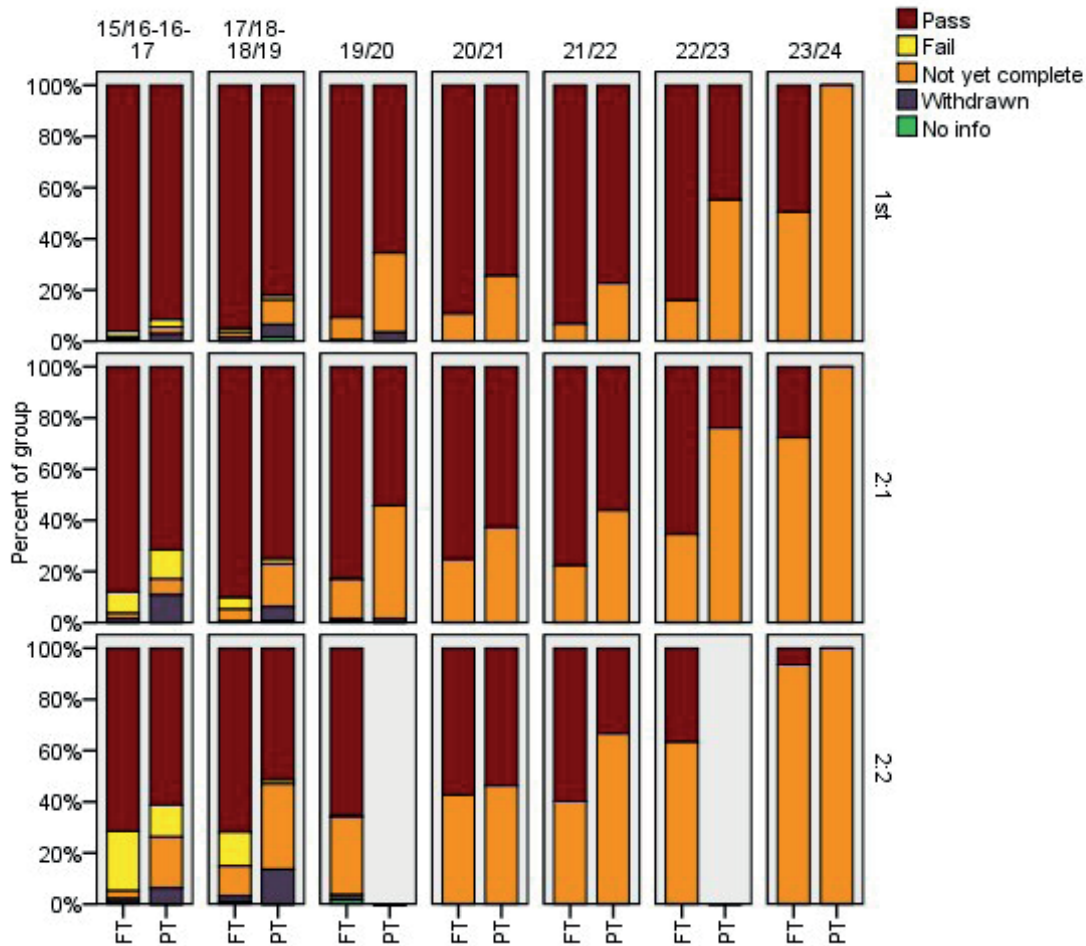
Chart 14. Results on Bar training over time by first degree classification (% of cohort)



Study Mode

Chart 15 below shows results on Bar training courses by mode of study. As would be expected, part time students enrolled in more recent years have lower pass rates on the course, as they would have had less opportunity to sit all modules and undertake resits.

Chart 15. Results on Bar training by degree class and study mode (% of cohort)

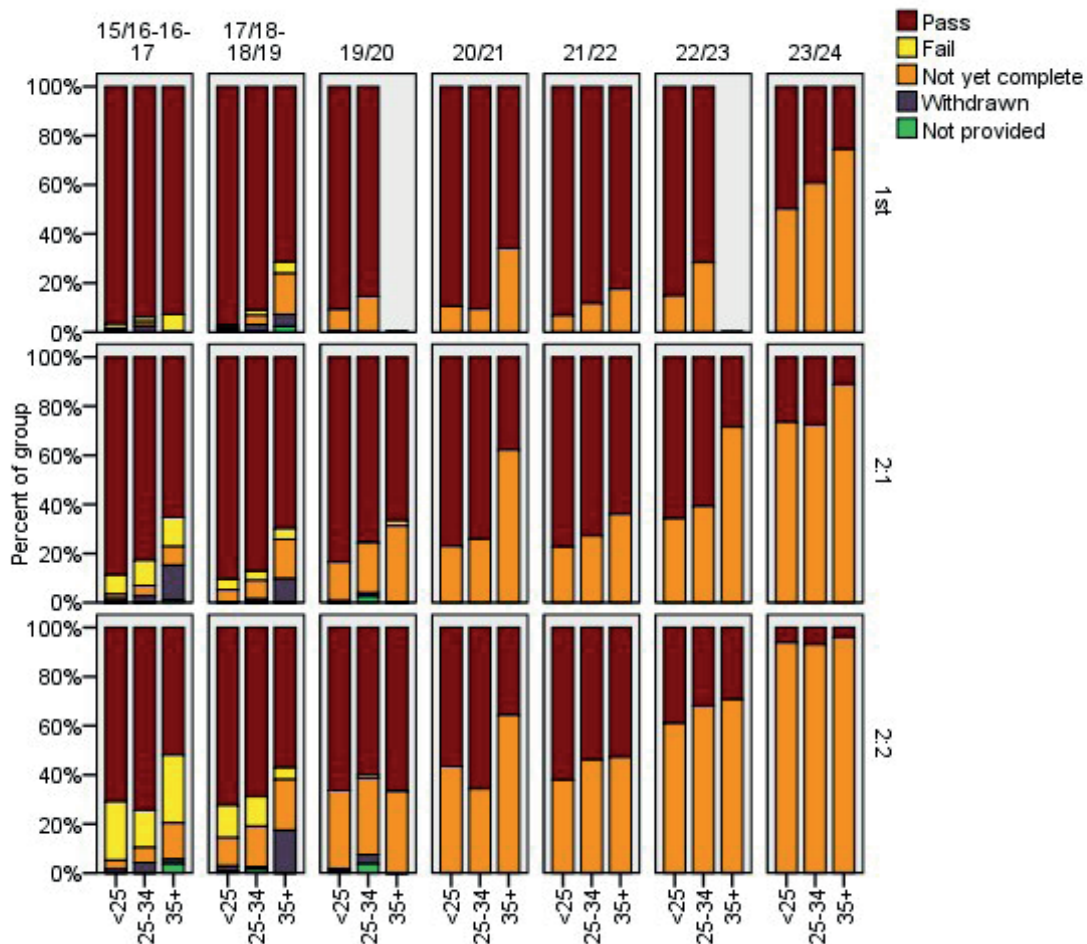


Part-time students are slightly less likely to have completed the course, and more likely to have withdrawn from the course in comparison to full time students. This may be partly related to age, from the academic enrolment year 2020/21 the average age for part-time students is 29.5 compared to full time students whose average age is 24.6.

Age

Chart 16 below shows results by age and degree classification on Bar training courses over time.

Chart 16. Results on Bar training by degree class and age (% of cohort)

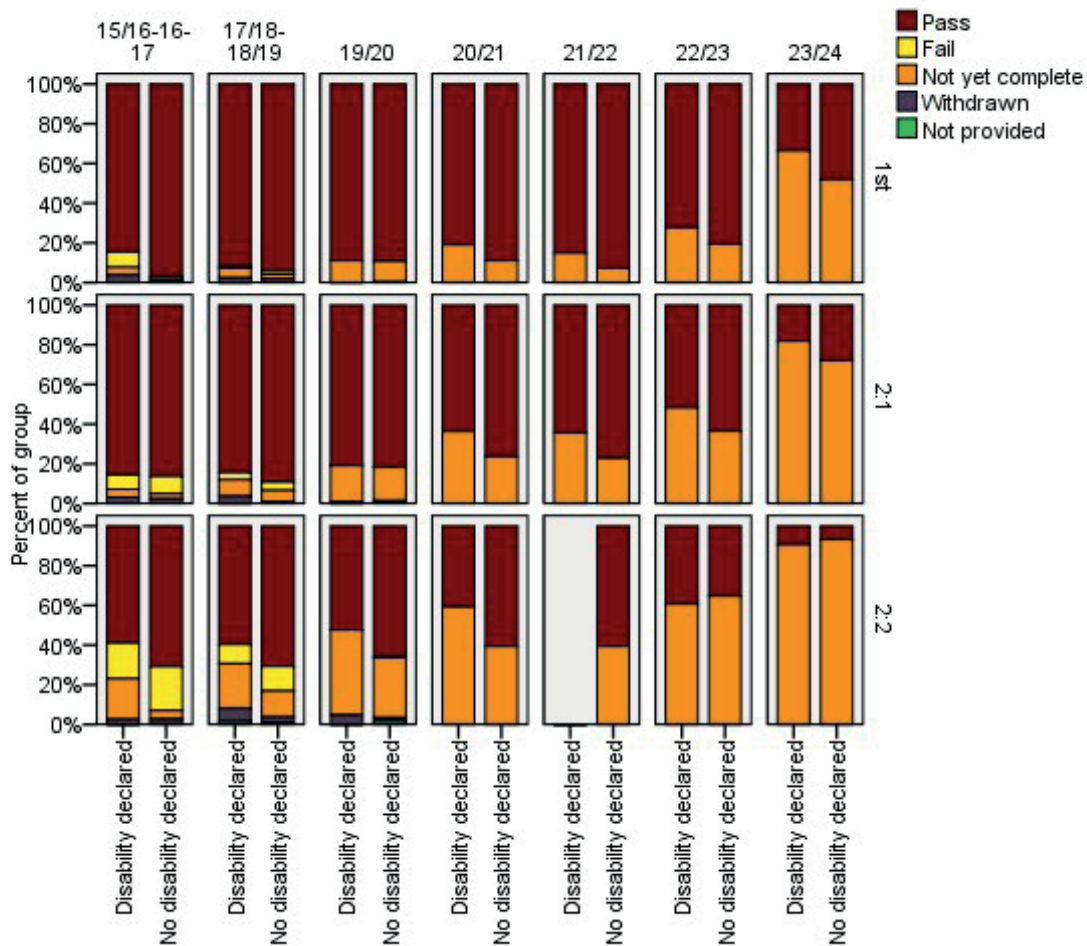


There appears to be some relationship between age and results on Bar training, with older students being slightly more likely to take slightly longer to complete the course. There also seems to be a relationship between the degree class, with those who achieved a First-Class degree more likely to have passed the course than those who passed their degree with a lower second.

Disability

Chart 17 below shows results by disability status and degree classification on Bar training courses over time.

Chart 17. Results on Bar training by degree classification and disability status (% of cohort)



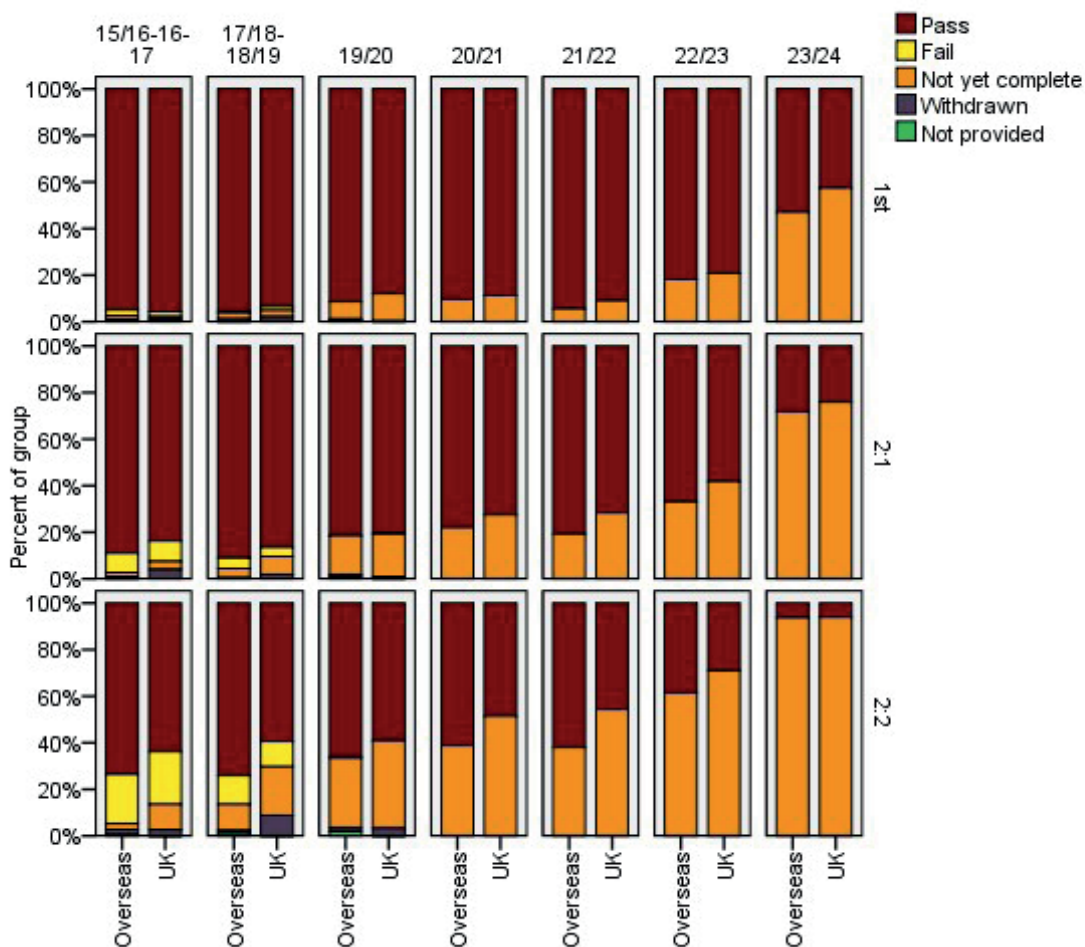
Focusing on the data for the new course we can see there appears to be a relationship between disability and results on Bar training. Those who declared a disability are slightly more likely to have not yet completed Bar Training than those with no disability when controlling for first degree classification. As with all statistics on Bar training presented in this section, the trend seen may not be present if a greater number of variables were controlled for.

Domicile

The chart below shows overall results on Bar training courses by domicile prior to enrolment on the course. Overall, results across degree classification are similar for those domiciled in the UK and those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment.

There is one trend that stands out for the BPTC, which is that a slightly higher proportion of those domiciled in the UK with a lower second class degree are yet to complete the course. The same trend is seen for 2020/21 onwards across degree class, although this may be more related to study mode than other factors, as UK domiciled students are more likely to undertake Bar training on a part time basis.

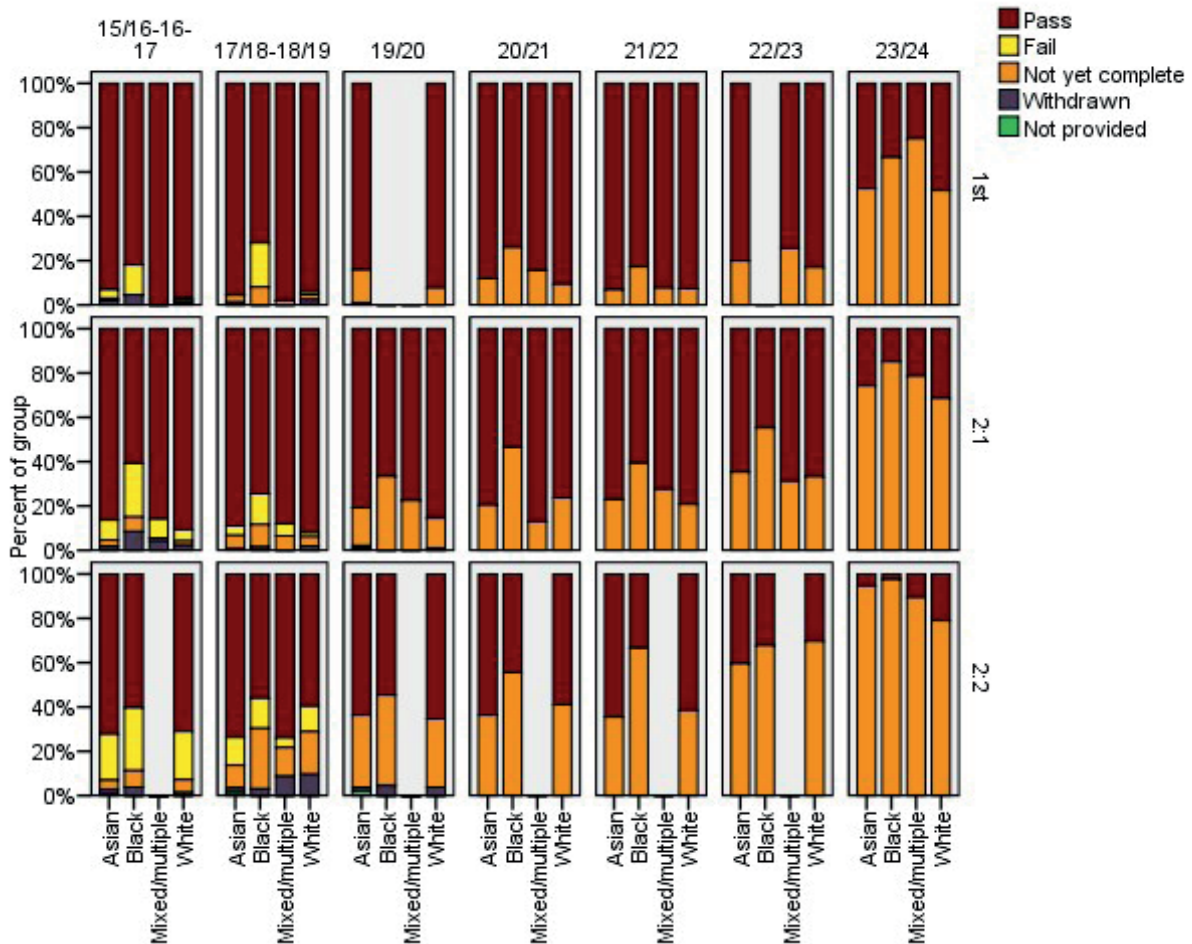
Chart 18. Results on Bar training by degree class and domicile (% of cohort)



Ethnicity

Chart 19 below shows overall results on Bar training over time by degree class and ethnicity. Results are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a relevant grouping.

Chart 19. Results on Bar training by degree class and ethnicity (% of cohort)

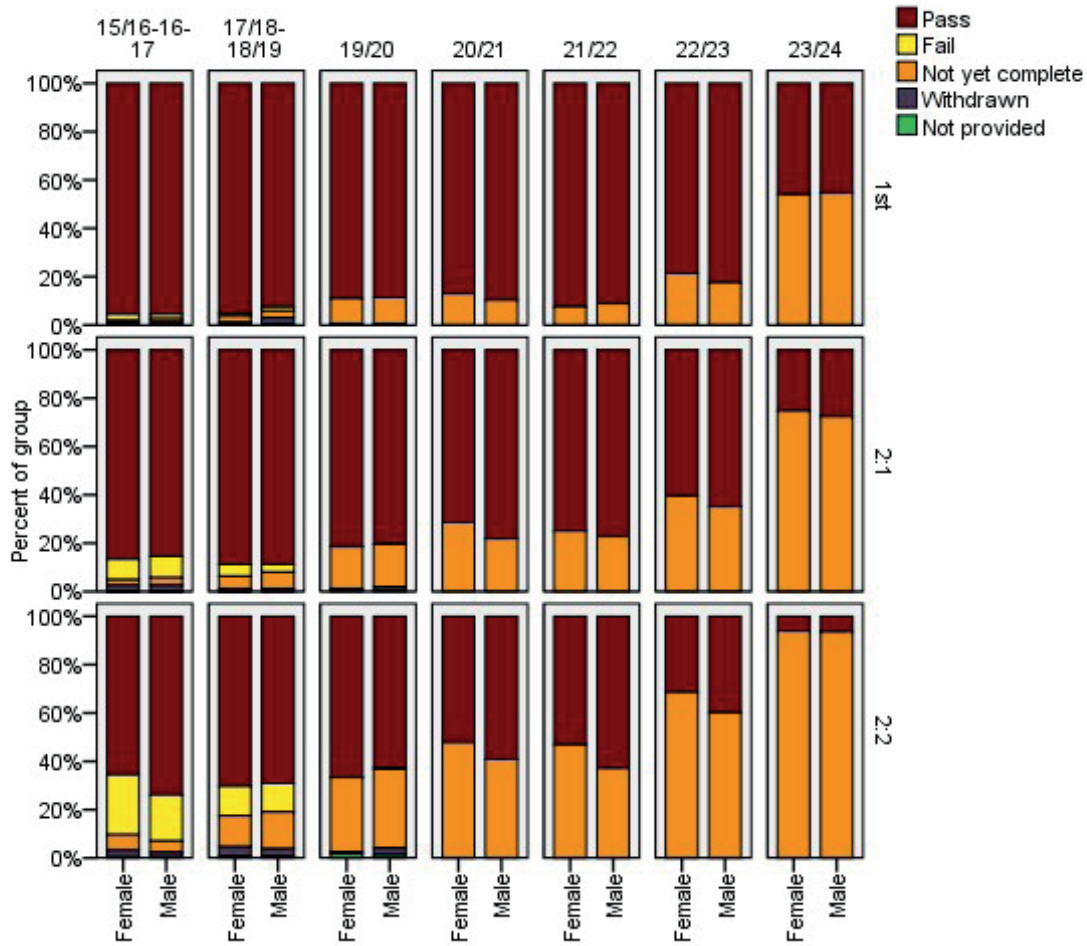


Overall, results suggest that at least for those with an upper or lower second-class degree, there are some differences between those from different ethnic backgrounds in terms of the proportion passing the course. The difference seen is more pronounced for those from Black/Black British backgrounds, with those from such backgrounds less likely to pass the course in comparison to those from other ethnic groups for several cohorts. There is a further chart (chart A1) in the appendices, giving the figures only for UK domiciled students with a 2:1 degree (the most numerous degree class for those enrolling).

Gender

Chart 20 below shows overall results on Bar training over time by degree class and gender. There does not appear to be any clear trend seen across all years and degree classifications. Differences in pass rates by gender are generally quite small across years and degree classifications.

Chart 20. Results on Bar training by degree class and gender (% of cohort)



Student Progression

Following completion of Bar training and Call to the Bar in England and Wales, prospective barristers are eligible for the next component of training, pupillage. This section provides information on progression onto pupillage following Bar training.¹⁰

The statistics presented have been calculated based upon the BSB's record of student results and progression as of August 2024.

Those seeking to undertake pupillage in England and Wales are allowed up to five years following completion of the vocational part of an approved Bar training course in which they can gain pupillage – after this point, a waiver from the BSB would be needed. This makes comparing between years difficult - we would need to compare with relevant snapshots taken at set points in time to understand how students enrolled in recent years are progressing in comparison to those enrolled in years prior.

It is also the case that, along with all of the statistics presented in this report, there may be other variables more strongly linked to the outcomes seen which are not controlled for.

In cases where charts relate to students' domicile, this refers to the region in which the student was domiciled prior to enrolment on Bar training.

Most of those domiciled in other countries prior to undertaking a vocational Bar training course do not appear to seek to gain pupillage in England and Wales following completion of the course. For this reason, *most charts in this section relate to data on those domiciled in the UK prior to enrolment on a Bar training course only.*

Some years of enrolment on the BPTC have been grouped together in order to make it easier to display trends over a greater period of time. Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

¹⁰ In addition to this section of the report, some useful information on pupillage can be found on the BSB website at <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/becoming-a-barrister/pupillage-component.html>

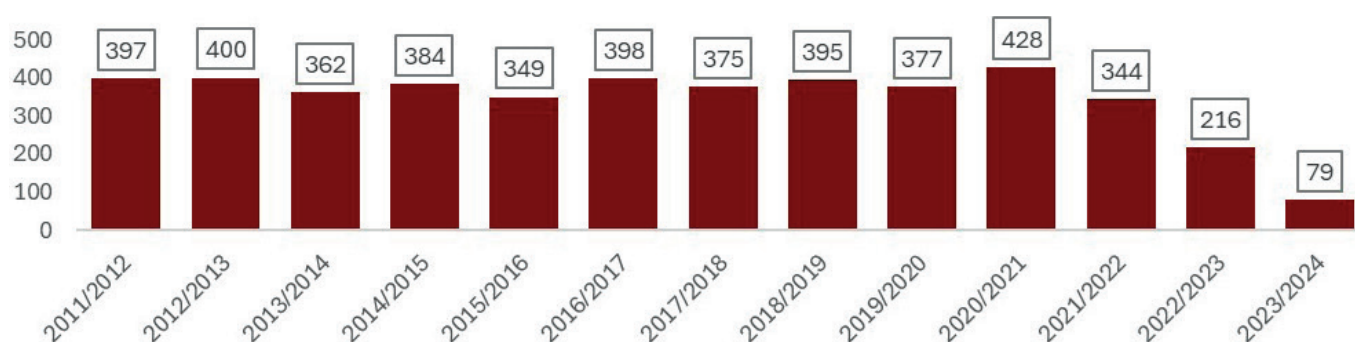
We have also published two research reports focusing on pupillage – one is on pupillage selection criteria, and can be found [here](#), and one in differential outcomes in gaining pupillage, which can be found [here](#).

The Bar Council also provides some useful information on pupillage on their website at <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/pupil-barristers.html>, as well as a yearly report which presents lots of useful statistics on applications received through the Pupillage Gateway platform. The latest version of this at the time of writing can be found here - <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/resource/pupillage-gateway-report-2024.html>

Progression onto pupillage – of entire cohort

Chart 21 below shows the total number of Bar training graduates who have gone on to gain pupillage in England and Wales. For the earlier cohorts shown in Chart 21, the number who obtained pupillage may be higher than the numbers shown, as accurate numbers for this are dependent on student records being linked to those of practising barristers in the BSB database, and this was formerly not as reliable a process as it is currently.

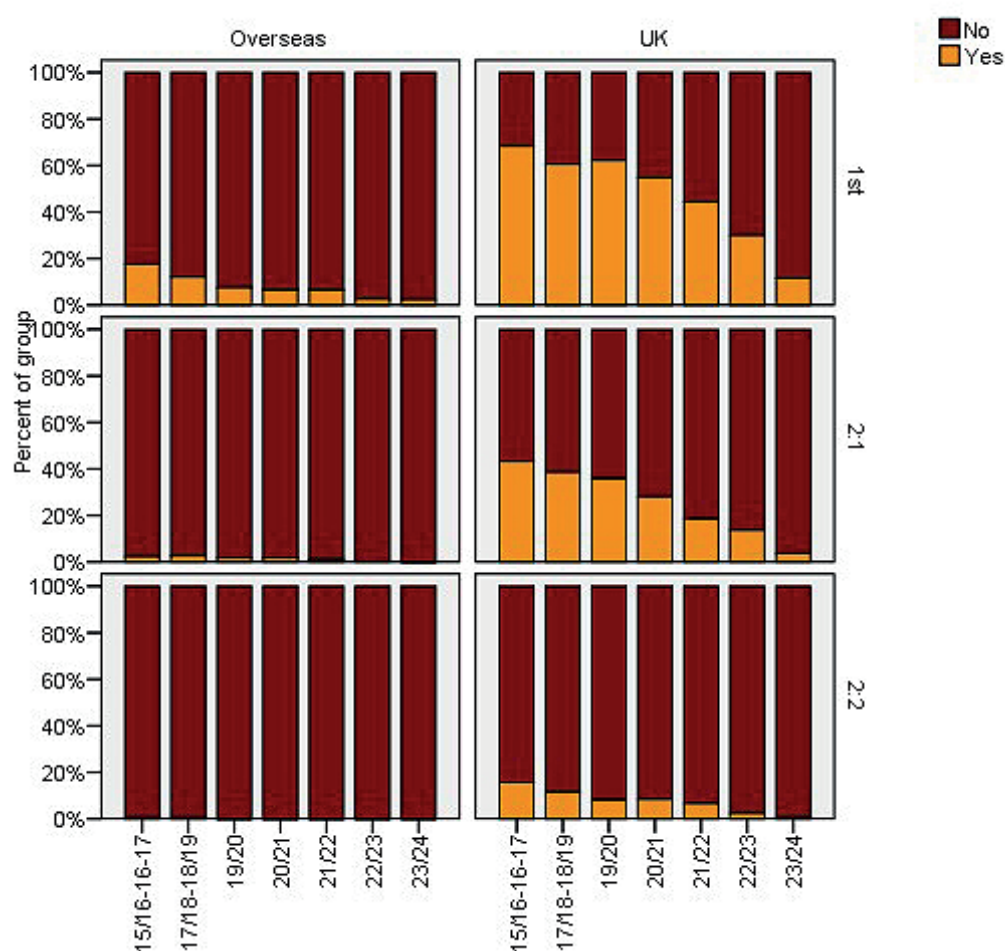
Chart 21. Total number of Bar training graduates that have gone on to gain pupillage by academic year of enrolment – 2011/12-2021/22



There is a clear relationship between the number of students gaining pupillage and years since enrolment. As graduates have five years in which to gain pupillage following completion of the course, this is understandable, and we would expect fewer people in the most recent cohorts to have gained pupillage – this pattern has been the case for as long as we have had a record of Bar training results, as evidenced by Part 4 of the previous BPTC Key Statistics Reports.¹¹

The chart below shows the proportion of an entire cohort (including those that have not passed the course) who have gone on to gain pupillage by domicile and first-degree classification.

¹¹ Can be accessed via <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

Chart 22. Progression of entire cohort onto pupillage – By degree class and domicile

The majority of overseas domiciled students do not go on to pupillage in England and Wales. In the past, there has been evidence that a relatively low proportion of applicants for pupillage in England and Wales have a non-UK nationality,¹² and that only around 16 per cent of overseas domiciled students surveyed on the BPTC had practising at the Bar in England and Wales as their main motivation for studying the course¹³. Altogether, this would suggest that most of those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment will seek a legal career outside of this jurisdiction.

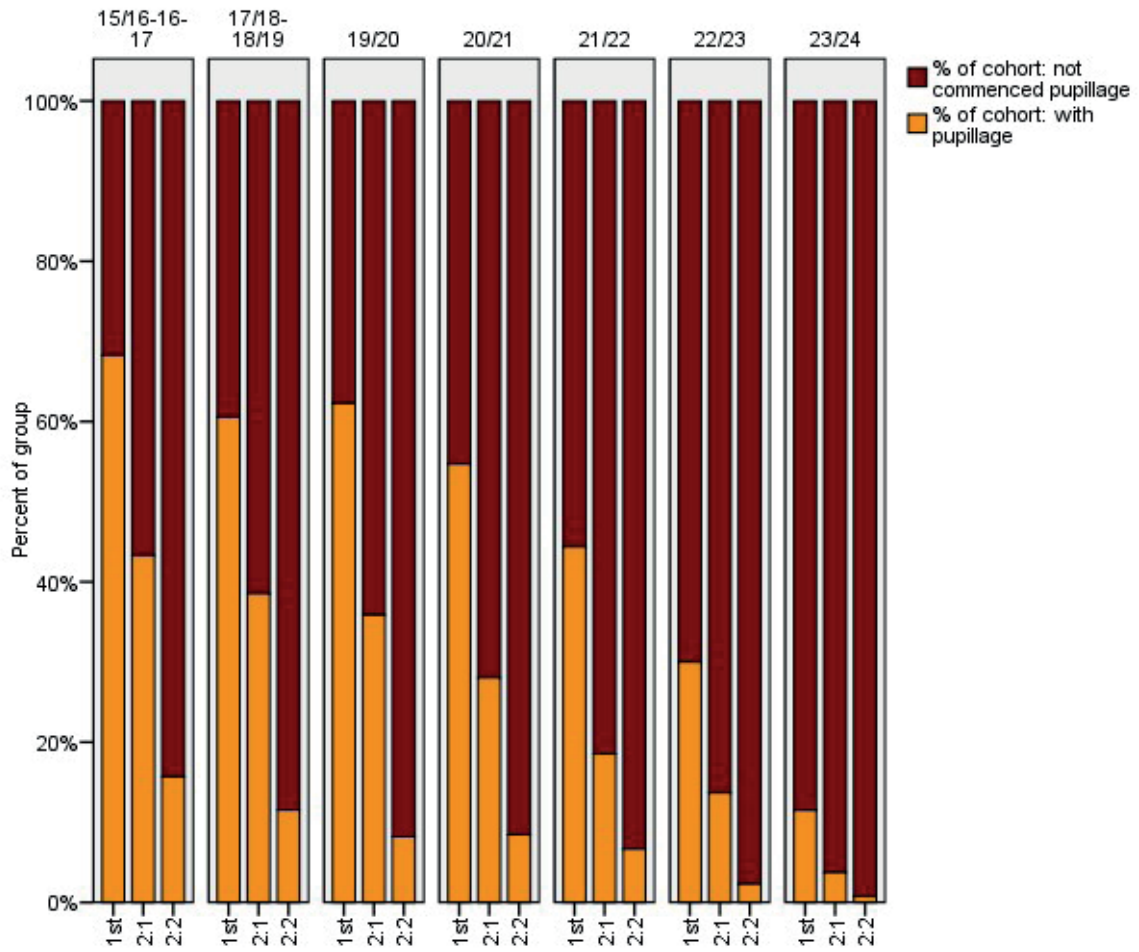
Chart 23 below shows the proportion of UK domiciled students (also covering the entire cohort, including those who have not passed the course) who have gone on to gain pupillage versus those who have not commenced pupillage. There is a clear trend which displays the correlation between first-degree classifications obtained and student progression.

Of all UK domiciled students, when controlling for degree class only, it is only those with a first-class degree for whom a majority in a cohort would be expected to go on to pupillage.

¹² See General Council of the Bar (2012). A comparison between the backgrounds of Pupillage Portal applicants in 2009 and registered pupils in 2011 – page 9 – found [here](#).

¹³ Calculated from BPTC perceptions survey undertaken by the BSB for 2013-14.

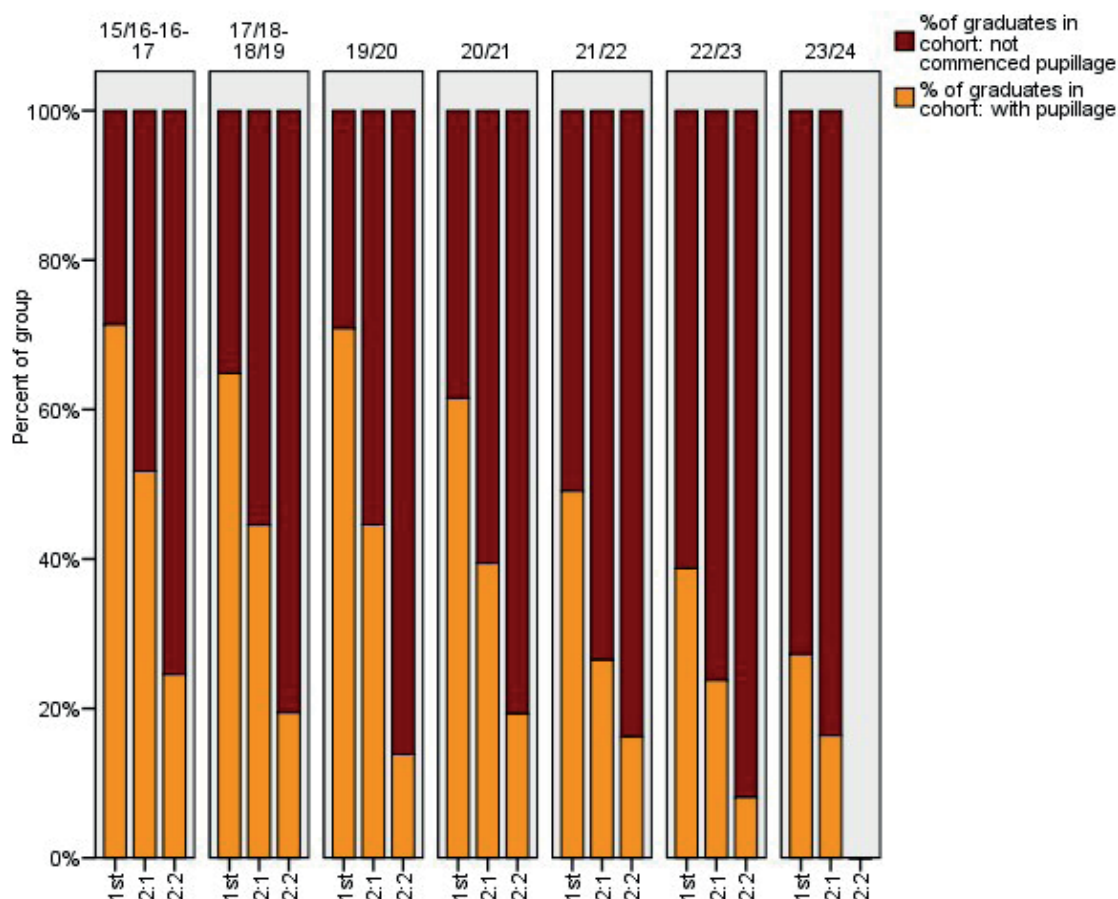
Chart 23. Progression of entire cohort of UK domiciled students onto pupillage



Progression onto pupillage - course graduates only

The charts in this section present statistics on *UK domiciled Bar training graduates* (those that have passed vocational Bar training) by pupillage status as of August 2024. Chart 24 below displays statistics on pupillage status of UK domiciled Bar training graduates by first degree classification.

Chart 24. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage



Overall, the UK students who passed their first degree with a first-class classification and who passed the Bar training course go on to gain pupillage in the greatest proportions. Students have five years from passing the vocational stage of Bar training to gain pupillage. Looking at the 2019/2020 cohort, more than 70 per cent of students have obtained pupillage within the timeframe. Those with a lower-second class degree do not gain pupillage in such proportions, with under 15 per cent of UK domiciled course graduates with this degree class from the 2019/20 cohort going onto pupillage. It is likely that some of the difference in the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage by degree class is also due to differences seen in results on vocational training over the period of the BPTC, which do co-vary alongside first-degree classification.

Part 4 of the historical BPTC key statistics report monitored the relationship between grades awarded on the BPTC and the proportion gaining pupillage.¹⁴ Understandably, there was a clear link between the two. The lack of standardisation in grades awarded across vocational training providers makes this harder to monitor for the current Bar Training courses than on the BPTC, however.

¹⁴ These can be found at <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

University attended

Chart 25. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and university attended for undergraduate degree

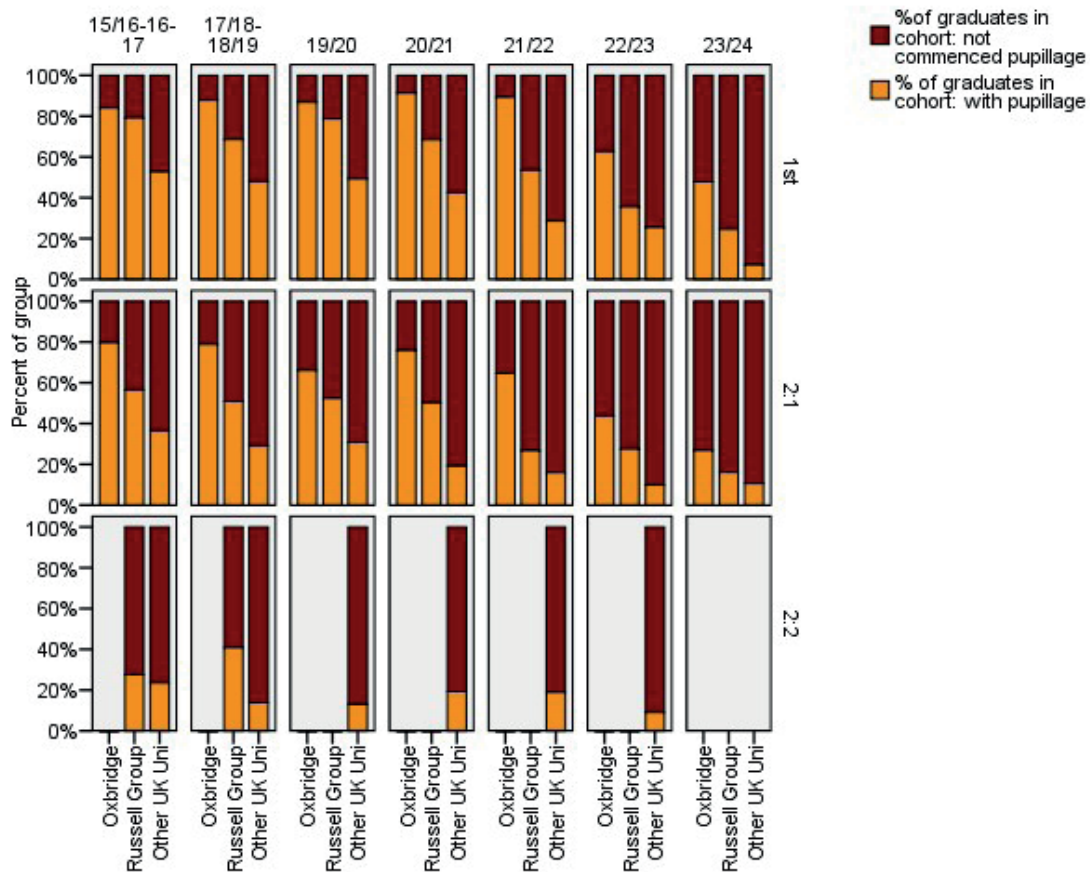


Chart 25 above shows the proportion of UK domiciled Bar training graduates that have gained pupillage by year of enrolment, degree classification and university attended for their first degree.

The data shows those who attended Oxbridge gain pupillage in greater proportions than those who attended another Russell Group university, who in turn gain pupillage in greater proportions than those attending other UK universities - some part of this trend may be due to results on the Bar training course correlating with degree institution, but it is unlikely that all of it can be explained by this given results from previous research into the area in 2017¹⁵, and the statistics presented in Part 4 of the BPTC Key Statistics Reports, which did control for BPTC grade.¹⁶

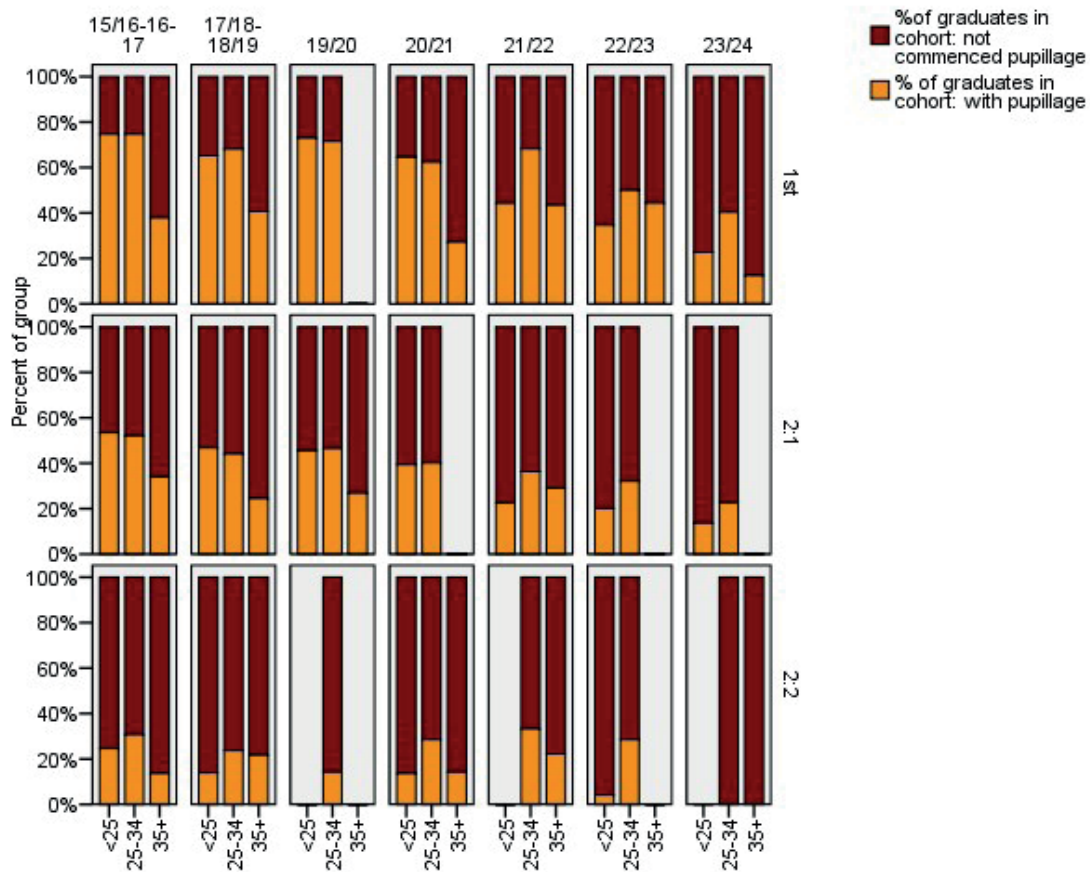
¹⁵ University attended was found to be a strong predictor of the likelihood of gaining pupillage in this research - Bar Standards Board (2017). Exploring differential attainment at BPTC and Pupillage. Can be found [here](#)

¹⁶ See Chart 4.A.10 of the 2021 BPTC Key Statistics Report for reference. <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

Age

Chart 26 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by age range upon enrolment. Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group, which means that in some cases, those age 35+ are not included due to low numbers of students in this age range.

Chart 26. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and age range



When controlling for degree class, similar proportions of those aged under 25 and those aged 25-34 go on to gain pupillage after passing Bar training. It appears that a lower proportion of those aged 35+ go on to gain pupillage when controlling for degree class, there also seems to be a relationship with the mode of study with four in ten UK domiciled students aged 36+ enrolled from 2011/12-2022/23, enrolled on the course on a part-time basis, compared to around 27 percent of those aged 26-35, and 11 percent of those aged 18 -25.

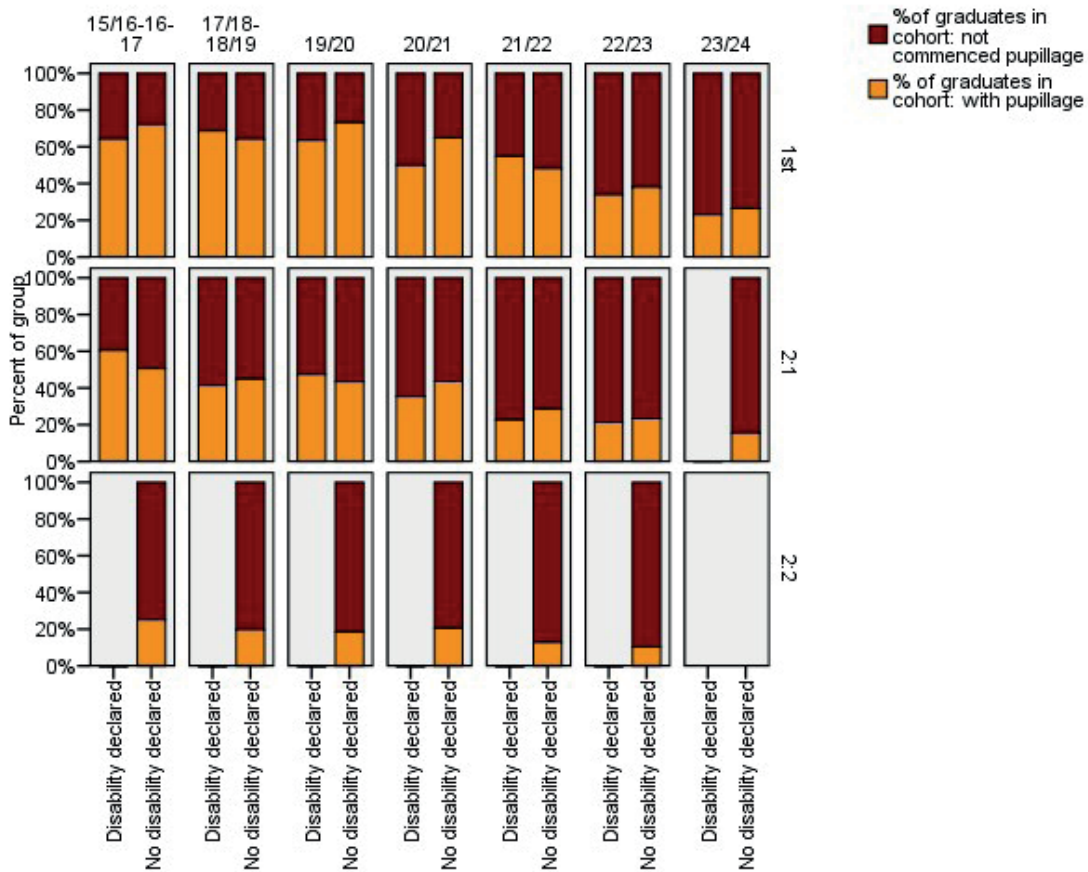
The trends seen above could also generally be said to be present when degree institution is controlled for. This is shown in Chart A2 in the appendices.

Disability

Chart 27 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by disability status (as defined under the Equality Act 2010). Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group (there were not enough students who had a declared disability with a 2:2 degree to provide a valid comparative group).

Overall, no clear trend emerges from the data. In some instances, those with a declared disability have gained pupillage in greater proportions for those with a specific degree class, and in some instances, the opposite is seen. No clear trends emerge either for the relationship between disability status and the proportion of UK domiciled Bar training graduates gaining pupillage when degree institution is controlled for. This is shown in Chart A3 in the appendices.

Chart 27. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and disability status



Ethnicity

Chart 28 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by ethnic background. Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group.

Overall, UK domiciled Bar training graduates from White ethnic backgrounds appear to gain pupillage in greater proportions than UK domiciled Bar training graduates from minoritised ethnic backgrounds when disaggregating by degree classification.

Chart 28. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and ethnic background

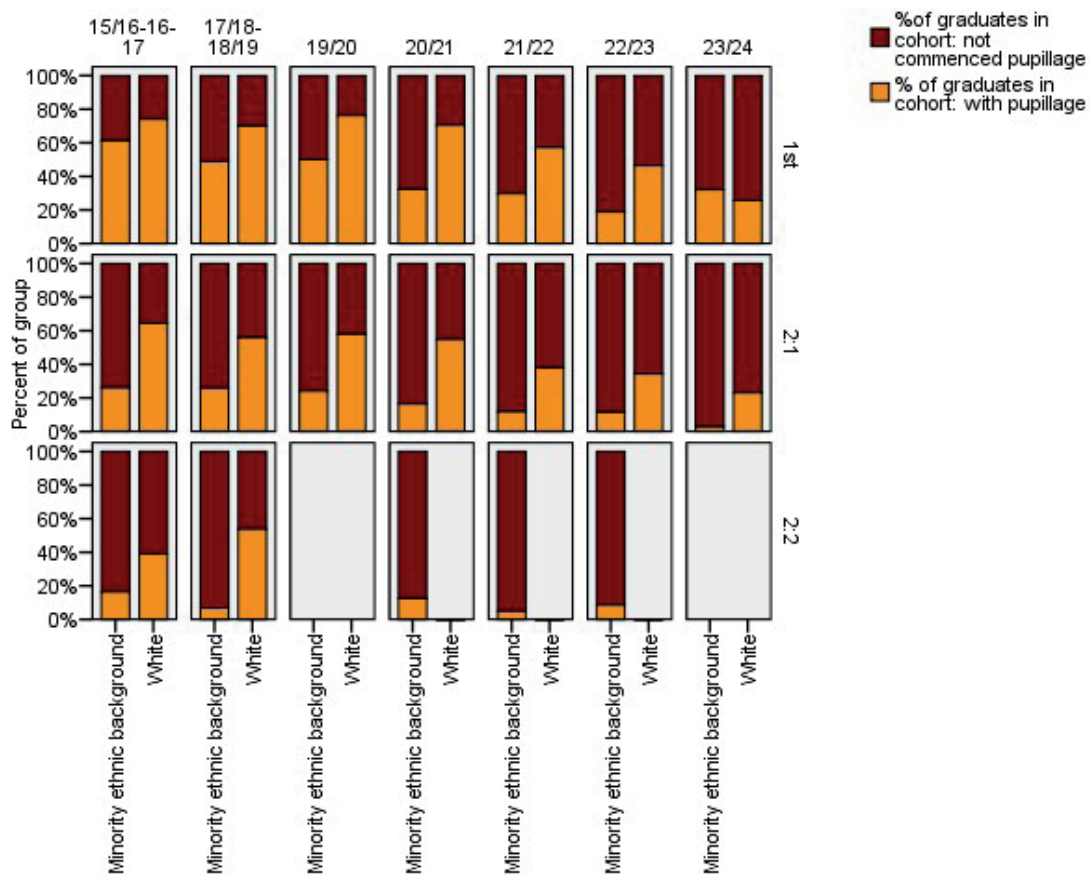


Chart 29 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by degree class and ethnicity, for more disaggregated ethnic groups. The only degree class presented is those with a 2:1, as this was the only degree class with 20 or more students in most groupings. The biggest differences seen are between Asian/Asian British and White Bar training graduates, and between Black/Black British and White Bar training graduates. This has previously been documented by the BSB, including in research published in 2017¹⁷, and in previous BPTC Key Statistics Reports.¹⁸ The differences seen on the BPTC remained present when controlling for BPTC grade and university attended.¹⁹

¹⁷ Bar Standards Board (2017). Exploring differential attainment at BPTC and Pupillage. Can be found [here](#)

¹⁸ These can be found here: <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

¹⁹ As highlighted in chart 4.A.7.2 in the most recent report, found [here](#)

Chart 29. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and more disaggregated ethnic background – those with a 2:1 degree only

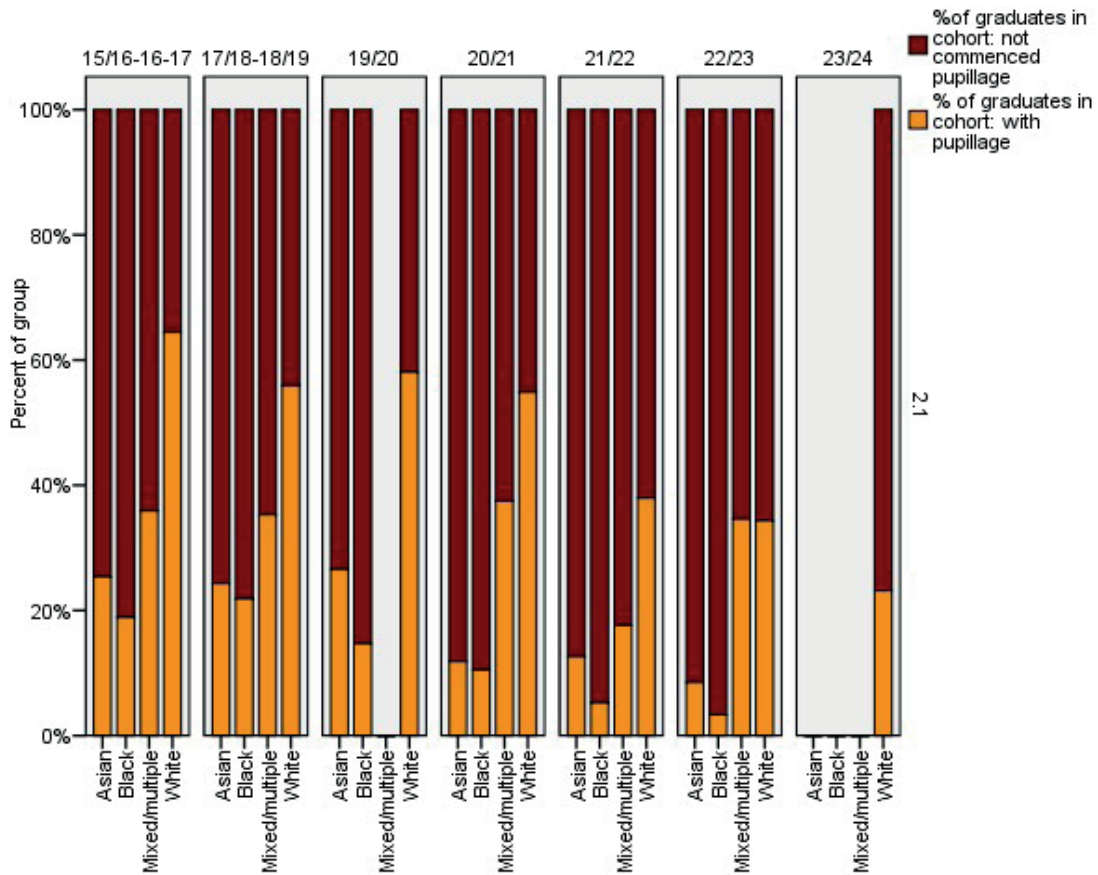
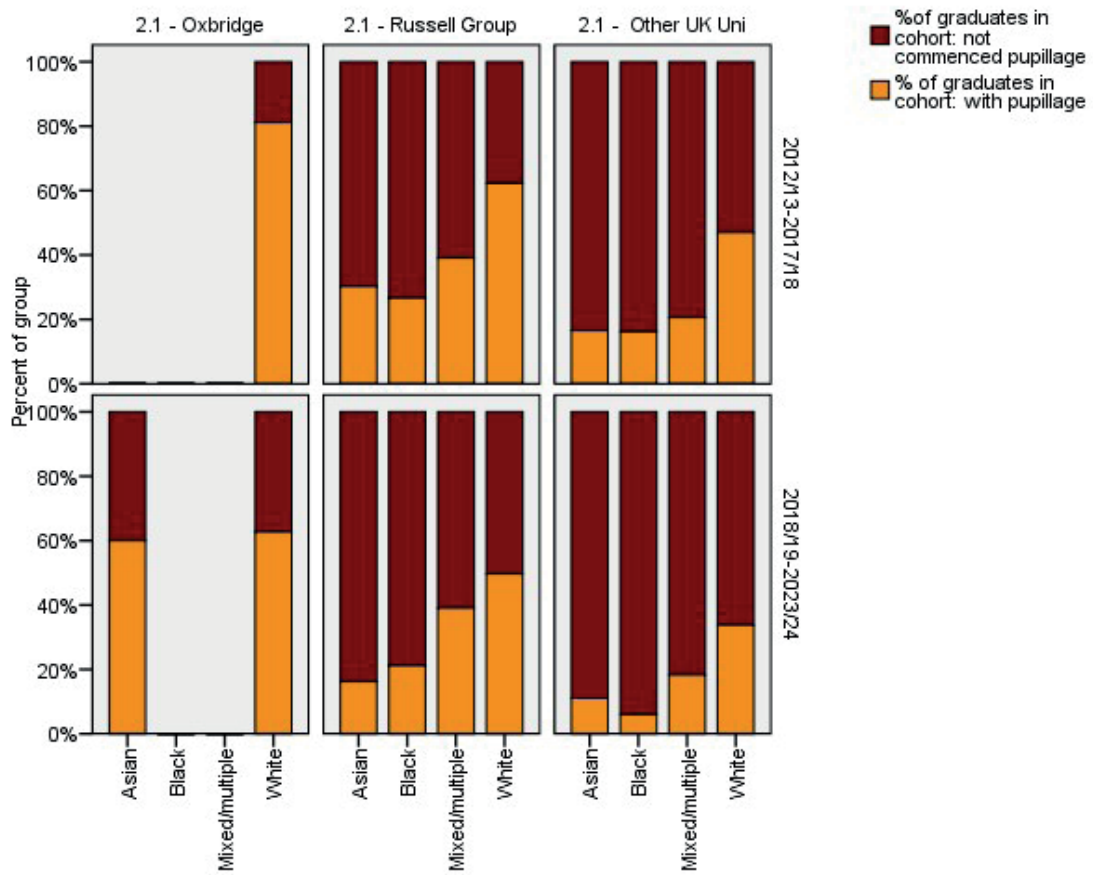


Chart 30 below shows the progression of UK domiciled graduates onto pupillage by ethnicity when controlling for degree institution for those with a 2:1 degree (the only degree for which there more than 20 or more students). Differences in the percentage gaining pupillage by ethnic group are still present when controlling for degree institution attended.

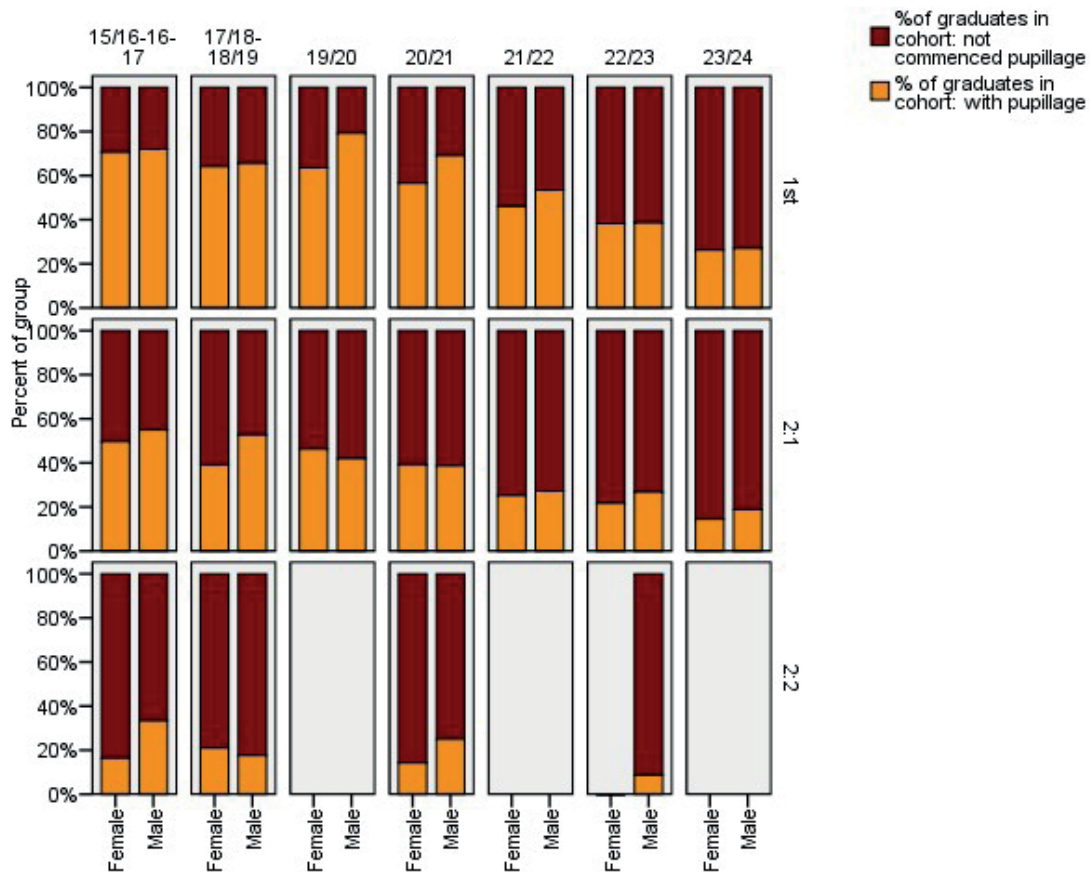
Chart 30. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, ethnic background and first-degree institution



Gender

Chart 31 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by gender. Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group.

Chart 31. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and gender



The proportion of male and female UK domiciled Bar training graduates who have gained pupillage is similar across many degree classes and year of enrolment groupings. Historically, there was a trend of males with a first-class degree gaining pupillage in greater proportions than females with the same degree class. When controlling for degree institution attended, differences in the proportion of female and male UK domiciled Bar training graduates who have gained pupillage are even smaller than that seen above. This can be seen in Chart A4 in the appendices.

Since 2015/16 academic year we have a record of around more than 6,500 females and 5,000 males passing Bar training. We also have a record of 2374 females registering for pupillage, and 2096 males. So, the total number of female pupils does outnumber that of males, but not to the same extent as may be expected based upon the extent to which female Bar training graduates outnumber male Bar training graduates.

Appendices

Chart A1. Results on Bar training by degree class and ethnicity (% of cohort) – UK domiciled students with a 2:1 degree only

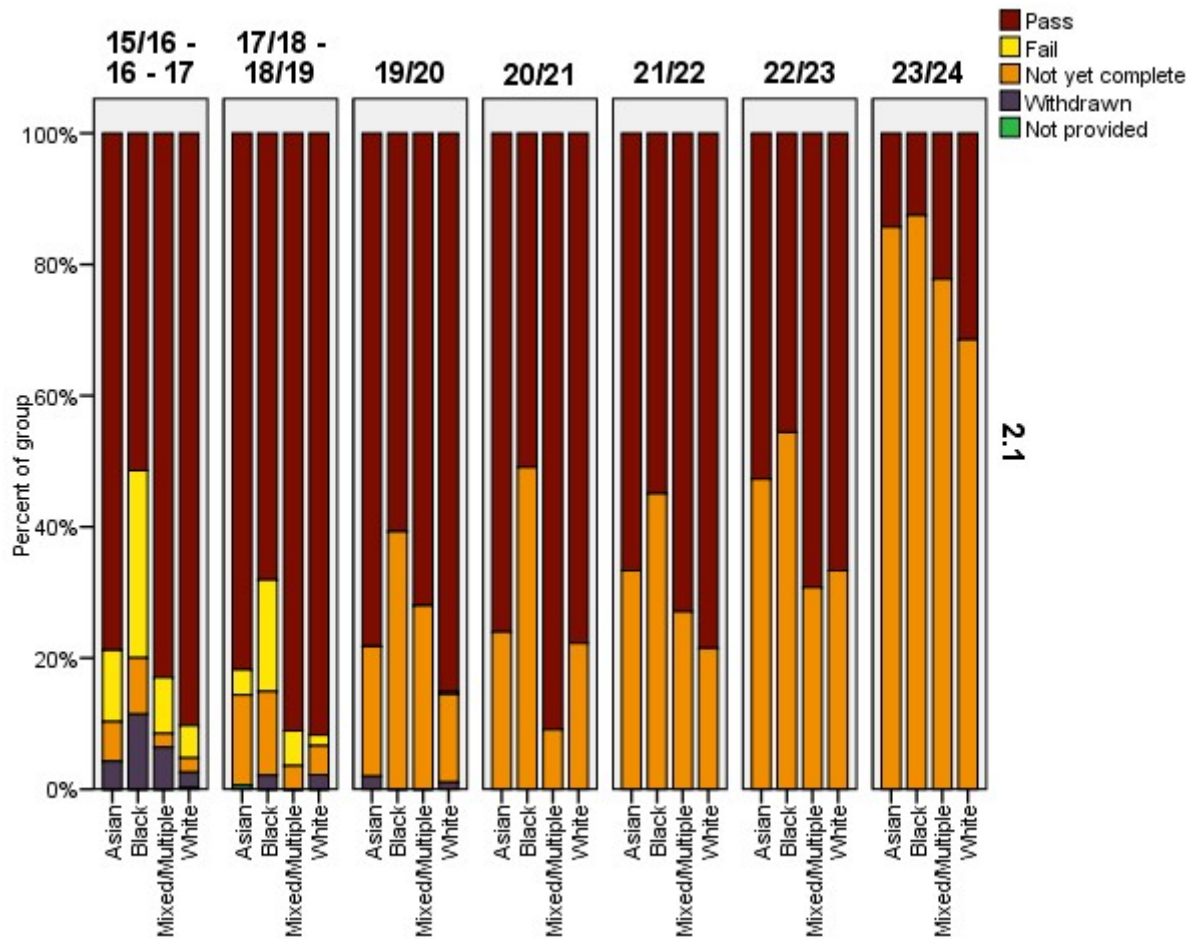


Chart A2. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, age range and first-degree institution

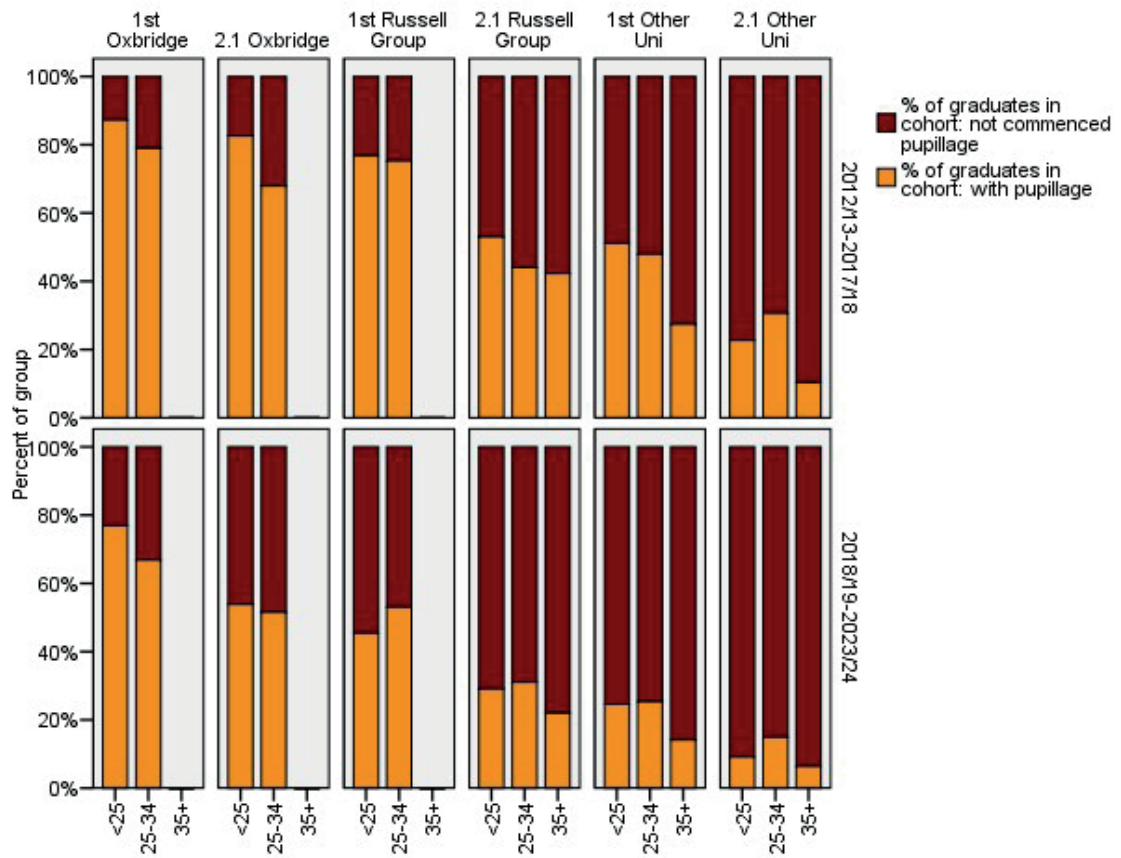


Chart A3. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, disability status and first degree institution

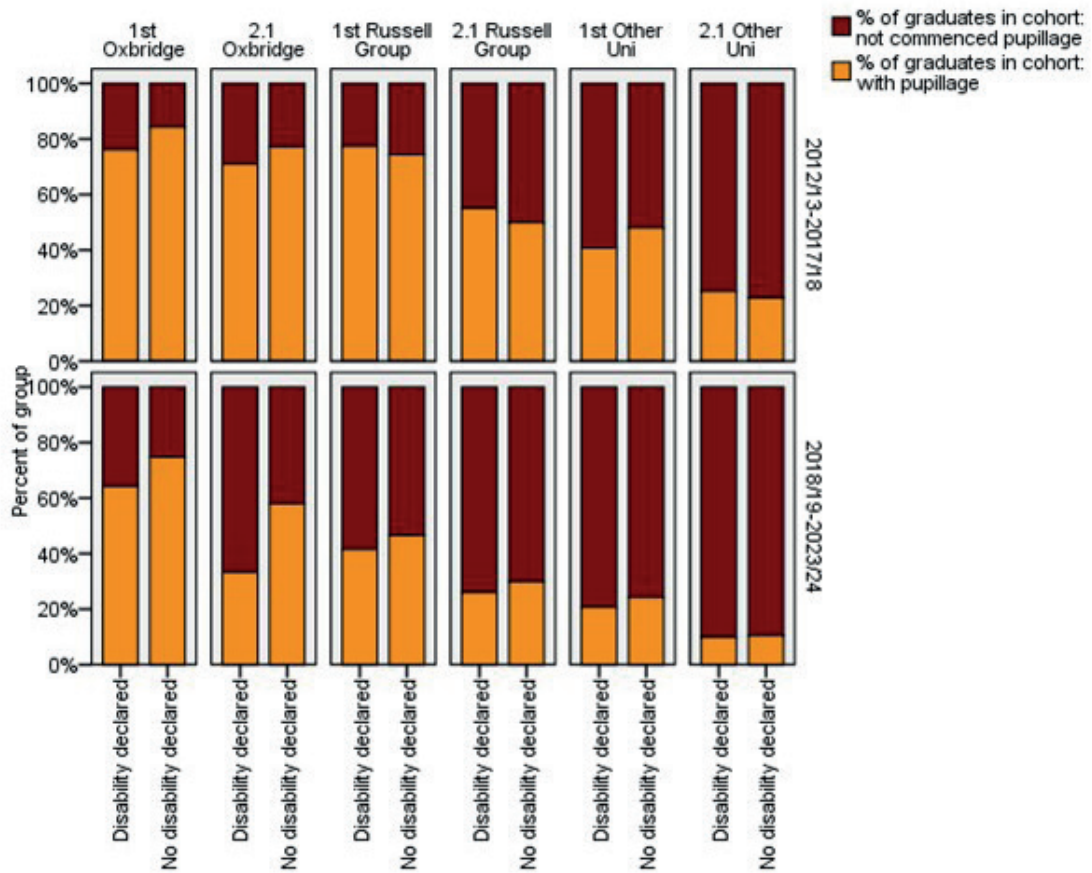
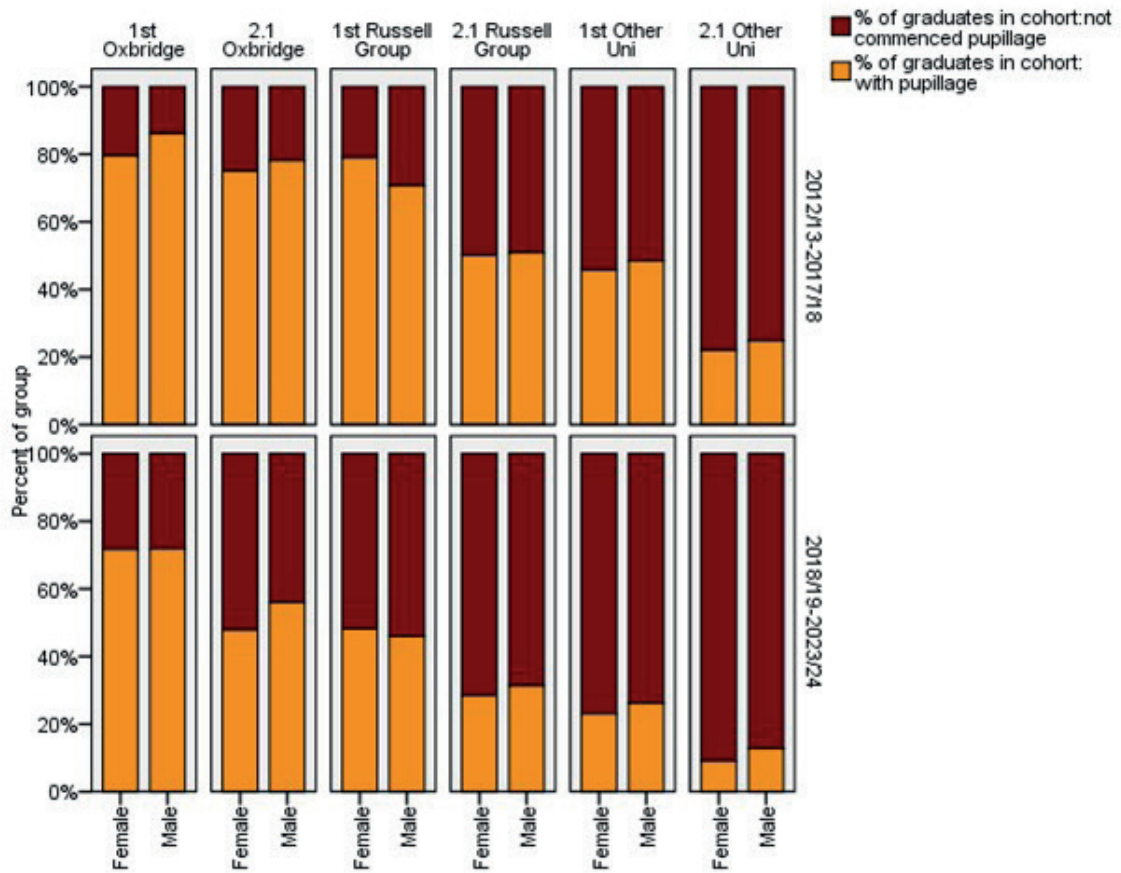


Chart A4. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, gender and first-degree institution



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Write to us

Bar Standards Board
289-293 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7HZ

Tel: 020 7611 1444

contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

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