

In a series of projects, we have been concerned to explore the relationship between undergraduate education, social, demographic and educational attributes and the opportunities and obstacles encountered by graduates on completion of their courses and in their early career development.

Gender is at the core of these enquiries: the most substantial growth in HE participation has been of women. Females have been out-performing males in education in secondary education for some time and now are more likely to get ‘good degrees – so is the gender pay gap decreasing, is ‘the glass ceiling’ in danger of shattering, and are highly-qualified women as likely to be satisfied with their career development as their male peers? If not, why not?

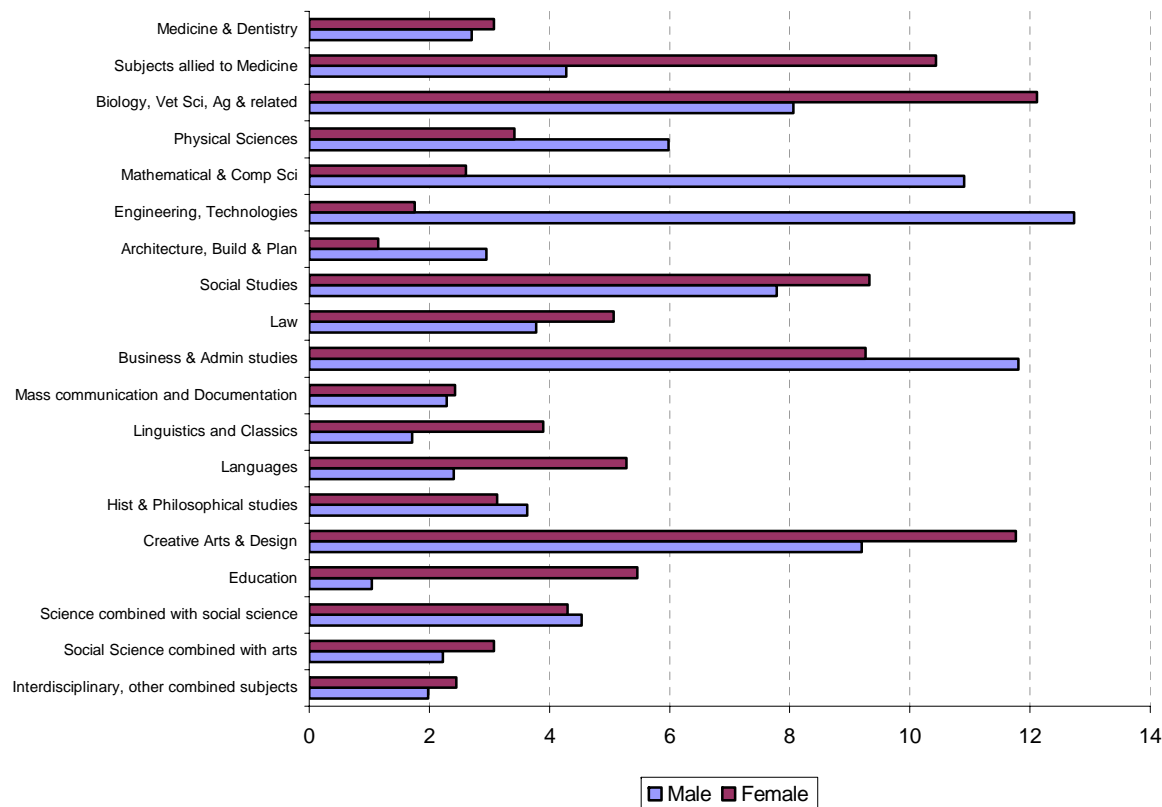
The latest FUTURETRACK study is tracking 130,000 2006 UCAS applicants from before they entered HE until Winter 2011-12, via a four-stage longitudinal survey and programmes of follow-up interviews with sub-samples of respondents.

This research will be of interest to ...anyone with a stake in HE or the labour market and an interest in gender relations.

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**Research Methods:**  
 longitudinal surveys; work history analysis; interviews with students; graduates and employers; secondary analyses of large scale datasets.

**Subject applied for by 2006 UCAS HE applicants, comparing male and female distributions**



**Key Findings from our previous work:** women graduates have lower earnings immediately after graduation; the pay gap widens as careers advance; graduate women are less likely than men to be satisfied with their promotion opportunities, more likely to be unemployed or under-employed; more likely to work in the Public sector; occupational and industry sector patterns different - careers are gendered.