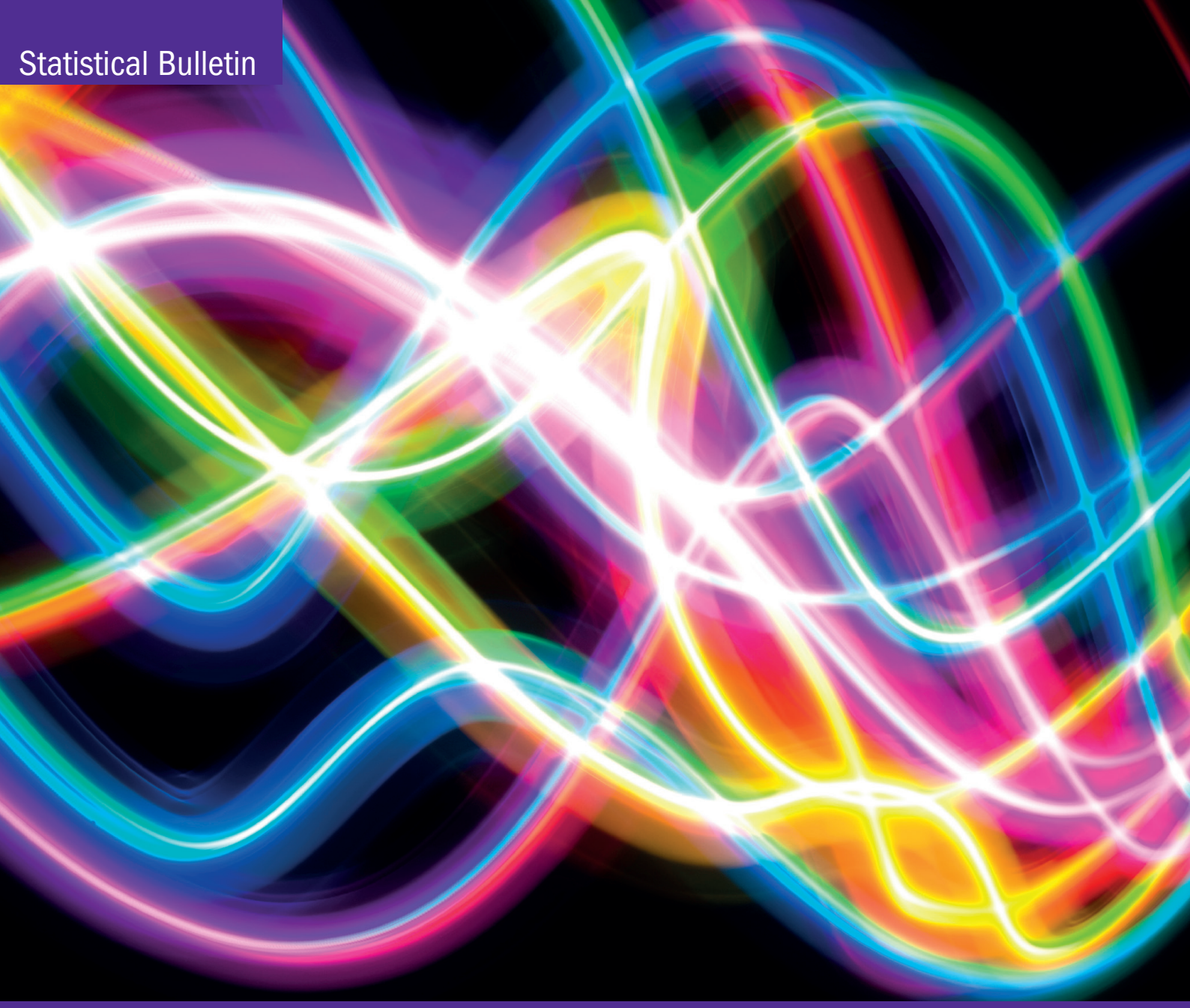
Statistical Bulletin



May 2012

Degree-Course Destinations of Accepted Applicants with Physics and Mathematics A-level or Scottish Higher 2006–2011

IOP Institute of Physics

This report was prepared for the Institute of Physics by
Sean McWhinnie of Oxford Research and Policy.

Oxford Research and Policy is a consultancy that carries out research and evaluation, and specialises in higher education, science policy, and equality and diversity.

Tel +44 (0)1235 439188
E-mail info@oxfordresearchandpolicy.co.uk
www.oxfordresearchandpolicy.co.uk

Contents

Summary 1

1: Introduction 2

2: Course destinations of accepted applicants with A-levels 3

2.1: Accepted applicants with physics A-levels 5

2.2: Accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 6

2.3: Accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 6

2.4: Accepted applicants with mathematics A-levels 7

3: Course destinations of accepted applicants with Scottish Highers 9

Appendix A 12

Appendix B: List of tables 28

Appendix C: List of figures 29

Summary

- In 2011, a total of 31,845 accepted applicants to first-degree courses held A-level physics, 76,977 held A-level mathematics and 12,922 held A-level further mathematics.
- The majority of accepted applicants who held A-level physics did so in combination with A-level mathematics. In 2011, only 16.4% of those with A-level physics did not hold mathematics and/or further mathematics.
- Male accepted applicants who hold A-level mathematics and/or further mathematics are much more likely also to hold A-level physics than female accepted applicants who hold A-level mathematics and/or further mathematics.
- The majority of those accepted applicants who held A-level physics entered degree courses in physics, mathematics or engineering: the most popular course destination was physics, with 9.7% of accepted applicants. There are differences between the course destinations of male and female accepted applicants: male accepted applicants are more likely to have entered engineering courses and are less likely to have entered preclinical medicine or chemistry courses.
- Among the accepted applicants who held physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels in 2011, physics was the second most popular course destination for males, with 10.6% of accepted applicants, and was the most popular course choice for females, with 9.2% of accepted applicants.
- 26.0% of accepted applicants who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels entered mathematics courses and 13.2% entered physics courses.
- Among accepted applicants with mathematics A-level, mathematics was the most popular course destination for both male and female accepted applicants. 5.6% of male and 1.7% of female accepted applicants entered physics courses.
- In 2011, a total of 6873 accepted applicants held a Scottish Higher in physics and 13,566 held a Higher in mathematics: 6464 accepted applicants held a Higher in both physics and mathematics.
- The majority of accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics entered science, technology, engineering or medical degree courses. 5.7% of male and 2.7% of female accepted applicants entered physics courses. Of those who held a Higher in physics and mathematics 6.1% of male and 2.8% of female accepted applicants entered physics courses.

1: Introduction

This report presents an overview of the course destinations of accepted applicants to higher-education first-degree courses who hold combinations of physics, mathematics and/or further mathematics A-level, or combinations of physics and/or mathematics Scottish Higher. The data source for the report is the University and College Admissions Service (UCAS). UCAS is the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher-education courses in the UK. In addition, some of the data in the report are attributed to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), which represents the largest providers of qualifications, including A-levels, in the UK.

The raw data for this report includes any accepted applicant with at least one A-level in one of physics, mathematics or further mathematics, or at least one Higher in one of physics or mathematics. The accepted applicant is considered to have an A-level or Higher if they achieved a grade (i.e. had tariff points awarded).

The A-level and Higher data used in this report are from the UCAS Awarding Body Linkage (ABL). For the A-level data, accepted applicants have been included in the report if they achieved an A-level (notified through the ABL) in mathematics, further mathematics and/or physics. Applicants that only achieved AS-levels or Double Awards have not been included.

Scottish-domiciled accepted applicants have been included in the report if they achieved a Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Higher (notified through the ABL) in mathematics and/or physics. SQA Advanced Highers, CSYS, Intermediate 2, National Certificates and National Diplomas have not been included.

Section 2 presents data on the course destinations of accepted applicants in 2011 who held various combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels, and section 3 presents data on the course destinations of accepted applicants in 2011 who held combinations of physics and mathematics Highers. More detailed information on the course destinations of accepted applicants between 2006 and 2011 who held various combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels, and combinations of physics and mathematics Scottish Highers is presented in Appendix 1.

2: Course destinations of accepted applicants with A-levels

In 2011, a total of 31,845 accepted applicants to higher-education, first-degree courses held A-level physics, 76,977 held A-level mathematics and 12,922 held A-level further mathematics.

In 2011, there were 32,860 entries to A-level examinations in physics – 26,011 entries by male candidates and 6849 entries by female candidates. The figures of 31,845 accepted applicants in total, 24,552 males and 7293 females, who held A-level physics are close to these figures. Although the accepted applicants in 2011 with A-level physics will include those who obtained their qualifications in 2011 and in earlier years, the figures for examination entrants and accepted applicants are relatively close and consequently the likelihood is that the majority of those who enter A-level physics examinations go on to first-degree courses.

There was a total of 82,955 A-level entrants to mathematics in 2011 – 49,828 males and 33,167 females. There were 45,126 male and 31,851 female accepted applicants holding A-level mathematics in 2011. In further mathematics, a total of 12,287 entered the A-level examination in 2011 – 8455 males and 3832 females. There were 8754 male and 4168 female accepted applicants holding A-level further mathematics in 2011.

Overall, a larger number of females with A-level physics, and males and females with A-level further mathematics, entered degree courses in 2011 than the respective numbers who entered A-level examinations. The same pattern occurred in 2010. Between 2006 and 2009, the number of female accepted applicants with A-level further mathematics was higher than the number of candidates who entered A-level further mathematics, and in 2009 and 2006 the number of female accepted applicants with A-level physics was higher than the number of candidates who entered A-level physics (see Appendix 1).

In general, the number of female accepted applicants with A-level physics is very close to the number of A-level entrants in any given year, while the number of male accepted applicants is about 1500 fewer than the entrants in any given year. Similarly, the numbers of male and female accepted applicants with A-level further mathematics are close to the numbers of male and female entrants to further mathematics each year. Although the vast majority of those who take A-levels enter degree courses, these figures suggest that females who take A-level physics are more likely to enter degree courses than males, and that males and females who take A-level further mathematics are more likely to enter degree courses than entrants to physics or mathematics.

Table 1: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	26,011	6849	32,860
	Accepted applicants	24,552	7293	31,845
Mathematics	Entrants	49,828	33,167	82,995
	Accepted applicants	45,126	31,851	76,977
Further mathematics	Entrants	8455	3832	12,287
	Accepted applicants	8754	4168	12,922

Source: JCQ and UCAS

The breakdown of the accepted applicants holding various combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels is shown in figure 1.

Of the accepted applicants to first-degree courses holding A-level physics:

- 18,552 held physics and mathematics A-levels but not further mathematics;
- 5228 held physics A-level but not mathematics or further mathematics;
- 8015 held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels; and
- 50 held physics and further mathematics but not mathematics A-levels.

The vast majority of accepted applicants who held A-level physics did so in combination with A-level mathematics: only 16.4% of those with A-level physics did not hold mathematics and/or further mathematics.

Table 2 shows the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants who held A-level physics in combination with mathematics and/or further mathematics A-level in 2011.

Comparing the combinations of A-levels held by male and female accepted applicants is interesting.

- Of the 24,552 male accepted applicants who held A-level physics, 15.5% did not hold mathematics and/or further mathematics A-levels.
- Of the 7293 female accepted applicants who held A-level physics, 19.5% did not hold mathematics and/or further mathematics A-levels.

Table 2: The 15 most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011

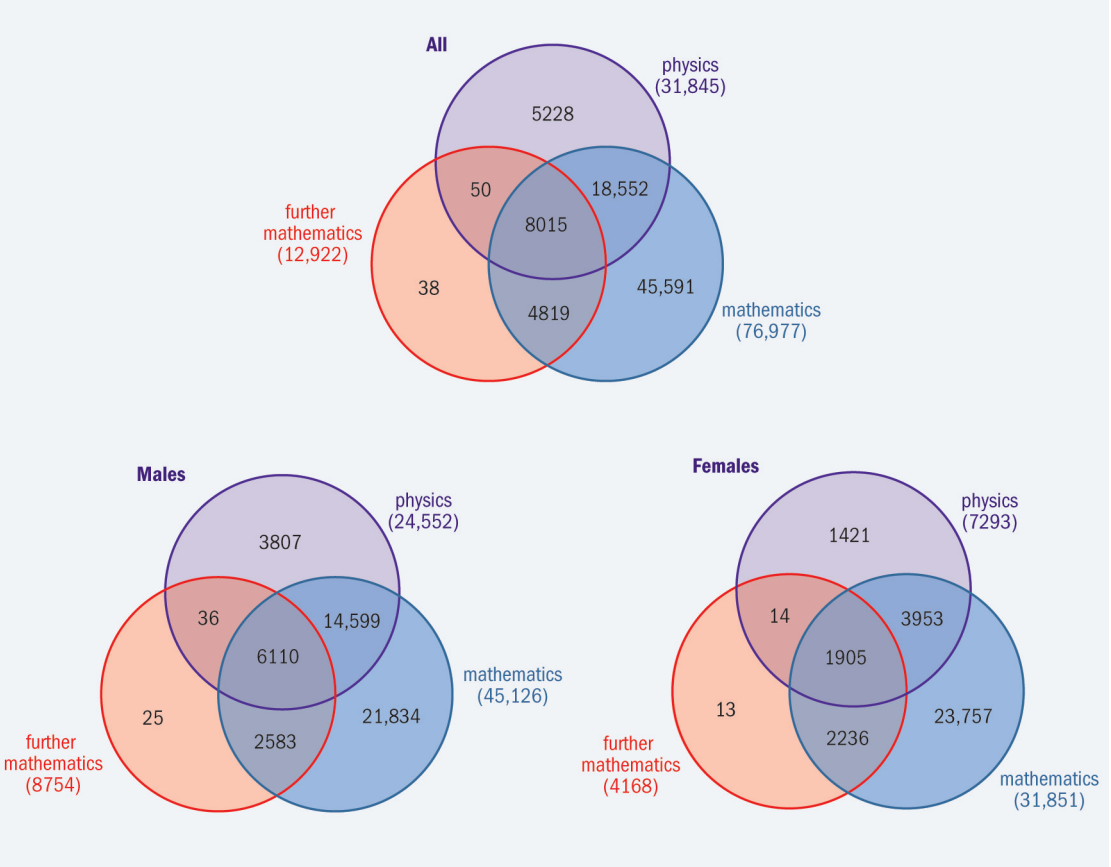
Rank	A-levels held by accepted applicant							
	Physics	✓	Physics	✓	Physics	✓	Physics	✓
	Mathematics	✓/×	Mathematics	×	Mathematics	✓	Mathematics	✓
	Further mathematics	✓/×	Further mathematics	×	Further mathematics	✓	Further mathematics	×
	Course destination	Count	Course destination	Count	Course destination	Count	Course destination	Count
1	Physics	3084	Chemistry	304	Mathematics	2080	Mechanical engineering	2178
2	Mechanical engineering	2911	Preclinical medicine	302	Physics	1055	Physics	1963
3	Mathematics	2853	Biology	270	Mechanical engineering	628	Civil engineering	1282
4	Civil engineering	1712	Others in subjects allied to medicine	249	General engineering	431	Electronic and electrical engineering	923
5	Electronic and electrical engineering	1301	Computer science	179	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	368	Aerospace engineering	856
6	Computer science	1217	Molecular biology, biophysics & biochemistry	157	Civil engineering	365	Preclinical medicine	760
7	Chemistry	1207	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	129	Electronic and electrical engineering	305	Mathematics	755
8	Aerospace engineering	1185	Geology	119	Economics	289	Computer science	755
9	Preclinical medicine	1154	Design studies	113	Computer science	282	Chemistry	752
10	General engineering	1002	Architecture	106	Aerospace engineering	279	Chemical, process and energy engineering	574
11	Economics	863	History by period	106	Chemical, process and energy engineering	190	Economics	526
12	Chemical, process and energy engineering	784	Physical geographical sciences	105	Combinations of physics/mathematics sciences	161	General engineering	485
13	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	784	Mechanical engineering	104	Combinations within mathematical & computer science	149	Architecture	469
14	Architecture	661	Law by area	92	Chemistry	135	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	330
15	Others in subjects allied to medicine	475	Psychology	87	Combinations of physics/mathematical science with social studies/bus/law	112	Geology	263
Total		**31,845**		**5228**		**8015**		**18,552**

**A further 50 accepted applicants had physics and further mathematics but not mathematics A-level. ✓ = A-level held, × = A-level not held, ✓/× A-level either held or not held.*

Source: UCAS

Figure 1: The combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels held by accepted applicants to first-degree courses in 2011

Source: UCAS



- 24.9% of male accepted applicants and 26.1% of female accepted applicants who hold physics A-level do so in combination with mathematics and further mathematics.
- Examination of the populations of male and female accepted applicants who held mathematics and further mathematics A-levels shows significant differences.
- Of the 45,126 male accepted applicants who held mathematics A-level, 48.4% did not hold physics and/or further mathematics A-levels, and 45.9% held A-level physics.
- Of the 31,851 female accepted applicants who held mathematics A-level, 74.6% did not hold physics and/or further mathematics A-levels, and 18.4% held A-level physics.
- More than 99% of both males and females who held further mathematics A-level also held mathematics A-level.
- Of the 8754 male accepted applicants who held further mathematics A-levels, 69.8% did so in combination with mathematics and physics A-levels, and 29.5% did so with mathematics A-level only.
- Of the 4186 female accepted applicants who held further mathematics A-levels, 44.5% did so in combination with mathematics and physics A-levels, and 53.4% did so with mathematics A-level only.
- Male accepted applicants who held A-level mathematics and/or further mathematics were much more likely to also hold A-level physics than female accepted applicants who held A-level mathematics and/or further mathematics.

2.1: Accepted applicants with physics A-levels

A total of 31,845 accepted applicants held A-level physics in 2011: 24,552 males (77.1%) and 7293 females (22.9%). A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held A-level physics and those for females and males is shown in table 3.

The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 59.2% of male accepted applicants and 46.9% of female accepted applicants. Overall, the majority of those accepted applicants who held physics A-level entered physics, mathematics or engineering courses. The most popular course destination was physics, with 9.7% of accepted applicants. There are differences between the course destinations of male and female accepted applicants. For males the most popular course choice for accepted applicants was mathemat-

Table 3: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with physics A-level in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Physics	9.7	Mechanical engineering	10.9	Mathematics	10.5
Mechanical engineering	9.1	Physics	10.3	Physics	7.5
Mathematics	9.0	Mathematics	8.5	Preclinical medicine	5.7
Civil engineering	5.4	Civil engineering	5.8	Chemistry	4.5
Electronic and electrical engineering	4.1	Electronic and electrical engineering	4.8	Civil engineering	3.8
Computer science	3.8	Computer science	4.7	Mechanical engineering	3.4
Chemistry	3.8	Aerospace engineering	4.2	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	3.3
Aerospace engineering	3.7	Chemistry	3.6	Architecture	3.3
Preclinical medicine	3.6	General engineering	3.4	Others in subjects allied to medicine	2.5
General engineering	3.1	Preclinical medicine	3.0	Chemical, process and energy engineering	2.4

Source: UCAS

ics, which 10.5% entered. For females the most popular course choice for accepted applicants was mechanical engineering, which 10.9% entered. Physics was the second most popular course destination for both males and females, with 10.3% and 7.5% of male and female accepted applicants, respectively. Preclinical medicine is the third choice of female accepted applicants, which 5.7% entered. In contrast, 3.6% of males entered preclinical medicine, the ninth choice for male accepted applicants. Engineering courses were much more popular among male than female accepted applicants.

5228 accepted applicants held A-level physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level. Of these only 65 (1.2%) entered physics courses, which is in line with the usual entry requirements for physics courses – that candidates hold both physics and mathematics A-levels.

2.2: Accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels

18,552 accepted applicants held physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels in 2011: 14,599 males (78.7%) and 3953 females (21.3%). A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held A-level physics and mathematics but not further mathematics, and those for males and females, is shown in table 4.

The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 61.9% of male accepted applicants and 48.5% of female accepted applicants. It is notable that engineering courses were more popular with males than females, and males' destination choices were concentrated into fewer subjects than those of females.

Overall, the most popular course destination was mechanical engineering, with 11.7% of accepted applicants. For males the most popular course choice for accepted applicants was mechanical engineering, which 13.7% entered. For females the most popular course choice for accepted applicants was physics, which 9.2% entered. Physics was the second most popular course destination for males with 10.6% of accepted applicants. 7.0% of female accepted applicants entered preclinical medicine, which was the second choice for female accepted applicants. 4.1% of males entered preclinical medicine, which was the sixth choice for male accepted applicants.

2.3: Accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels

8015 accepted applicants held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011: 6110 males (76.2%) and 1905 females (23.8%). A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held A-level physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and those for males and females, is shown in table 5.

The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 78.8% of male accepted applicants and 69.6% of female accepted applicants.

Overall, a relatively high proportion of accepted applicants – 26.0% – entered mathematics courses. Furthermore, more than half of the accepted applicants entered just four courses. This confirms that those candidates who have chosen to study a relatively focused set of A-levels like physics, mathematics and further mathematics, are likely to select a relatively focused set of courses to study at university. The second most

popular course destination for both males and females was physics, with 14.4% and 9.3% of male and female accepted applicants, respectively. Although there are differences between the choices of males and females, there is less variation than that between males and females taking other combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics.

2.4: Accepted applicants with mathematics A-levels

There were 70,591 accepted applicants with mathematics A-level in 2011: 41,006 (58.1%) males and 29,585 (41.9%) females.

A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held A-level mathematics and those for males and females is shown in table 6.

The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 48.0% of male accepted applicants and 41.2% of female accepted applicants. Mathematics was the most popular course destination for both male and female accepted applicants, with 8.4% and 8.2% of male and female accepted applicants entering mathematics courses, respectively. 5.6% of male accepted applicants entered physics courses, the fourth most popular choice, and 1.7% of female accepted applicants, the 16th most popular choice. For females, psychology, law and medical-related subjects were more popular course destinations, and engineering course destinations were less popular, than for males.

Table 4: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Mechanical engineering	11.7	Mechanical engineering	13.7	Physics	9.2
Physics	10.6	Physics	11.0	Preclinical medicine	7.0
Civil engineering	6.9	Civil engineering	7.5	Mathematics	5.3
Electronic and electrical engineering	5.0	Electronic and electrical engineering	5.7	Chemistry	5.1
Aerospace engineering	4.6	Aerospace engineering	5.2	Civil engineering	4.8
Preclinical medicine	4.1	Computer science	4.9	Architecture	4.5
Mathematics	4.1	Chemistry	3.8	Mechanical engineering	4.3
Computer science	4.1	Mathematics	3.7	Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.0
Chemistry	4.1	Preclinical medicine	3.3	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	2.9
Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.1	Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.1	Aerospace engineering	2.5

Source: UCAS

Source: UCAS

Table 5: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Mathematics	26.0	Mathematics	25.0	Mathematics	29.0
Physics	13.2	Physics	14.4	Physics	9.3
Mechanical engineering	7.8	Mechanical engineering	9.2	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	5.4
General engineering	5.4	General engineering	5.5	General engineering	5.0
Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	4.6	Civil engineering	4.6	Economics	4.7
Civil engineering	4.6	Electronic and electrical engineering	4.4	Civil engineering	4.3
Electronic and electrical engineering	3.8	Combinations of three subjects, or other general courses	4.3	Mechanical engineering	3.5
Economics	3.6	Computer science	4.2	Chemistry	3.0
Aerospace engineering	3.5	Aerospace engineering	3.9	Chemical, process and energy engineering	2.8
Computer science	3.5	Economics	3.3	Combinations within mathematical and computer science	2.5

Source: UCAS

Table 6: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with mathematics A-level in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Mathematics	8.3	Mathematics	8.4	Mathematics	8.2
Economics	5.2	Mechanical engineering	6.4	Preclinical medicine	5.6
Preclinical medicine	4.5	Economics	6.2	Psychology	4.0
Mechanical engineering	4.1	Physics	5.6	Economics	3.8
Physics	4.0	Computer science	4.4	Law by area	3.5
Chemistry	3.3	Civil engineering	4.0	Chemistry	3.4
Combinations within business & admin studies	3.0	Preclinical medicine	3.8	Others in subjects allied to medicine	3.3
Computer science	2.9	Chemistry	3.3	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	3.3
Civil engineering	2.8	Electronic and electrical engineering	3.0	Combinations within business & admin studies	3.1
Accounting	2.8	Combinations within business & admin studies	2.9	Accounting	2.9

3: Course destinations of accepted applicants with Scottish Highers

In 2011, a total of 6873 accepted applicants held a Scottish Higher qualification in physics and 13,566 held a Higher in mathematics; 6464 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and mathematics. For males, a total of 4688 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and 6719 held a Higher in mathematics; 4420 male accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and mathematics. For females, a total of 2185 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and 6847 held a Higher in mathematics; 2044 female accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and mathematics. A further mathematics Higher qualification is not offered in Scotland.

A total of 6873 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics in 2011: 4688 males (68.2%) and 2185 females (31.8%). A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics and those for males and females is shown in table 7.

The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 47.6% of male accepted applicants and 38.6% of female accepted applicants. Overall, the majority of those accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics entered science, technology, engineering or medical courses. 5.7% of male and 2.7% of female accepted applicants entered physics courses, which were the fourth and 12th most popular choices, respectively. Males were more likely to enter engineering or physics courses than females; females were more likely to enter preclinical medicine or biological science-related courses than males. Females were also more likely to enter courses such as law, nursing, psychology and ophthalmics courses than males.

409 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics but not mathematics and they entered a broad range of courses.

Table 7: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with a physics Scottish Higher in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Mechanical engineering	7.9	Mechanical engineering	10.3	Preclinical medicine	8.6
Preclinical medicine	5.3	Computer science	5.9	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	4.3
Physics	4.7	Civil engineering	5.9	Law by area	4.3
Civil engineering	4.4	Physics	5.7	Nursing	4.0
Computer science	4.2	Chemical, process and energy engineering	4.2	Biology	3.0
Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.8	Electronic and electrical engineering	4.1	Mathematics	3.0
Law by area	3.2	Preclinical medicine	3.7	Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.0
Electronic and electrical engineering	3.0	Accounting	2.8	Psychology	2.8
Accounting	2.7	Law by area	2.7	Anatomy, physiology and pathology	2.8
Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	2.5	Chemistry	2.3	Ophthalmics	2.7

Source: UCAS

A total of 6464 accepted applicants held a Higher in physics and mathematics in 2011: 4420 males (68.3%) and 2044 females (31.7%). A comparison between the most popular course destinations for all accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics and those for males and females is shown in table 8.

Since the majority of accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics also held a Higher in mathematics, there is not a great deal of difference between the course destinations shown in table 7 and table 8. The top 10 course destinations represent the choices of 48.8% of male accepted applicants and 39.5% of female accepted applicants. 6.1% of male and 2.8% of female accepted applicants entered physics courses, the third and 10th most popular choices, respectively.

Table 9 shows the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants who held a Higher in physics in combination with mathematics in 2011.

Source: UCAS

Table 8: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers in 2011

Overall		Males		Females	
Course destination	%	Course destination	%	Course destination	%
Mechanical engineering	8.3	Mechanical engineering	10.8	Preclinical medicine	8.8
Preclinical medicine	5.4	Civil engineering	6.2	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	4.6
Physics	5.0	Physics	6.1	Law by area	4.4
Civil engineering	4.6	Computer science	5.8	Nursing	3.9
Computer science	4.2	Chemical, process and energy engineering	4.4	Mathematics	3.2
Chemical, process and energy engineering	4.0	Electronic and electrical engineering	4.0	Chemical, process and energy engineering	3.2
Law by area	3.1	Preclinical medicine	3.9	Biology	2.9
Electronic and electrical engineering	3.0	Accounting	2.9	Psychology	2.9
Accounting	2.8	Law by area	2.5	Ophthalmics	2.8
Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	2.6	Chemistry	2.4	Physics	2.8

Table 9: The 15 most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher in combination with mathematics Scottish Higher 2011

Rank	Scottish Highers held by accepted applicant					
	Physics	✓	Physics	✓	Physics	✓
	Mathematics	✓/×	Mathematics	×	Mathematics	✓
	Course destination	Count	Course destination	Count	Course destination	Count
1	Mechanical engineering	541	Law by area	22	Mechanical engineering	534
2	Preclinical medicine	361	Computer science	21	Preclinical medicine	351
3	Physics	326	Others in subjects allied to medicine	16	Physics	326
4	Civil engineering	299	Biology	14	Civil engineering	296
5	Computer science	292	Business studies	13	Computer science	271
6	Chemical, process and energy engineering	260	Management studies	13	Chemical, process and energy engineering	258
7	Law by area	221	Electronic and electrical engineering	12	Law by area	199
8	Electronic and electrical engineering	204	Design studies	12	Electronic and electrical engineering	192
9	Accounting	186	Nursing	11	Accounting	182
10	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	169	Combs of science/engineering with social studies/bus/law	11	Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy	167
11	Chemistry	168	Preclinical medicine	10	Mathematics	164
12	Mathematics	164	Combs of social studies/bus/ law with arts/humanities	10	Chemistry	161
13	Architecture	153	Building	9	Architecture	148
14	Biology	130	Anatomy, physiology and pathology	8	Biology	116
15	Nursing	109	Medical technology	8	Aerospace engineering	100
Total		**6873**		**409**		**6464**

✓ = Scottish Higher held, × = Scottish Higher not held, ✓/× Scottish Higher either held or not held.

Source: UCAS

Appendix A

Source: JCQ and UCAS

Table 10: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2010

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	24,308	6668	30,976
	Accepted applicants	22,651	7124	29,775
Mathematics	Entrants	45,737	31,264	77,001
	Accepted applicants	41,006	29,585	70,591
Further mathematics	Entrants	7954	3728	11,682
	Accepted applicants	8083	3945	12,028

Source: JCQ and UCAS

Table 11: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2009

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	22,898	6538	29,436
	Accepted applicants	21,171	6708	27,879
Mathematics	Entrants	43,055	29,420	72,475
	Accepted applicants	38,216	27,166	65,382
Further mathematics	Entrants	7190	3283	10,473
	Accepted applicants	7035	3367	10,402

Source: JCQ and UCAS

Table 12: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2008

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	21,941	6155	28,096
	Accepted applicants	20,040	6112	26,152
Mathematics	Entrants	38,719	25,874	64,593
	Accepted applicants	34,654	24,275	58,929
Further mathematics	Entrants	6325	2766	9091
	Accepted applicants	6275	2855	9130

Appendix A

Table 13: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2007

Source: JCQ and UCAS

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	21,357	6109	27,466
	Accepted applicants	19,368	6085	25,453
Mathematics	Entrants	36,036	24,057	60,093
	Accepted applicants	32,134	22,425	54,559
Further mathematics	Entrants	5556	2316	7872
	Accepted applicants	5545	2356	7901

Table 14: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2006

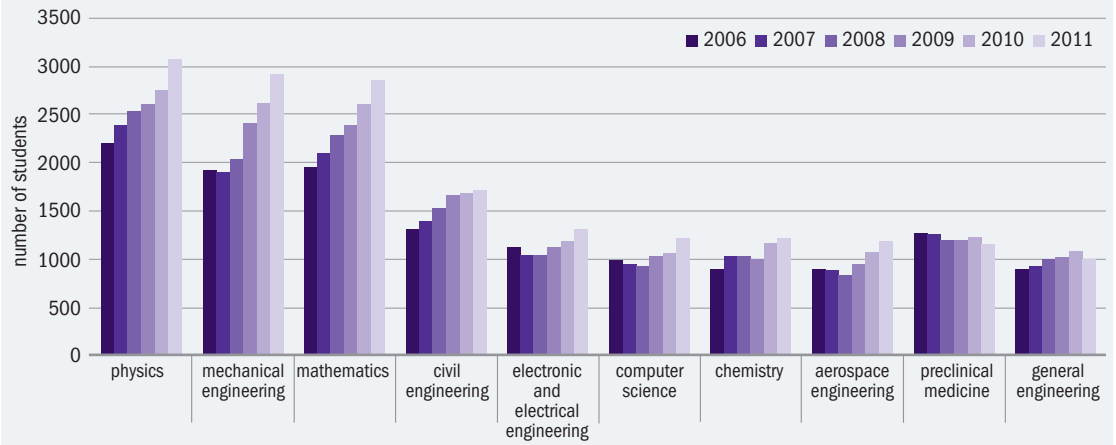
Source: JCQ and UCAS

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Physics	Entrants	21,408	5960	27,368
	Accepted applicants	19,356	5989	25,345
Mathematics	Entrants	34,093	21,889	55,982
	Accepted applicants	30,967	20,614	51,581
Further mathematics	Entrants	5106	2164	7270
	Accepted applicants	5016	2234	7250

Appendix A

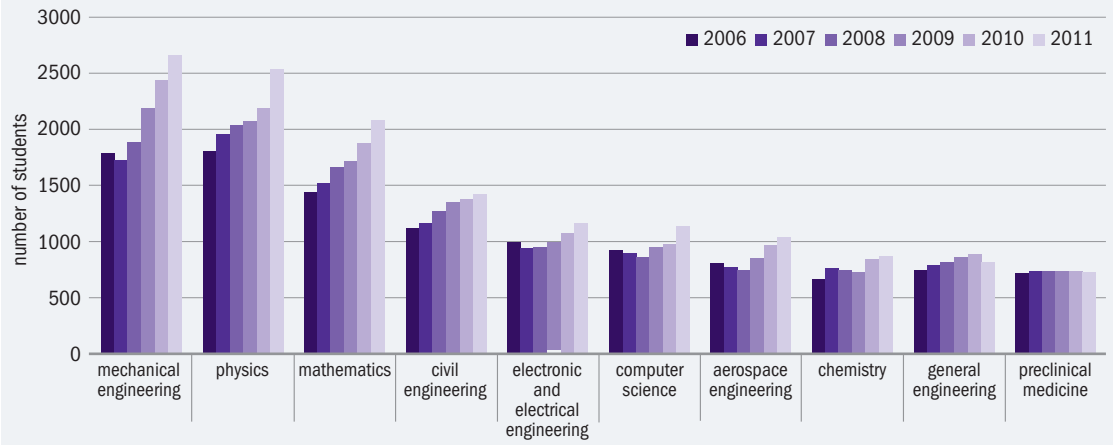
Source: UCAS

Figure 2: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011



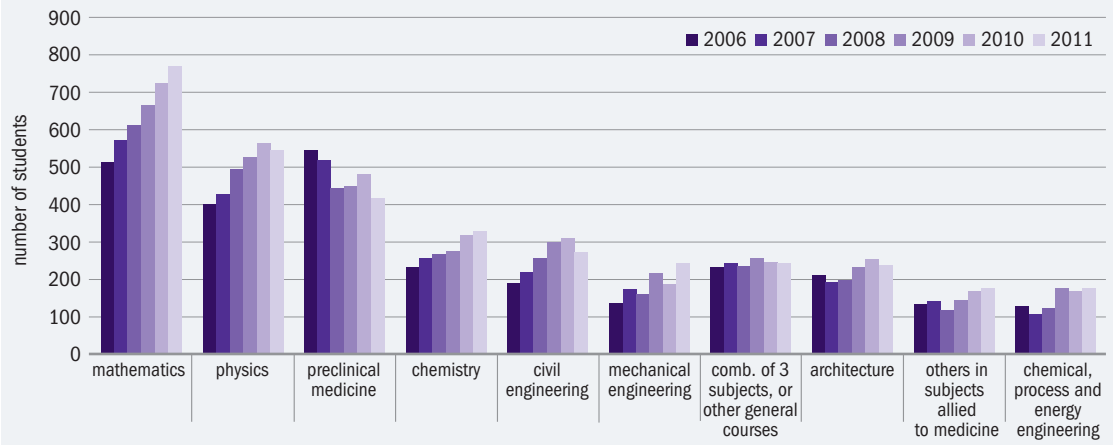
Source: UCAS

Figure 3: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 4: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 5: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

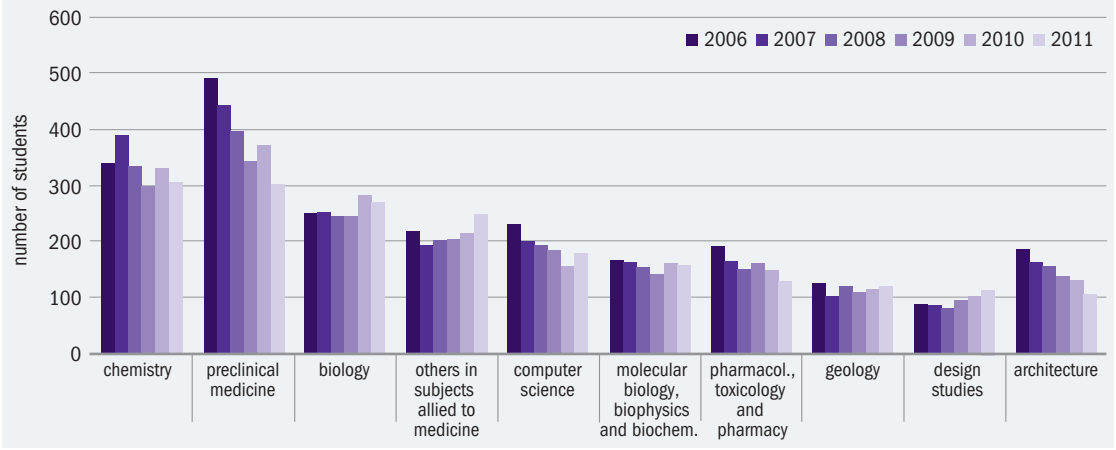


Figure 6: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

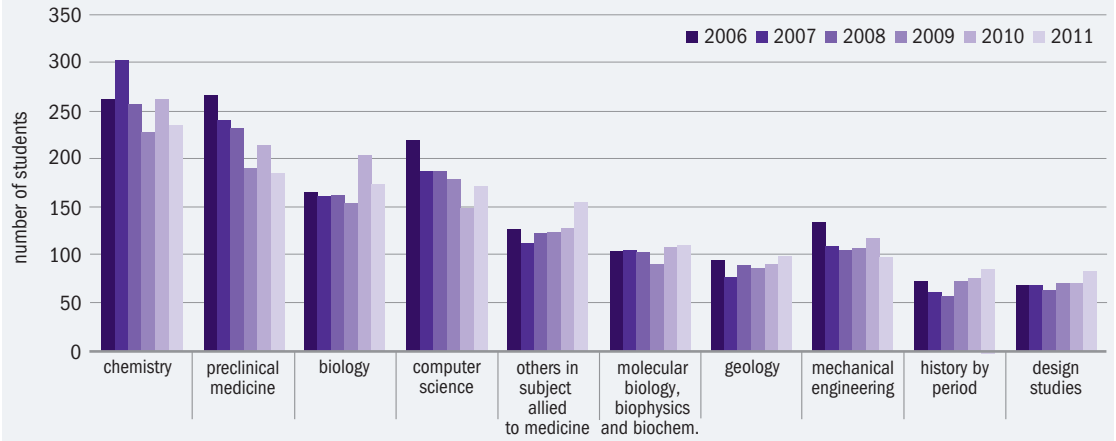
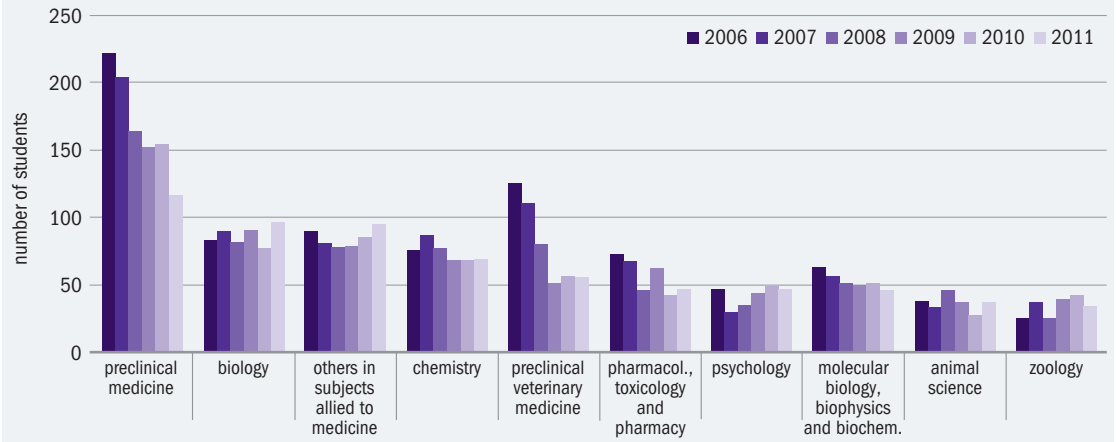


Figure 7: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

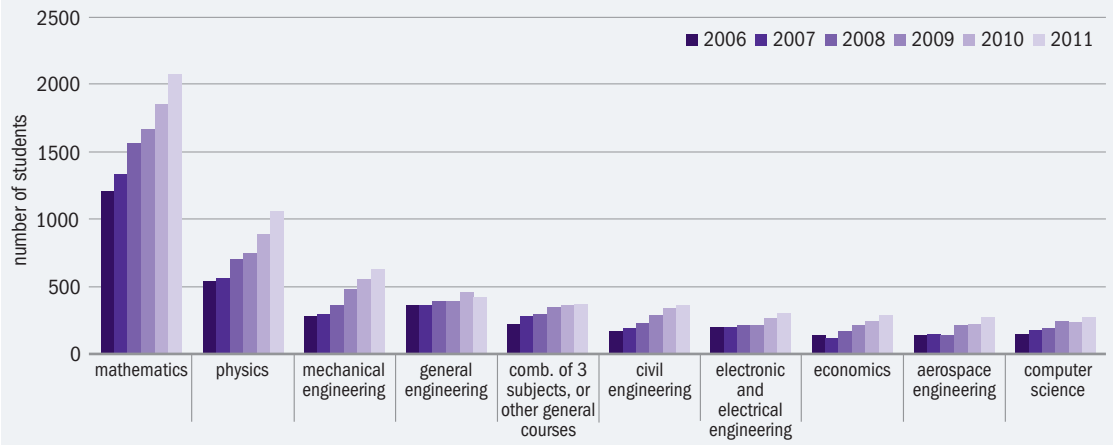
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

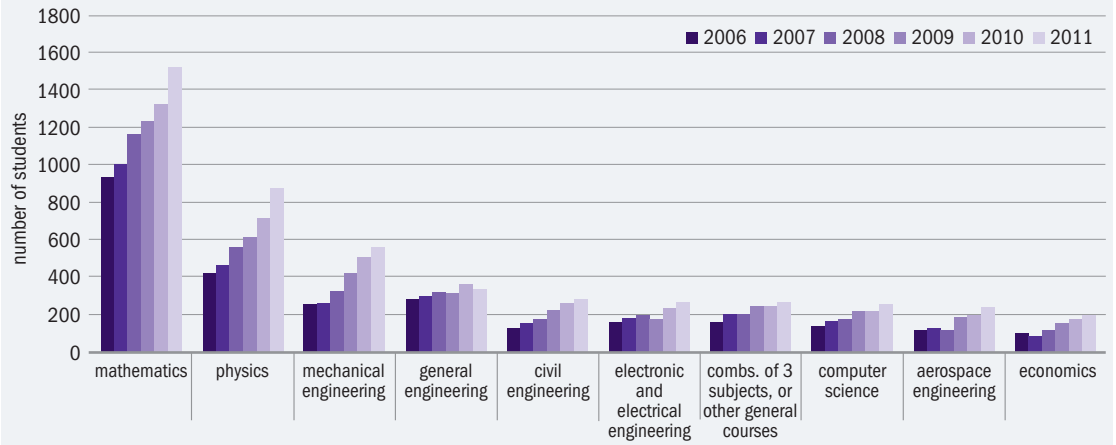
Source: UCAS

Figure 8: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011



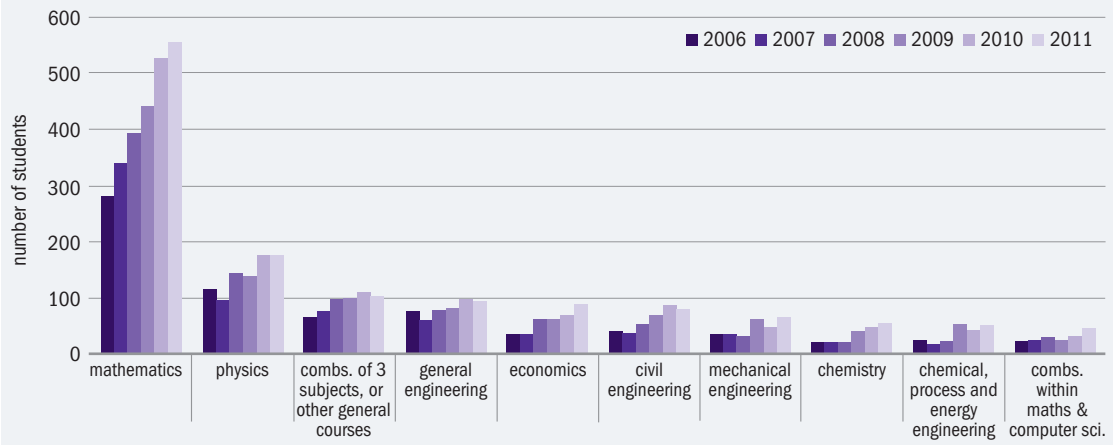
Source: UCAS

Figure 9: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 10: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 11: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

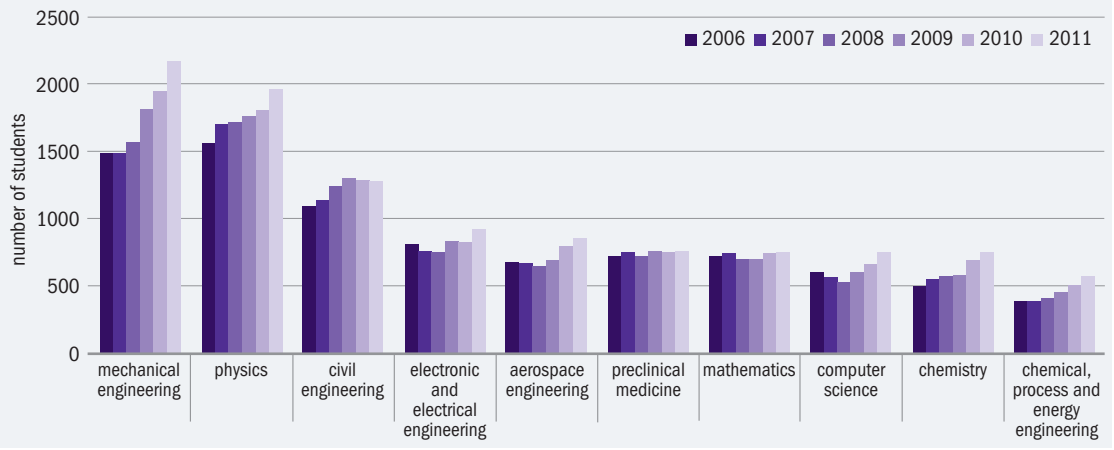


Figure 12: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

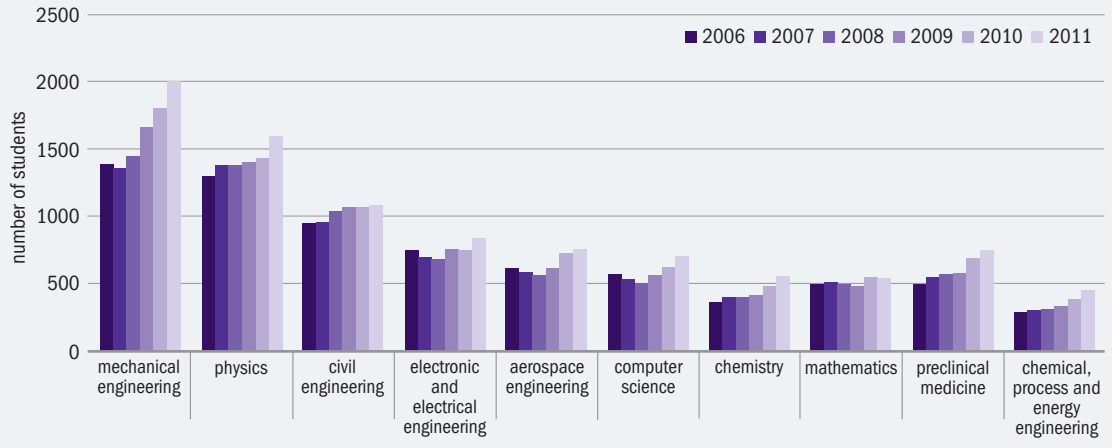
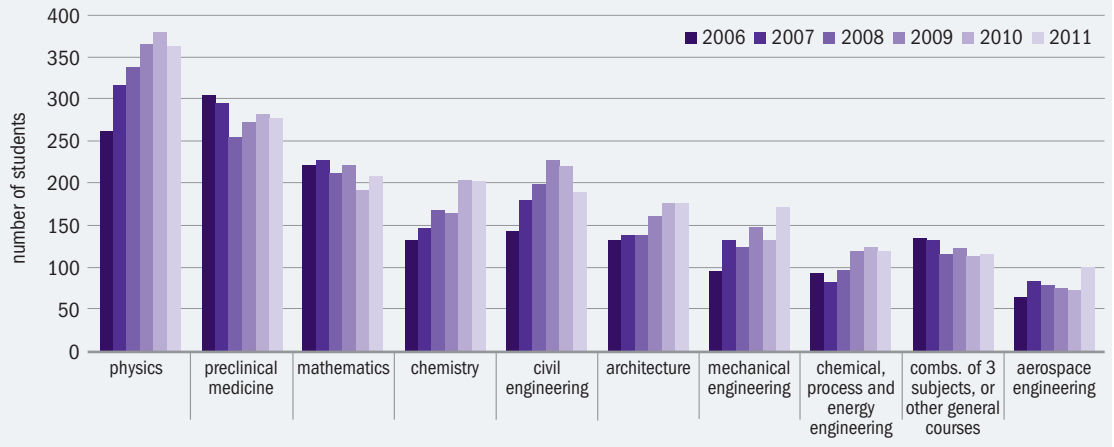


Figure 13: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011

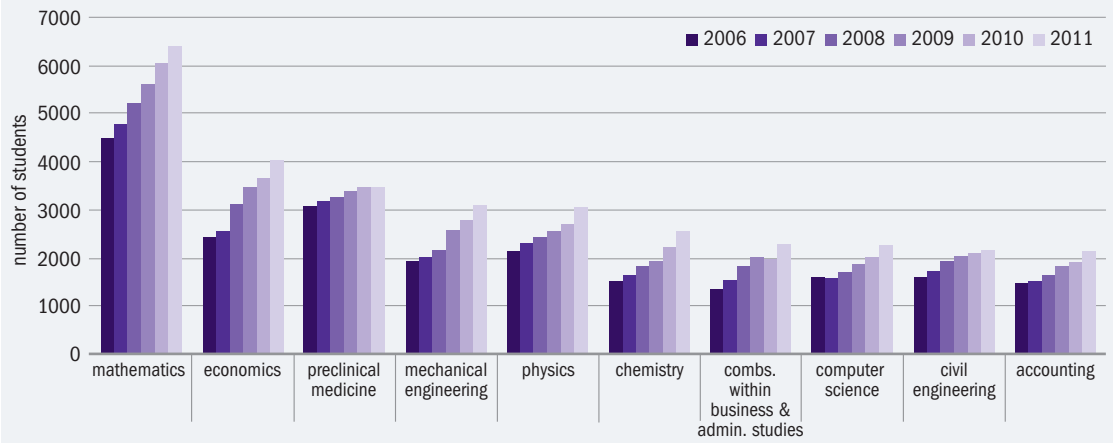
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

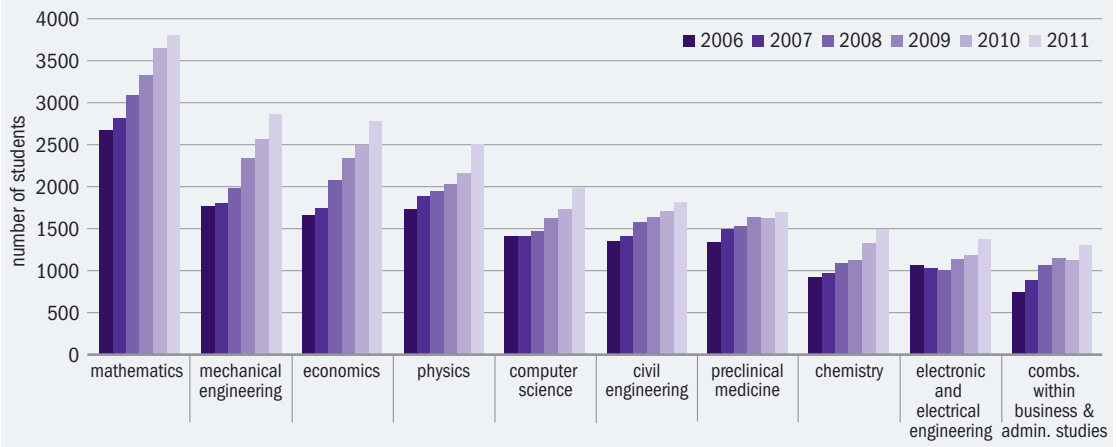
Source: UCAS

Figure 14: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011



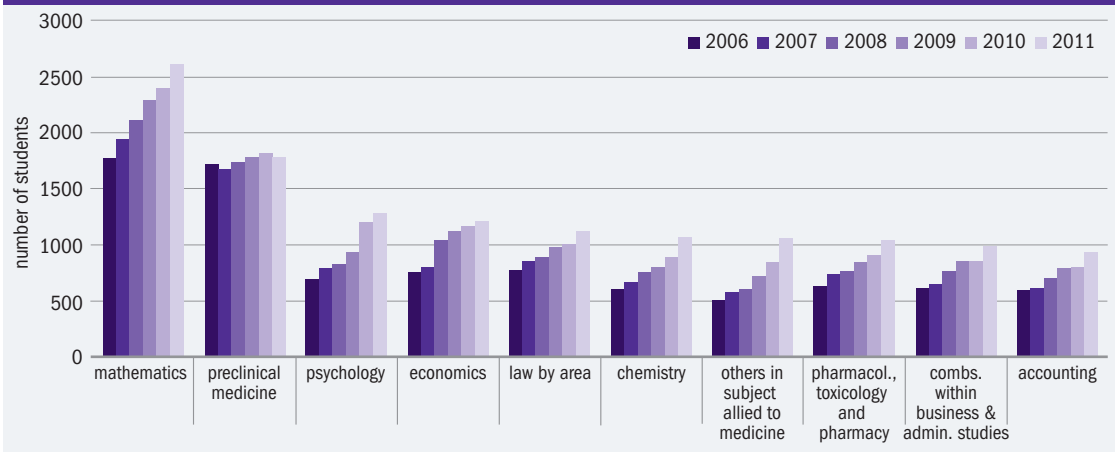
Source: UCAS

Figure 15: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 16: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 17: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

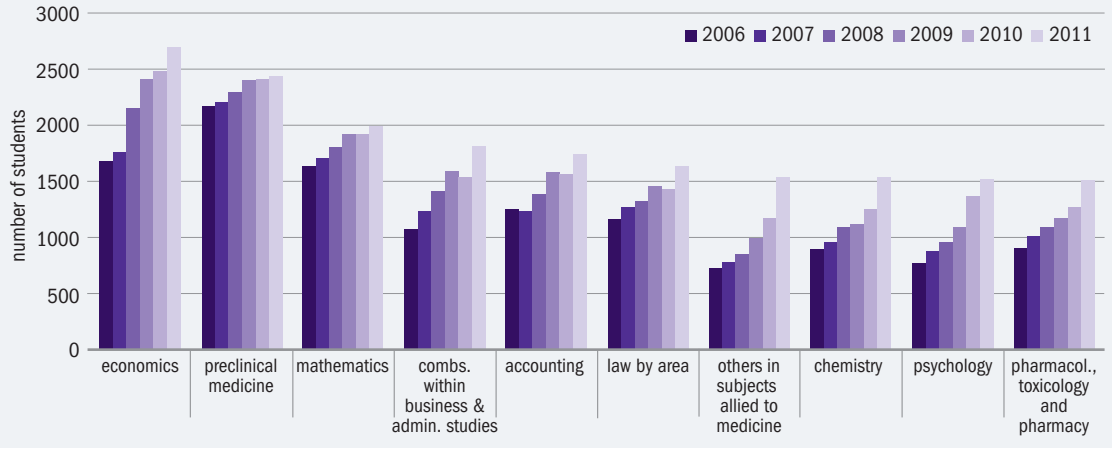


Figure 18: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

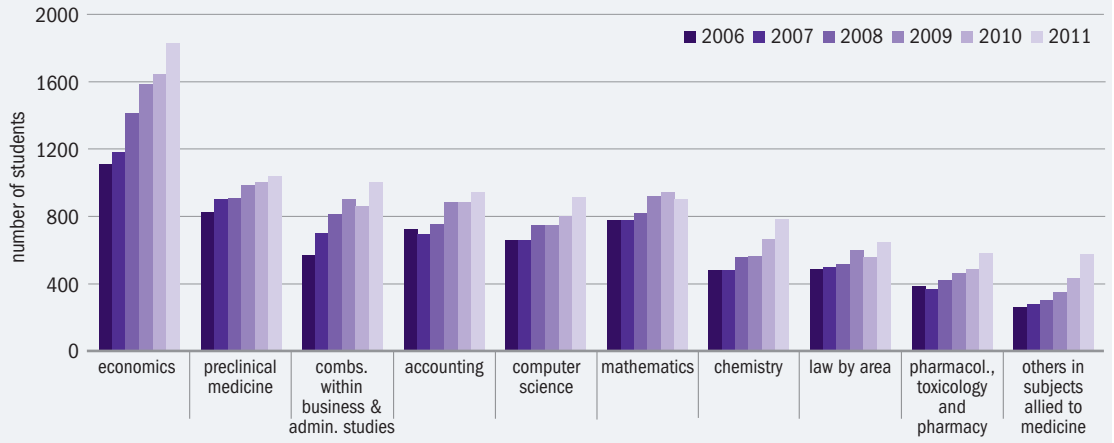
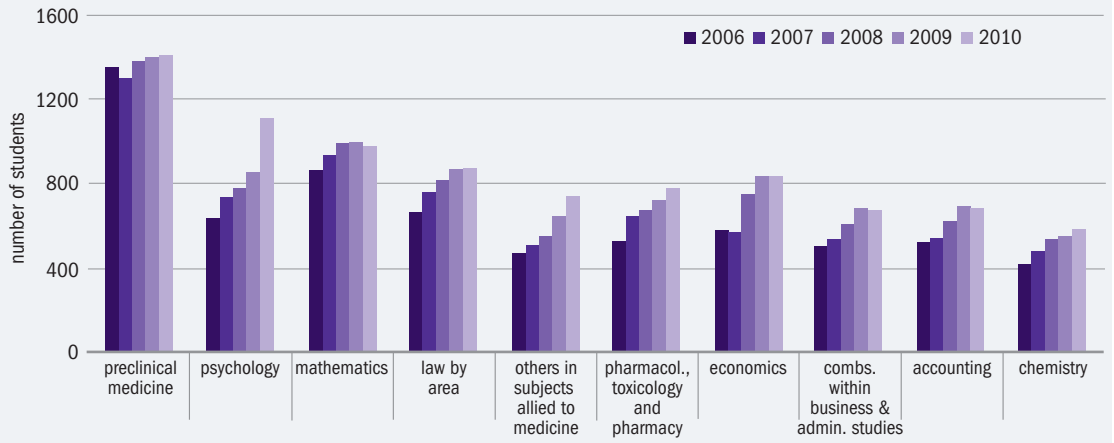


Figure 19: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011

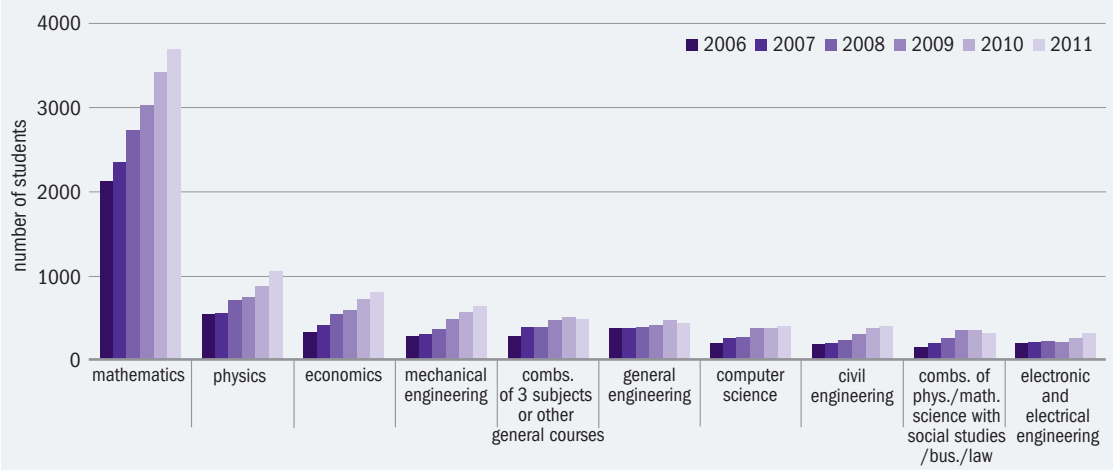
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

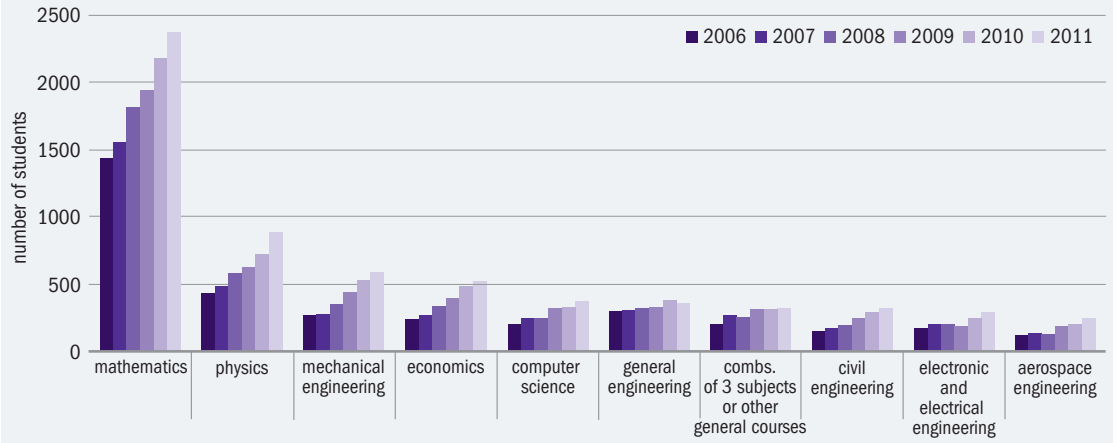
Source: UCAS

Figure 20: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011



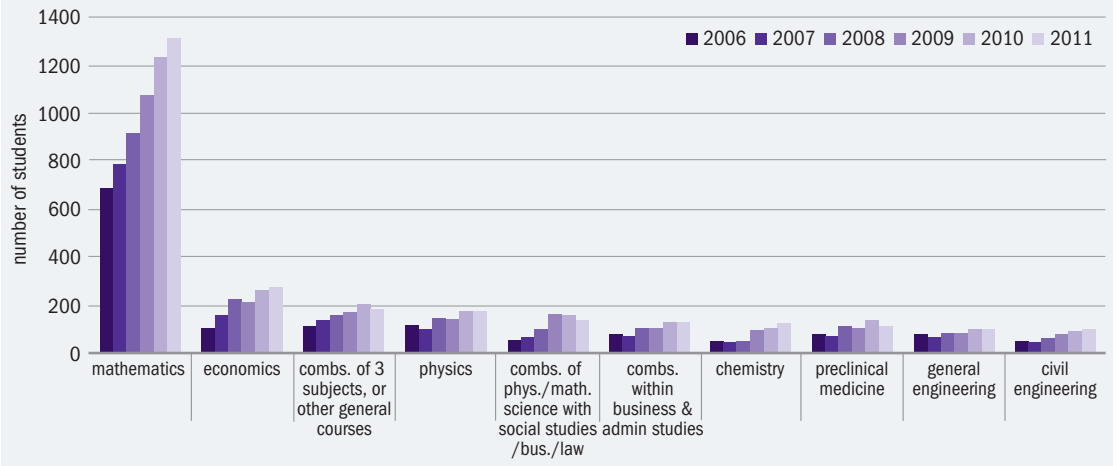
Source: UCAS

Figure 21: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 22: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 23: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

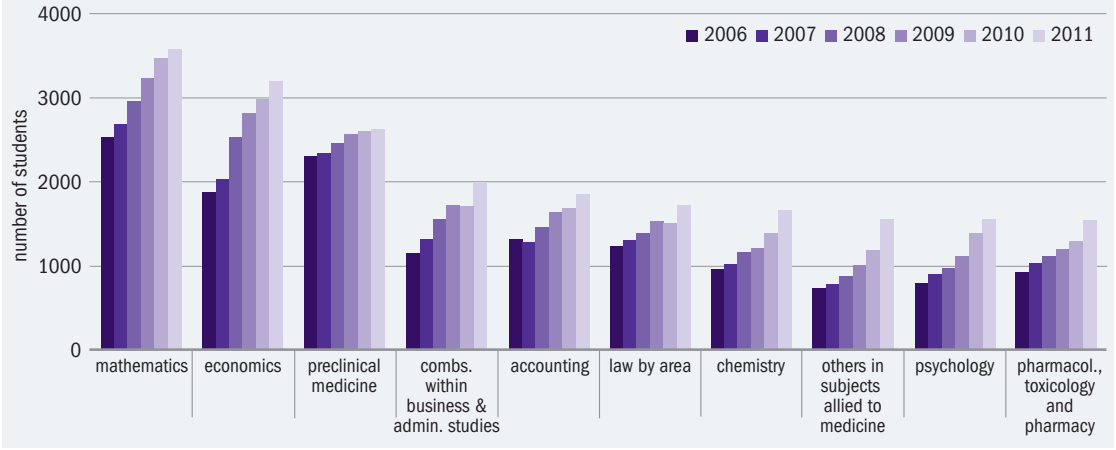


Figure 24: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

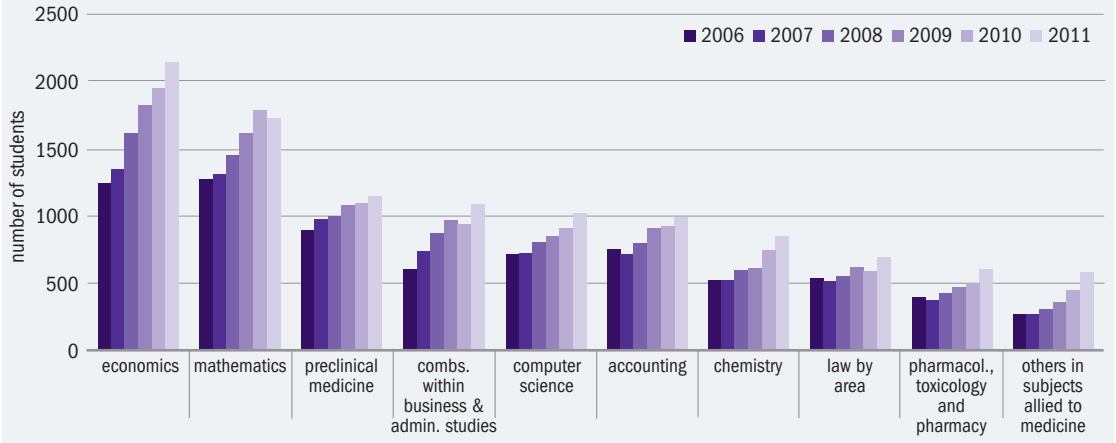
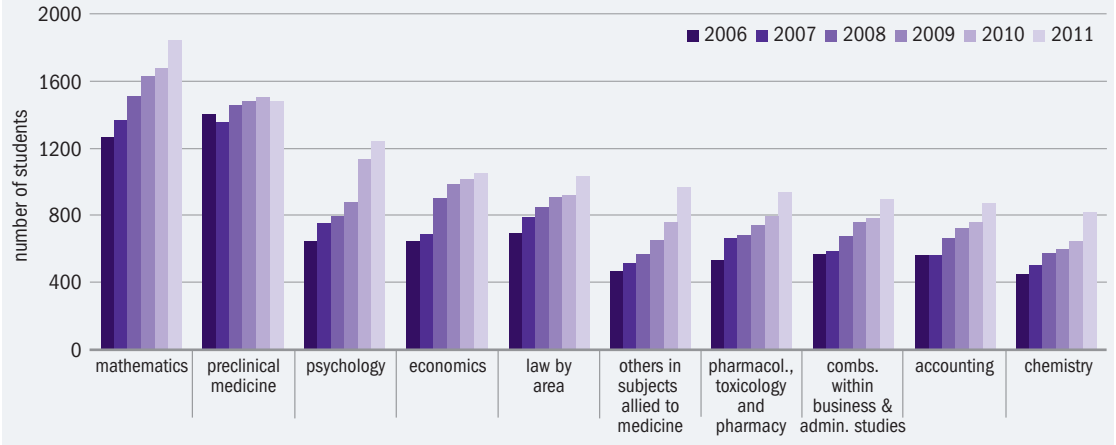


Figure 25: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011

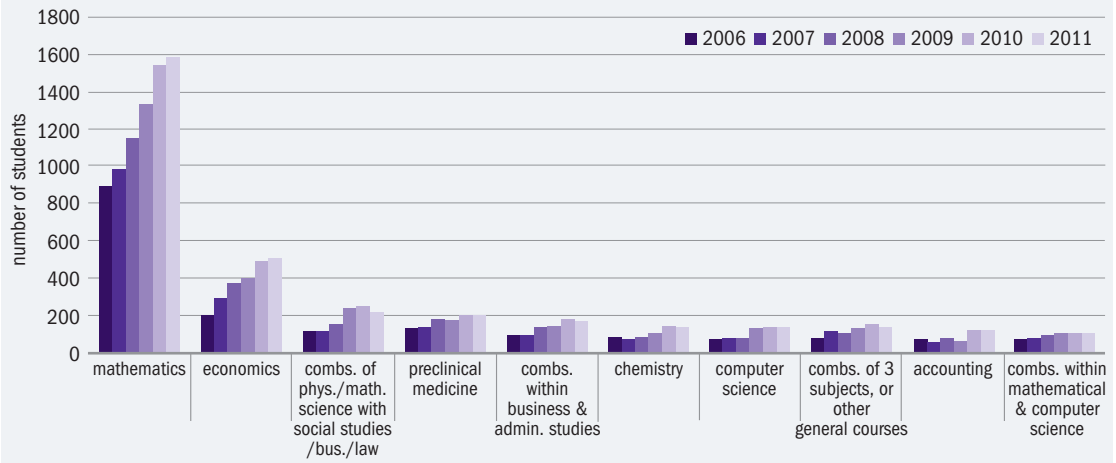
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

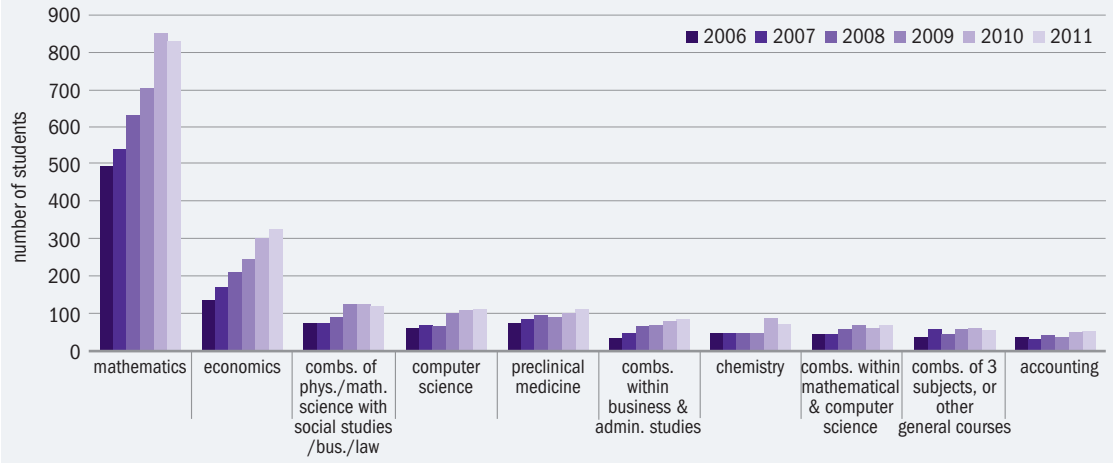
Source: UCAS

Figure 26: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011



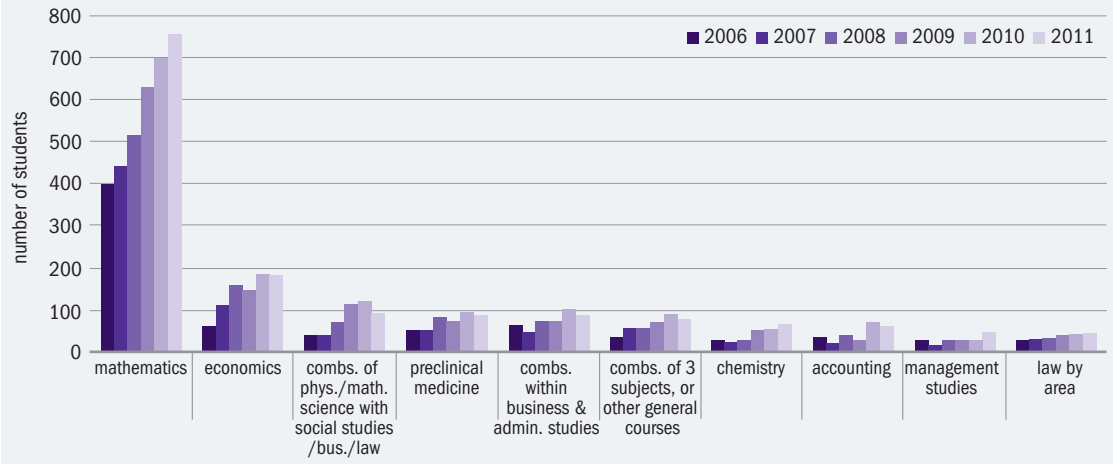
Source: UCAS

Figure 27: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 28: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 29: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

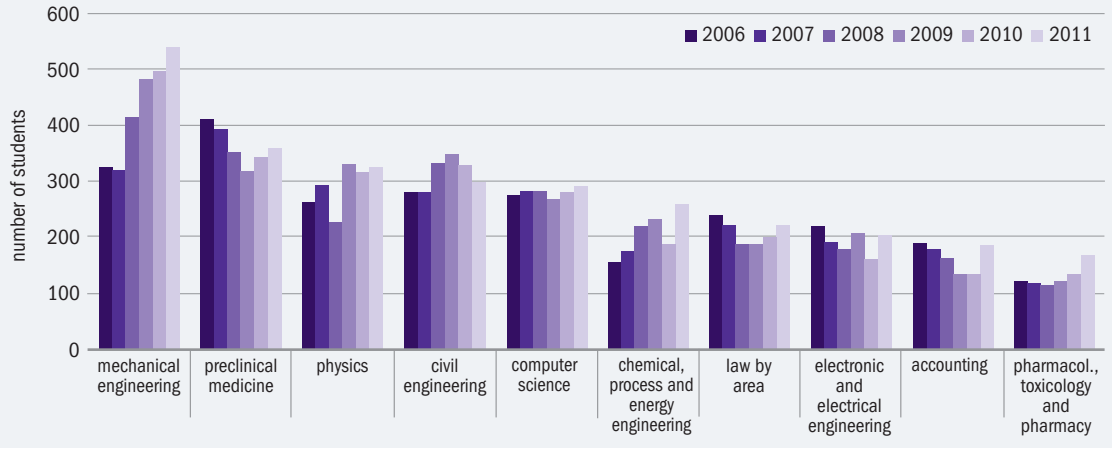


Figure 30: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

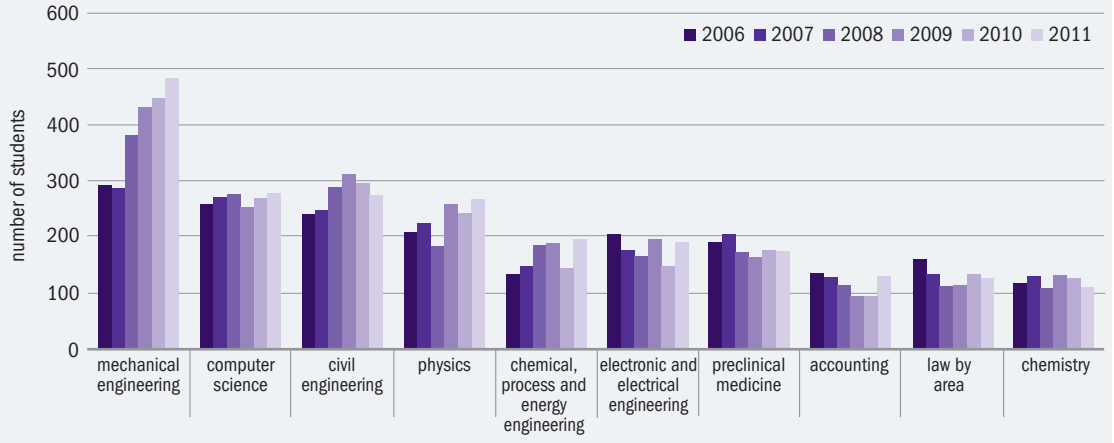
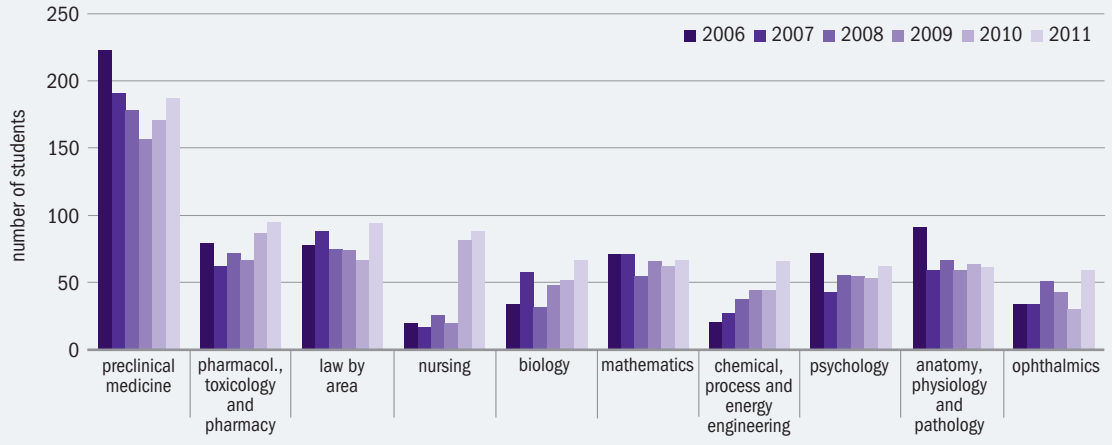


Figure 31: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

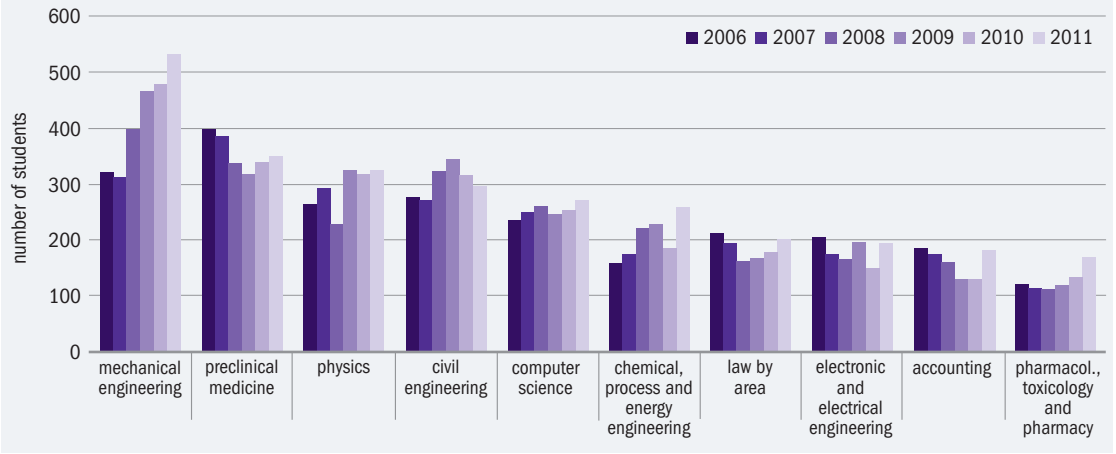
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

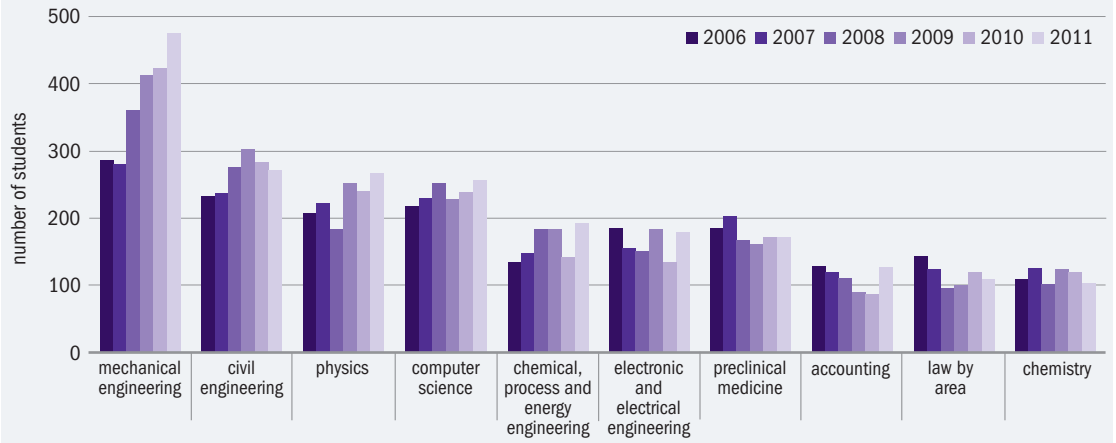
Source: UCAS

Figure 32: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011



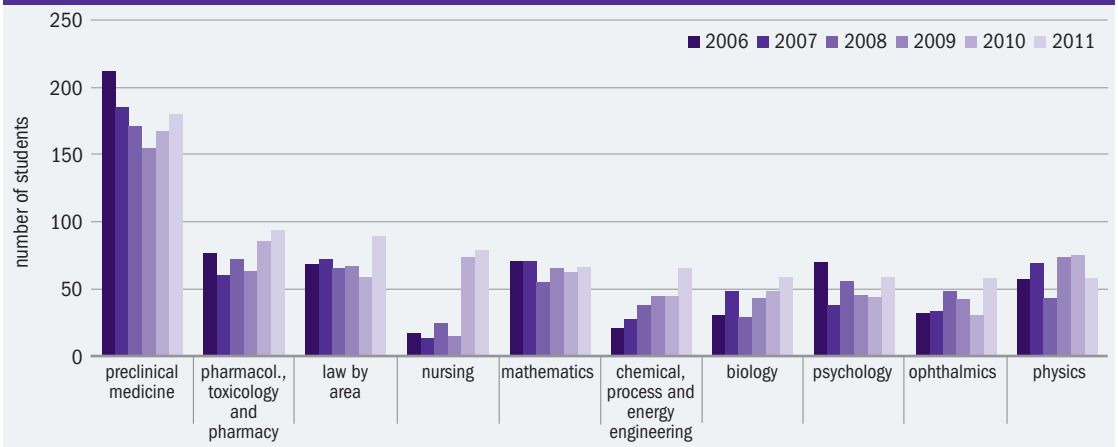
Source: UCAS

Figure 33: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

Figure 34: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 35: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

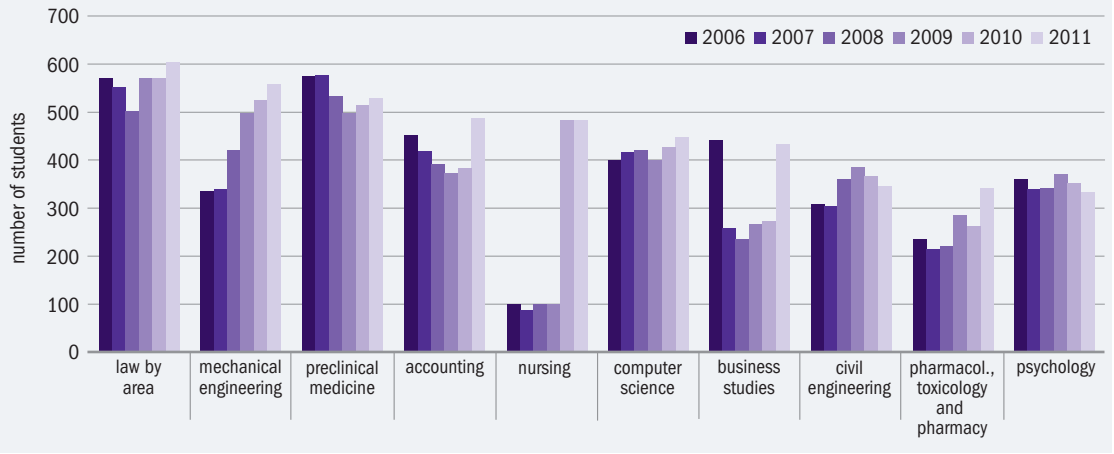


Figure 36: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

Source: UCAS

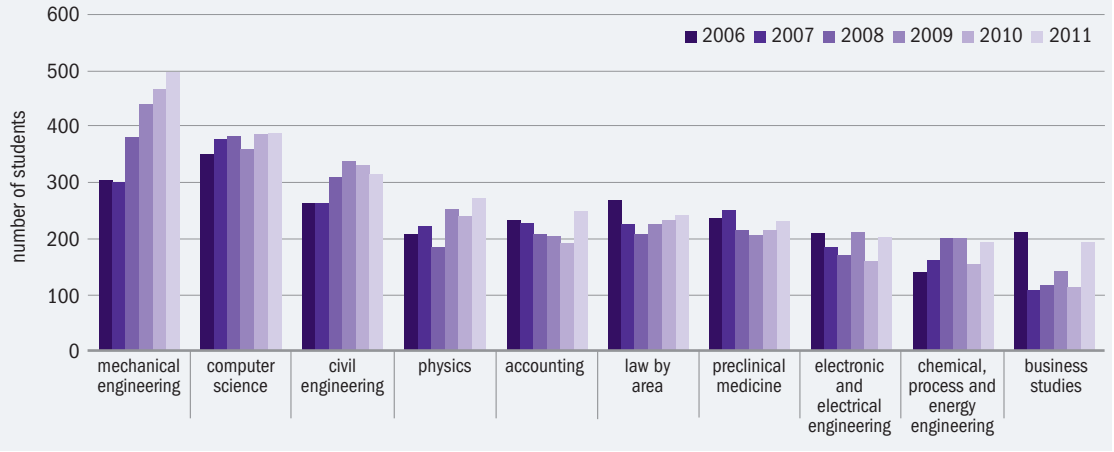
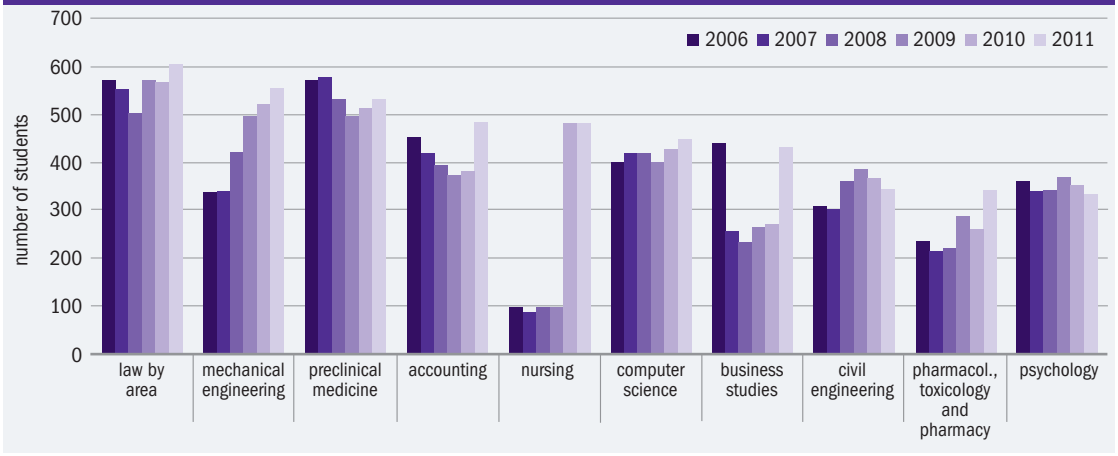


Figure 37: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011

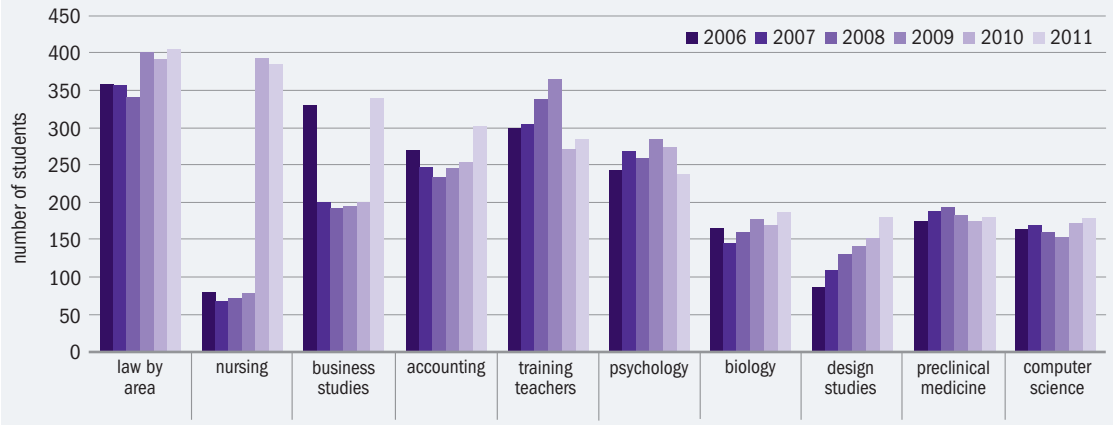
Source: UCAS



Appendix A

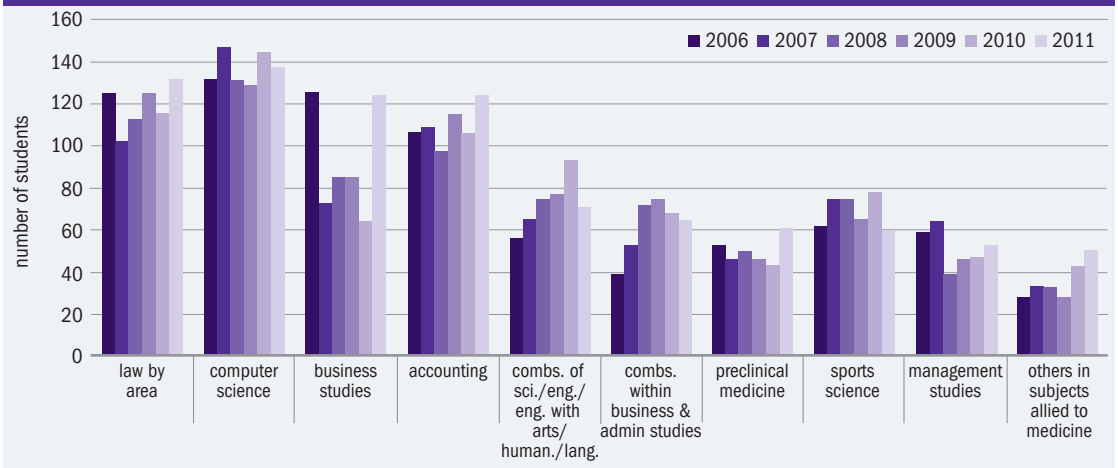
Source: UCAS

Figure 38: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011



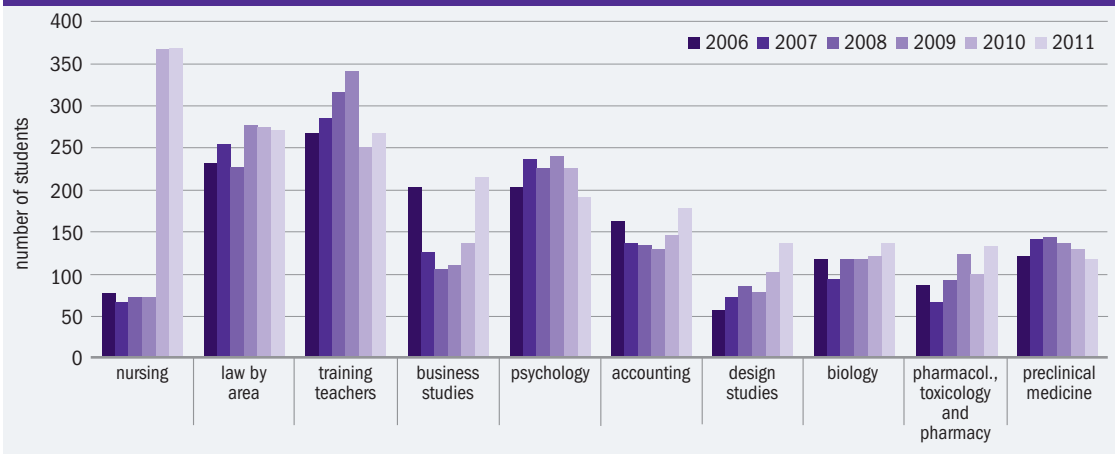
Source: UCAS

Figure 39: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011



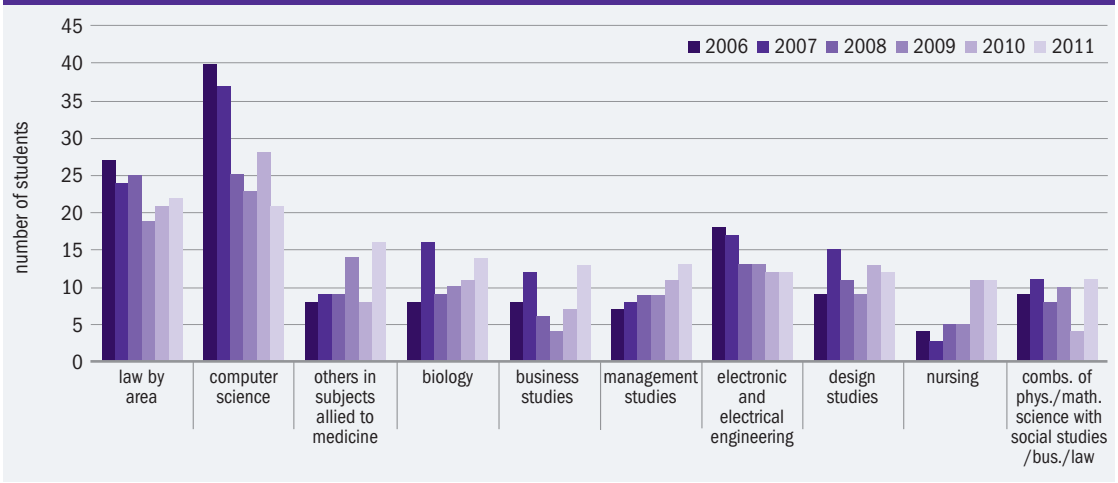
Source: UCAS

Figure 40: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011



Appendix A

Figure 41: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011



Source: UCAS

The number of male and female accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics Higher are too low to present individual data.

Appendix B: List of tables

Table 1: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011 3

Table 2: The 15 most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011 4

Table 3: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with physics A-level in 2011 6

Table 4: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels in 2011 7

Table 5: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2011 8

Table 6: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with mathematics A-level in 2011 8

Table 7: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher in 2011 9

Table 8: Comparison between the most popular course destinations of male and female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers in 2011 10

Table 9: The 15 most popular course destinations of accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher in combination with mathematics Scottish Higher 2011 11

Table 10: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2010 12

Table 11: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2009 12

Table 12: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2008 12

Table 13: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2007 13

Table 14: The number of entries to A-level examinations in physics, mathematics and further mathematics, and the number of accepted applicants to first-degree courses who held physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels in 2006 13

Appendix C: List of figures

Figure 1: The combinations of physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels held by accepted applicants to first-degree courses in 2011 5

Figure 2: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011 14

Figure 3: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011 14

Figure 4: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics A-level 2006–2011 14

Figure 5: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 15

Figure 6: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 15

Figure 7: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 15

Figure 8: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 16

Figure 9: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 16

Figure 10: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics, mathematics and further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 16

Figure 11: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 17

Figure 12: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 17

Figure 13: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics but not further mathematics A-levels 2006–2011 17

Figure 14: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011 18

Figure 15: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011 18

Figure 16: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics A-level 2006–2011 18

Appendix C: List of figures

Figure 17: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 19

Figure 18: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 19

Figure 19: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics or further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 19

Figure 20: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 20

Figure 21: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 20

Figure 22: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with further mathematics A-level 2006–2011 20

Figure 23: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011 21

Figure 24: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011 21

Figure 25: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics A-level 2006–2011 21

Figure 26: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011 22

Figure 27: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011 22

Figure 28: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics and further mathematics but not physics A-levels 2006–2011 22

Figure 29: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 23

Figure 30: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 23

Figure 31: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 23

Figure 32: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011 24

Figure 33: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011 24

Figure 34: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with physics and mathematics Scottish Highers 2006–2011 24

Appendix C: List of figures

Figure 35: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 25

Figure 36: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 25

Figure 37: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 25

Figure 38: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 26

Figure 39: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of male accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 26

Figure 40: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of female accepted applicants with mathematics but not physics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 26

Figure 41: The 10 most popular first-degree destinations of all accepted applicants with physics but not mathematics Scottish Higher 2006–2011 27

Statistical Bulletin

Degree-Course Destinations of Accepted Applicants with Physics and Mathematics A-level or Scottish Higher 2006–2011

May 2012

For further information contact:
Sophie Robinson
IOP Institute of Physics
76 Portland Place, London W1B 1NT
Tel +44 (0)20 7470 4887, Fax +44 (0)20 7470 4848
E-mail sophie.robinson@iop.org
www.iop.org
www.iopblog.org

Registered charity number: 293551
Scottish charity register number: SC040092

The report is available to download from our website and if you require an alternative format please contact us to discuss your requirements.

The RNIB clear print guidelines have been considered in the production of this document. Clear print is a design approach that considers the requirements of people with visual impairments. For more information, visit **www.rnib.org.uk**.