

**The Unite Foundation  
Scholarship Scheme.  
A quantitative impact  
analysis on 10 years of  
accommodation support  
for estranged and care  
leaver students.**

June 2022

Jisc data analytics

The Jisc logo consists of the word "Jisc" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange square. This square is positioned on a teal background that runs vertically down the right side of the page.

**Jisc**

## Contents

Introduction .....	5
Key Findings .....	6
Data sources and data notes .....	8
Section 1- Comparison of care leaver and non-care leaver students' performance metrics .....	11
Figure 1 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students) .....	11
Figure 2 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students) .....	11
Figure 3 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students) .....	12
Figure 4 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students) .....	12
Section 2- Comparison of Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other comparator groups performance metrics .....	13
Figure 5 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students.) .....	13
Figure 6 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students) .....	14
Figure 7 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students) .....	15
Figure 8 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students) .....	16
Figure 10 - Summary of all four performance metrics comparing the Unite Foundation Scholarship students and comparator groups. These charts are a summary of Figures 5-8. ....	18
Section 3- Comparison of Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other comparator groups performance metrics investigating known performance indicators including sex, tariff, and Russell Group HE providers.....	19
Appendix 1 .....	23
Figure 11 - Summary of all four performance metrics comparing sex (male/ female), tariff (high and low) and Russell Group students (Russell Group/ Non-Russell Group) .....	23
Figure 12 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2020/21 students) .....	24
Figure 13 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students) ..	25
Figure 14 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students) .....	26

Figure 15 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrants)	27
Figure 16 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)	28
Figure 17 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2020/21 students)	29
Figure 18 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)	30
Figure 19 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)	31
Figure 20 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)	32
Figure 21 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)	33
Figure 22 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 students combined)	35
Figure 23 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)	36
Figure 24 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)	37
Figure 25 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)	38
Figure 26 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)	39
Appendix 2	41
Figure 27 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)	41
Figure 28 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)	42
Figure 29 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)	43
Figure 30 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)	44
Figure 31 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)	45
Figure 32 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)	46

Figure 33 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students) .....	47
Figure 34 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students) .....	48
Definitions .....	49

## Introduction

The Unite Foundation is an independent registered charity offering an accommodation scholarship for estranged and care leaver young people undertaking higher education (HE) at university. The Unite Foundation Scholarship provides students' accommodation and bills, year round, covering up to three full years of study. In addition, it offers a rapid response, in partnership with the university and accommodation providers, to pastoral needs that may negatively affect the student experience. The charity currently partners with 26 universities (HE providers) across England and Scotland, and with Unite Students; the charity's accommodation partner and principal corporate donor.

Unite Foundation Scholarship students are aged 25 or under, applying to study or already on a full-time, first-degree course at one of the HE providers in the network (Foundation HE provider network). By 2021/22 over 500 estranged and young care leaver students had received a Unite Foundation Scholarship.

This report provides a quantitative comparative analysis of students, who had received a Unite Foundation Scholarship whilst studying at a UK HE provider, with those students who had not received a scholarship. This report seeks to identify the impact of the Unite Foundation Scholarships on students' HE performance and whether this impact is statistically significant in comparison to appropriate comparator groups.

## Data populations (Student groups)

- Unite Foundation Scholarship students,
- Comparator groups** – this term used throughout the report refers to the following populations:
- other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network,
  - other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network,
  - non-care leaver students.

## Performance Metrics

- 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year programme progression (within 2 academic years)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme progression (within 2 academic years)
- completion of a first degree within three academic years (excluding Scottish HE providers<sup>1</sup>)
- class of first degree (good honours degree (1st and 2:1) %)

## Background

There are stark differences in the number of care experienced and estranged students entering HE compared to their peers. In England just 12% (up to age of 23), compared to 43% of the general population, go into HE<sup>2</sup>, whilst in Scotland latest data shows 4% entering, HE from school, compared to 39% of all school leavers<sup>3</sup>. In 2020, the dropout rate for students who had spent time in care was five percentage points higher than for students who had not been in care.<sup>4</sup>

Data for estranged students is more scarce - reflected in the OfS descriptor of an 'emerging cohort' - but shows parallels between the two distinct groups connected by adverse experience in childhood/youth

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<sup>1</sup> A completion percentage based on the number of students who successfully completed their first degree within four academic years or less at HE providers in Scotland was investigated but unsuccessful due to the small Unite Foundation cohort size.

<sup>2</sup> Harrison, N. (2017). Moving on up: Pathways of care leavers and care-experienced students into and through Higher Education.

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Funding Council [SFC]. (2020). SFC's national ambition for care-experienced students.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/news-blog-and-events/press-and-media/care-leavers-more-likely-to-drop-out-of-university>

and housing fragility. For the purposes of this analysis estranged Unite Foundation Scholarship students are included in the Unite Foundation Scholarship students' group and compared with care leaver students in the comparator groups on the premise that their outcomes are comparable or indeed poorer than care leavers.<sup>5</sup>

The body of research shows that if a young person with this background can be supported to stay on their course and complete their degree, the experience is transformational; post-degree outcomes being comparable with peers.<sup>6</sup> The Unite Foundation targets the retention of care leaver and estranged students in HE.

## Key Findings

- Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme within 2 academic years at the same percentage as non-care leaver students (87%) and at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups (76%).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme within 2 academic years within 5 percentage points of non-care leaver students (86% vs 91%) and at a statistically significantly higher percentage than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three academic years within six percentage points of non-care leaver students (71% vs 77%) and at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups (60-63%).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a 'good honours' degree within 3 percentage points of non-care leaver students (78% vs 81%) and at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups (70-72%).
- Three out of the four performance metrics were more similar between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and non-care leaver students than between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and all other care leaver student groups. Therefore, non-care leaver students are the closest comparator group in most performance metrics to Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students had an overrepresentation of both higher achieving high tariff and Russell Group students<sup>7</sup> compared to all other care leaver student groups. To understand if this overrepresentation is the cause of the improved performance students were split into four control population (high tariff, low tariff, Russell Group and non-Russell Group) and analysed independently against all four performance metrics.
- When controlling for only Russell Group students the data followed no clear trend, Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students performed both higher and lower than other care leaver student groups across the four performance metrics. Unite Foundation Scholarship Russell Group students were the only controlled population to see a lower performance than other care leaver student groups in any metric. Further investigation would be required to understand the reason for this standalone observation.
- When controlling for non-Russell Group students, high tariff students and low tariff students. Unite Foundation Scholarship students performed higher than all other care leaver student groups in all four performance metrics.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see a higher performance in low compared to high tariff students and non-Russell Group to Russell Group students. This occurred in two out of four performance metrics.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.standalone.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/StandAloneUNITEfoundation.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://thisisusatuni.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PositiveImpactReport2020\\_UniteFoundation\\_SheffieldHallamUniversity.pdf](https://thisisusatuni.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PositiveImpactReport2020_UniteFoundation_SheffieldHallamUniversity.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Students who attended a Russell Group HE Provider (<https://Russellgroup.ac.uk/>)

- The data from the controlled populations suggests the improved performance of the Unite Foundation Scholarship students is likely due to the receipt of the Scholarship opposed to the overrepresentation of high tariff and Russell Group students.

Overall, the report provides strong evidence that the Unite Foundation Scholarship improves care leaver students' educational outcomes, specifically in year to year progression, completion, and degree outcome. The gap between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and non-care leaver students is notably smaller than that between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and all other care leaver student groups across all performance metrics.

## Additional analysis

Whilst acknowledging there is strong evidence to suggest a link between the Unite Foundation Scholarship and improved care leaver educational performance, further data and analysis would be required to conclude the Unite Foundation Scholarship as the most probable cause. More detailed statistical analysis which controls for other student and educational factors such as propensity score matching is suggested but not currently possible due to the size of the Unite Foundation Scholarship student population. For propensity score matching to be used in a statistically robust manner each metric would need to have a minimum population of 790 students, compared to the current metric populations of between 185 and 275, approximately four times the number of Unite Foundation Scholarship students would be required. Based on an increased number of Scholarships awarded in recent years, 790 would be realistically achievable within 5 to 6 years at current award rates.

Limitations of the number of years the Unite Foundation Scholarship has been awarding scholarships, and the cohort size in earlier years of the scholarship prevented 4 or 5 year completion percentages being possible. In any future research, completion metrics of this length would improve the depth of the findings and add additional context to the data by allowing students more than one attempt to complete a year of programme and then considered to have completed in the overall completion metrics.

## Data sources and data notes

The report combines data sourced from the Unite Foundation and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The Unite Foundation collects data on students who have received a Unite Foundation Scholarship (Unite Foundation Scholarship students). HESA collects information about the academic career of students prior to their enrolment in HE and their achievement at HE. Jisc has linked the individual student records from the Unite Foundation dataset to the HESA Student Record to identify Unite Foundation Scholarship students; of the total population sent by the Unite Foundation 85% were successfully linked. Unite Foundation Scholarship students, as well as students from appropriate comparator groups, were tracked through their HE journey in order to investigate the key performance metrics.

Some of the information contained in the HESA record is returned from an entrant's UCAS application form via the student's HE provider. If an entrant does not apply through UCAS, the HE provider is encouraged to complete this information but that is not always the case and so may return unknown. This can create missing values for qualifications on entry and therefore entry tariff data.

## Data populations

All populations are restricted to UK domiciled, full-time, first degree, entrants who were 25 or younger on entry. Estranged students are not identified in the HESA Student Record; therefore, the comparison populations focus on care and non-care leaver students. The data includes entrants from academic years 2012/13 to 2020/21.

**Unite Foundation Scholarship students** – Students who were successfully linked between the HESA Student Record and the Unite Foundation dataset. These students received a Unite Foundation Scholarship. This population includes both care leaver and estranged students.

**Comparator groups** – This term used throughout the report refers to the following populations:

**Other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network** – Students identified in the HESA Student Record as a care leaver student<sup>8</sup> and who attended a HE provider in the Foundation network.

**Other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network** – Students identified in the HESA Student Record as a care leaver student and who attended a non-Foundation network HE provider.

**Non-care leaver students** – A non-care leaver student who attended any HE provider. This may represent a sector average for each metric due to the large size of this population in comparison to the care leaver population.

The following HE providers are part of the Foundation HE provider network:

Aston University	Queen Mary University of London
Bath Spa University	Robert Gordon University
Bournemouth University	Sheffield Hallam University

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c20051/a/careleaver>



Brunel University London	University College London (UCL)
De Montfort University	University of Bristol
Edinburgh Napier University	University of Edinburgh
Glasgow Caledonian University	University of Portsmouth
King's College London	University of Reading
Kingston University	University of Salford
Leeds Beckett University	University of Sheffield
Liverpool John Moores University	University of Strathclyde
London Metropolitan University	University of the West of England (UWE)
Manchester Metropolitan University	University of Westminster

## Data reporting

The report includes an overview and descriptive statistics of Unite Foundation Scholarship students alongside other comparator groups. Where appropriate, a two-proportion z-test is performed to investigate if the specified performance metric is significantly different between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other care leaver students inside and outside the HE provider foundation network. All z-tests are performed at the 5% significance level ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Throughout the report, any percentages calculated on small populations have been suppressed and all non-percentage data points have been rounded to the nearest 5 (see rounding strategy in definition for details).

In all data visualisations the rounded denominator has been included for additional context.

## Performance metrics

**Good honours degree (1<sup>st</sup> and 2:1) %** - The percentage of students who achieved a first or upper second class honours in their class of first degree, referred to as 'good honours' degree.

**1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year programme progression (within 2 academic years) %** – Each student was linked from their 1<sup>st</sup> year of programme to their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme to create a progression percentage. A student was defined as progressing if they went from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme within 2 academic years; this allows for a one-year study break or repeating a year of programme.

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year programme progression (within 2 academic years) %** – Each student who entered their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme was linked to their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme to create a progression percentage. A student was defined as progressing if they went from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme within 2 academic years; again, this allows for a one-year study break or repeating a year of programme.

**3 year completion %** – Completion percentages are based on the number of students who successfully completed their first degree within three academic years or less at HE providers in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.<sup>9</sup>

## Data note

**1st to 2nd year progression** – The Unite Foundation offer scholarships to students entering their first year of programme, but also students who are already in their second year when applying for the scholarship. This means in the Unite Foundation Scholarship student population not all students received the scholarship in their first year of programme. Unfortunately, due to limitations of the data, students starting the scholarship in their second-year programme cannot be recognised individually.

Included in the Unite Foundation data were 305 students who successfully linked to the HESA data who entered their first year of programme between the academic years of 2012/13 – 2018/19 and would be included in the metric 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year programme progression. 38 of the overall Unite Foundation Scholarship student population did not receive a scholarship until their second year of programme and therefore clearly would have progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme without receiving the Unite Foundation Scholarship. For this reason, 32 students who successfully went from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme have been moved from the Unite Foundation Scholarship student population to other care leaver students inside of the Foundation HE provider network population. This change was made to account for this data issue and make the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year programme progression data metric more robust. An approximation of 32 students was derived from 85% of 38, accounting for the 85% linking percentage between Unite Foundation data and the HESA data.

This change to the data has only been applied to the overall metrics which include Figure 5, 9 and 10 and has not been applied to Figures 13, 18, 23, 27 and 28 which include sex, tariff, and Russell Group breakdowns given margin for error with intersectional characteristics.

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<sup>9</sup> A completion percentage based on the number of students who successfully completed their first degree within four academic years or less at HE providers in Scotland was investigated but unsuccessful due to the small Unite Foundation cohort size.

## Section 1- Comparison of care leaver and non-care leaver students' performance metrics

This section highlights, for contextual purposes, performance differences between care leaver and non-care leaver students in the UK HE sector.

**Figures 1 - 4 show, for all four performance metrics, care leavers performed at a statistically significant lower percentage than non-care leavers.**

- Figure 1 shows 77% of care leavers progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years); 10 percentage points lower than non-care leavers (87%).
- Figure 2 shows 83% of care leavers progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) 8 percentage points lower than non-care leavers (91%).
- Figure 3 shows 62% of care leavers completed a first degree within three years; 15 percentage point lower than non-care leavers (77%).
- Figure 4 shows 71% of care leavers achieved a good honours degree; 10 percentage points lower than non-care leavers (81%).

Figure 1 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)

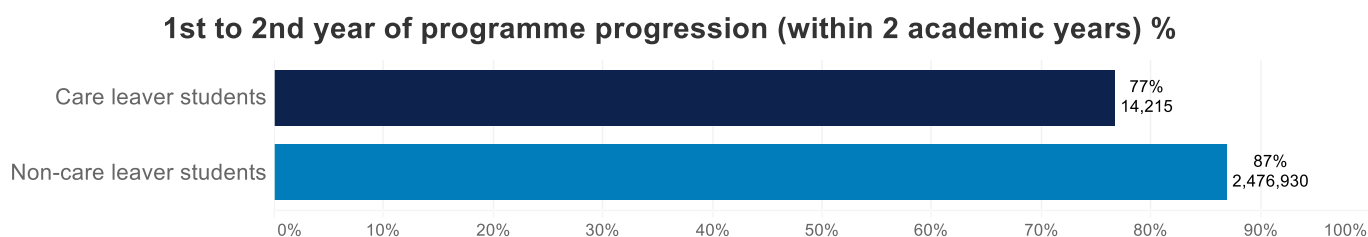


Figure 2 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)

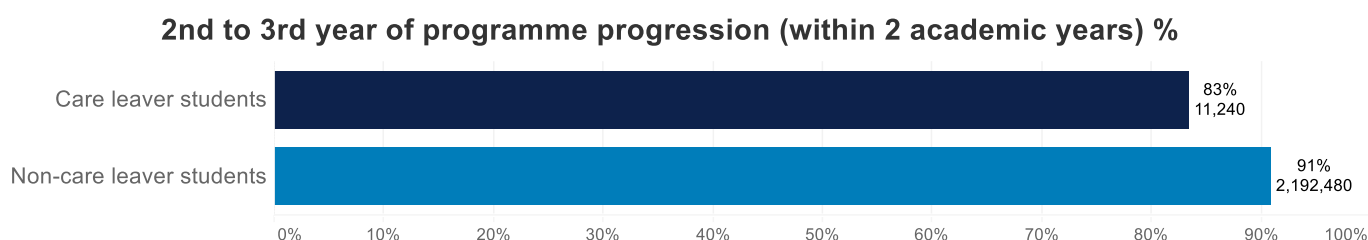


Figure 3 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first-degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)

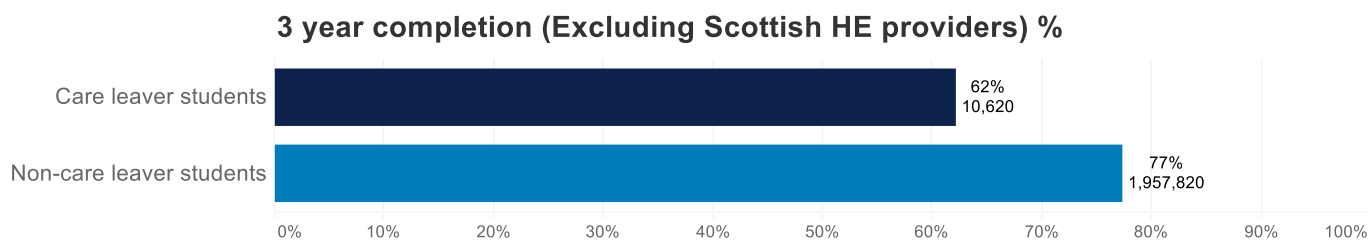
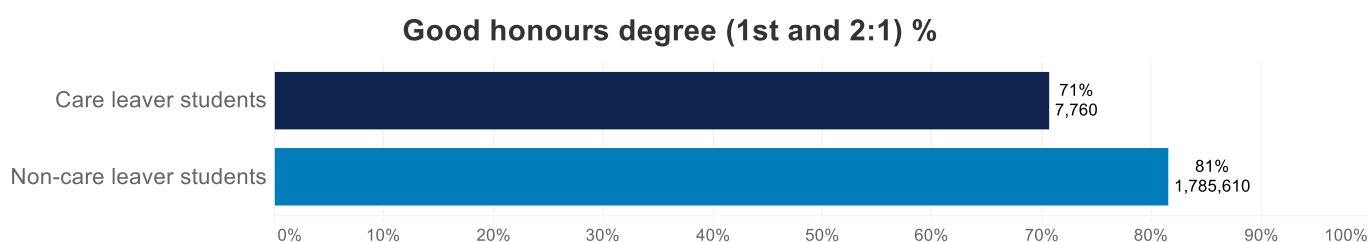


Figure 4 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by care leaver marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)



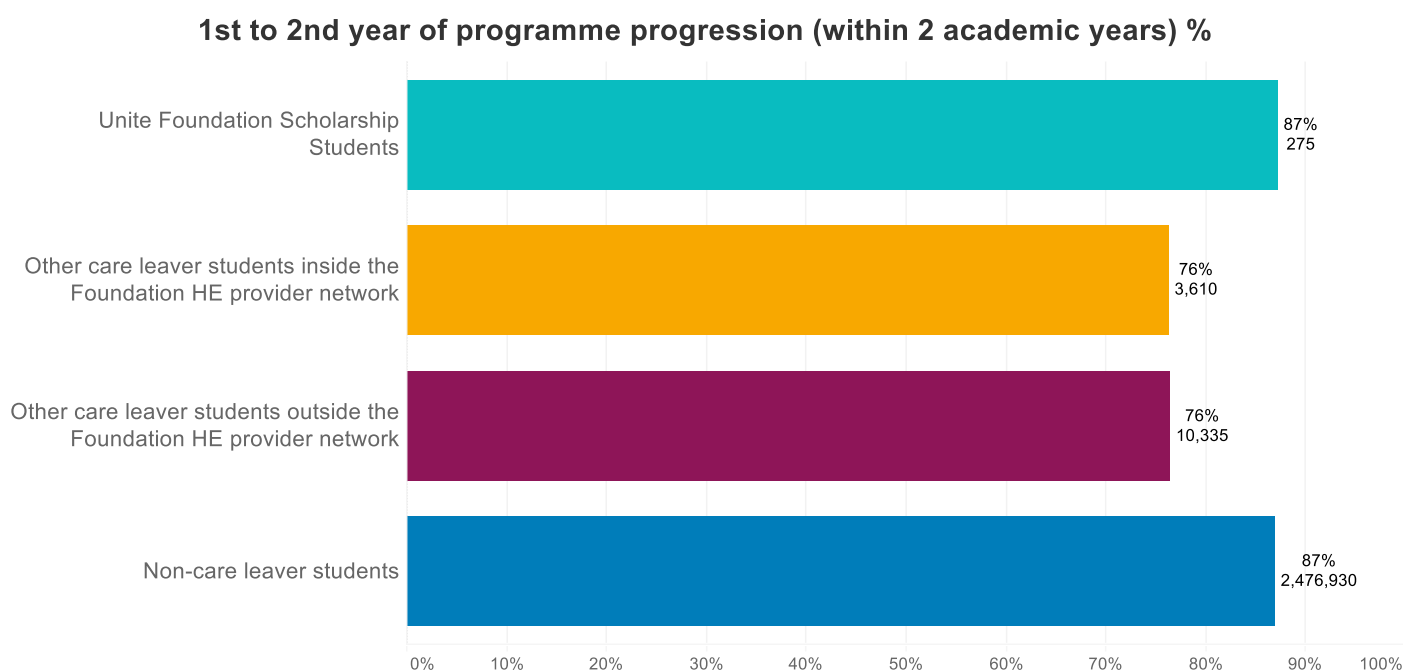
## Section 2- Comparison of Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other comparator groups performance metrics

This section highlights performance differences between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other comparator groups including, other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network, other care leaver students outside of the Foundation HE provider network and non-care leaver students.

**Figure 5 shows Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) at a higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups and at the same percentage as non-care leaver students.**

- 87% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) – this matched the percentage of non-care leaver students.
- 76% of all other care leaver student groups progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years), this is 11 percentage points lower than Unite Foundation Scholarship students.

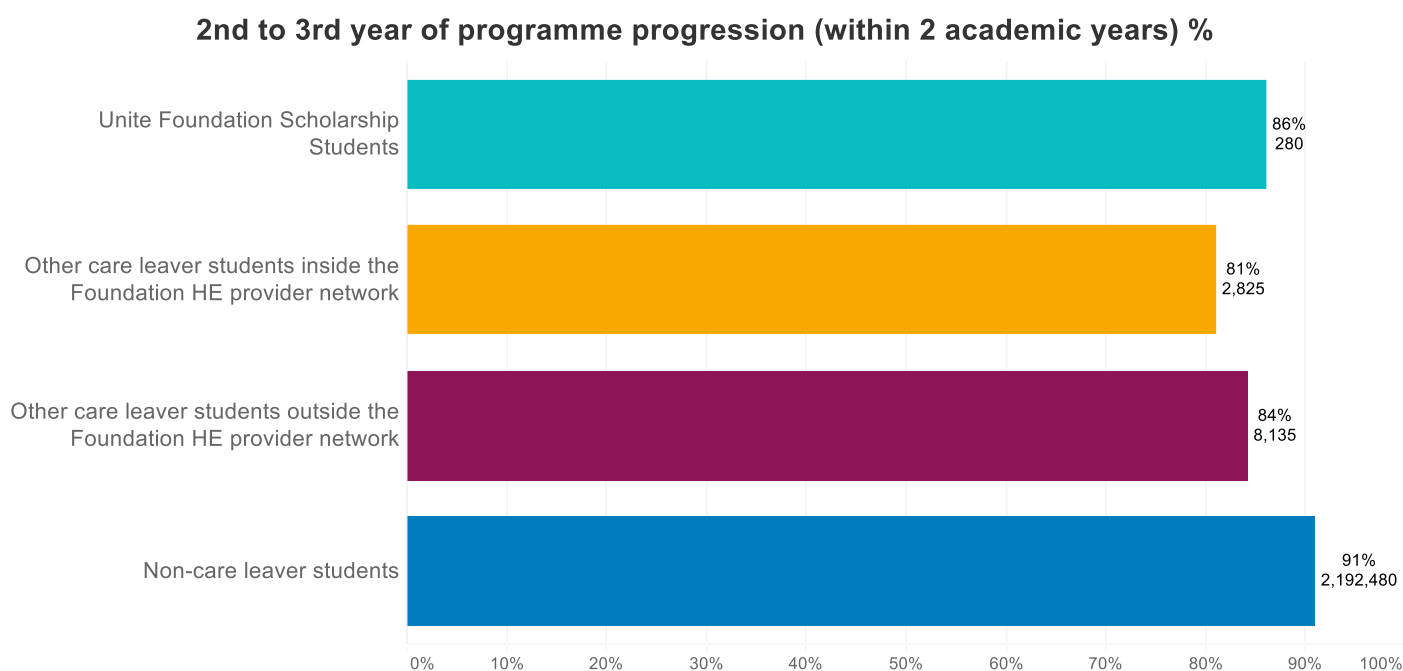
Figure 5 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students.)



**Figure 6 shows Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) at a higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.**

- 86% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years), this is five percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%) and two percentage points higher than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network (84%).
- 91% of non-care leaver students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years), this is five percentage points higher than Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students are the only population with a slowing progression percentage between 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme. Unite Foundation Scholarship students' progression percentage decreased from 87% to 86% (minus one percentage point).
- The slowing in progression is very likely the result of the high progression percentage seen between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme. This leads to a larger proportion of the Unite Foundation Scholarship students who entered HE reaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study compared to other student groups. Because of this it would be unrealistic to expect progression rate to increase as seen in other comparator groups.

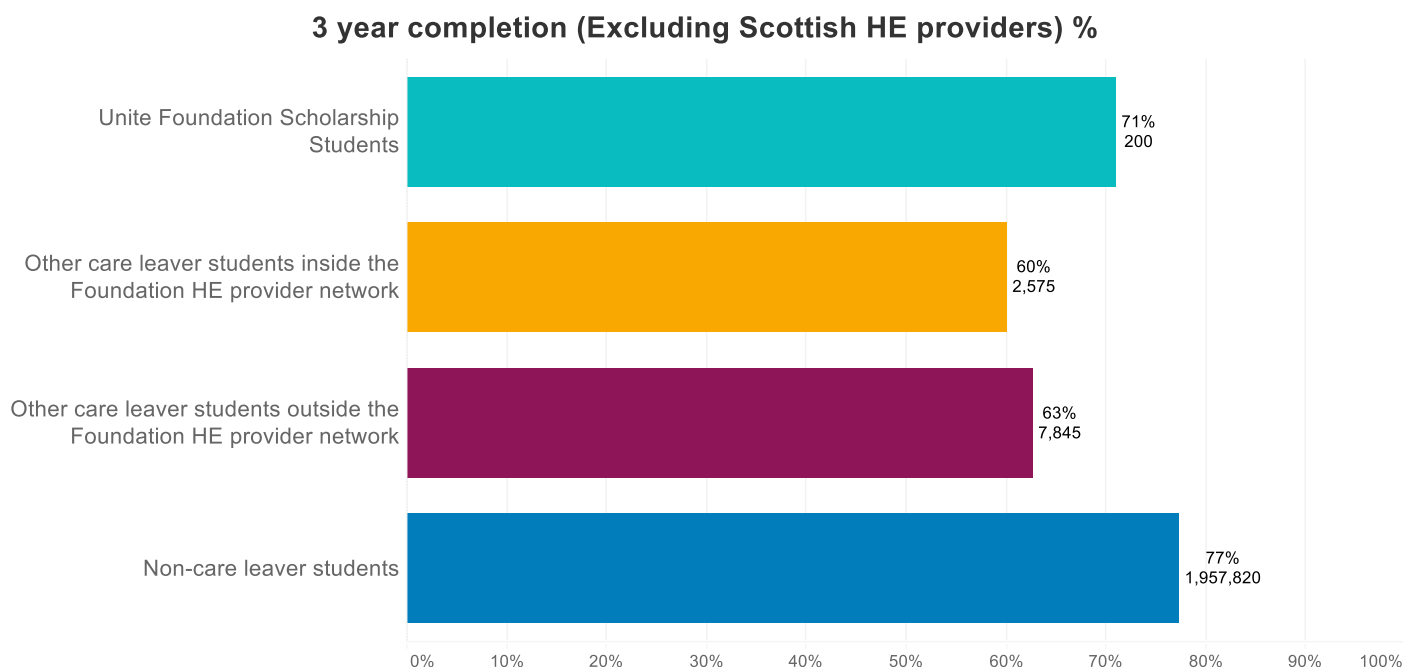
Figure 6 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)



**Figure 7 shows Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years at a higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.**

- 71% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is 11 percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (60%) and eight percentage points higher than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network (63%).
- 77% of non-care leaver students completed a first degree within three years, this is six percentage points higher than Unite Foundation Scholarship students. This gap is notably smaller than the 15 percentage point difference shown in Figure 3 between care leaver (62%) and non-care leaver students (77%).

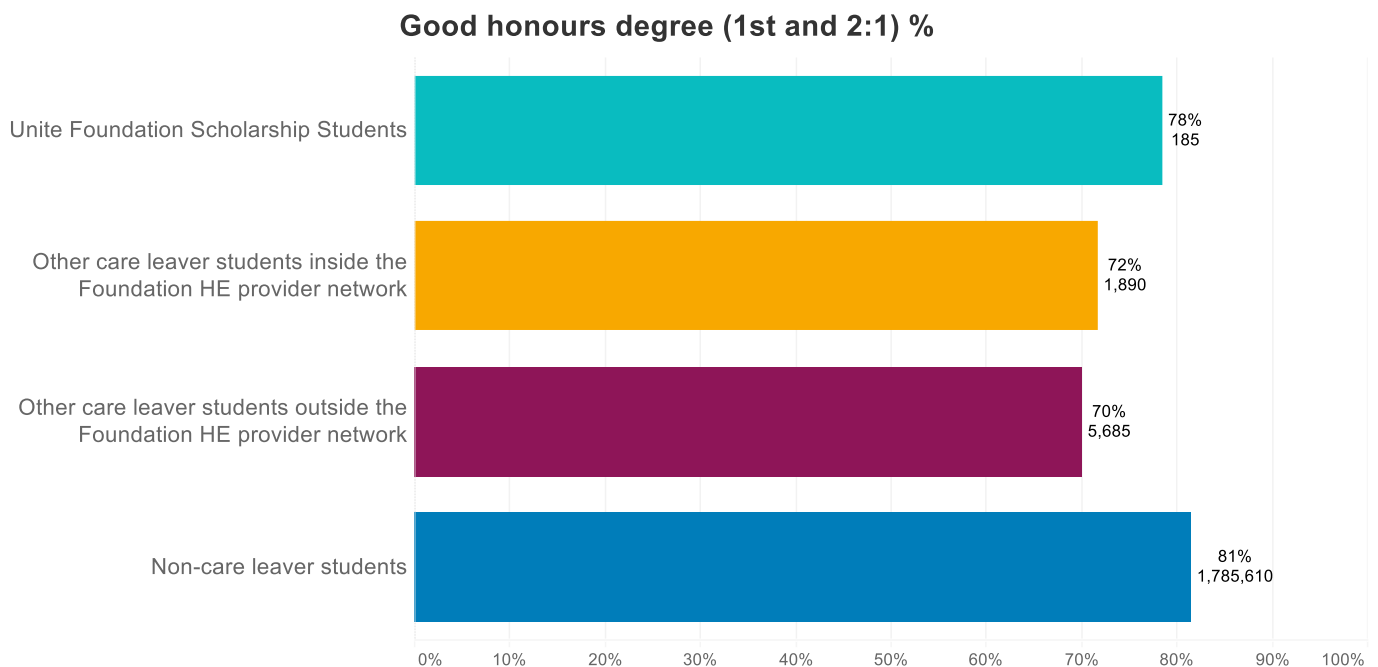
Figure 7 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)



**Figure 8 shows Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree at a higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.**

- 78% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree, this is six percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (72%) and eight percentage points higher than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network (70%).
- 81% of non-care leaver students achieved a good honours degree, this is three percentage points higher than Unite Foundation Scholarship students. This gap is notably smaller than the 10 percentage point difference shown in Figure 4 between care leaver (71%) and non-care leaver students (81%).

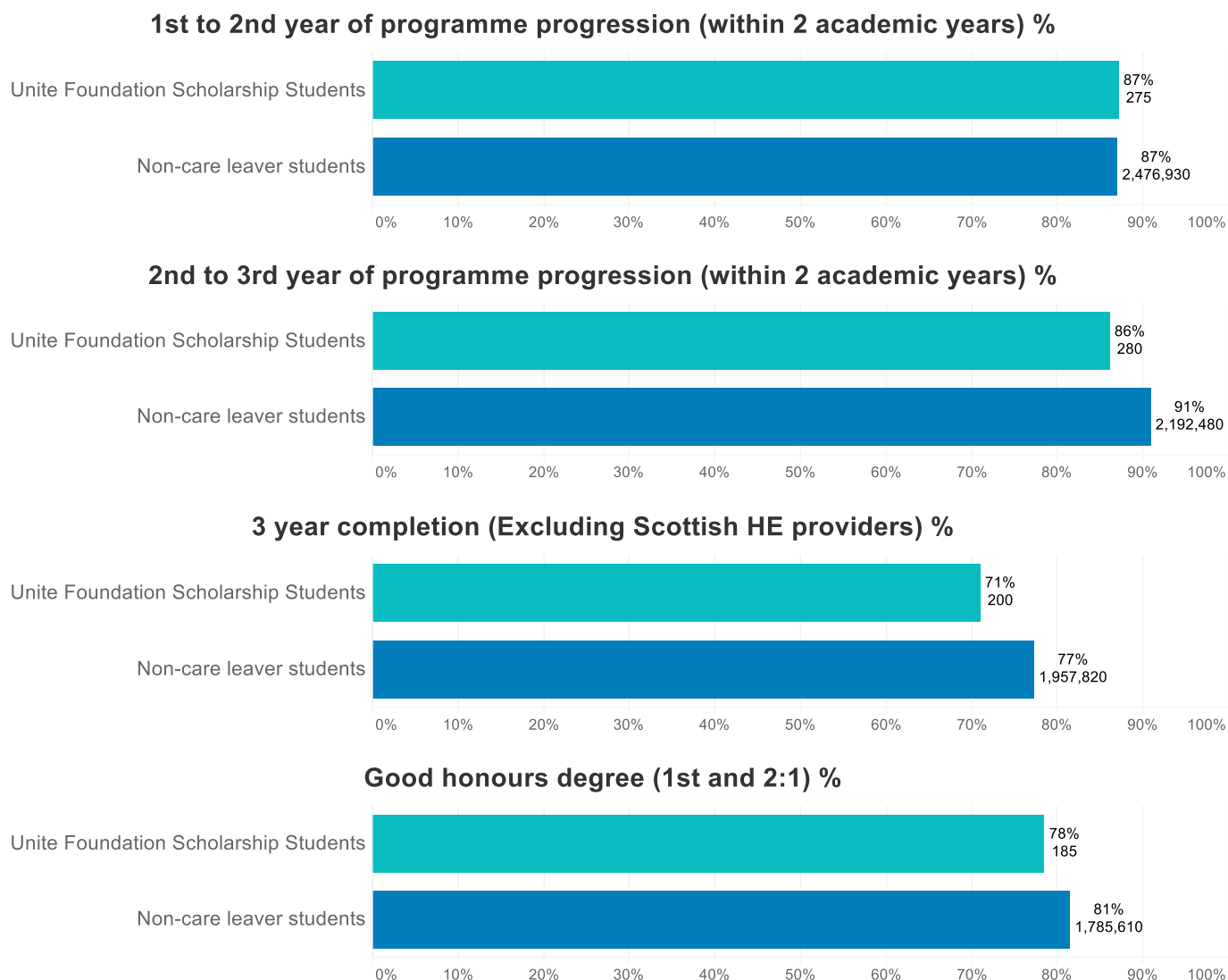
Figure 8 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)





Figures 5 - 8 show that three out of the four performance metrics were more similar between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and non-care leaver students than between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and all other care leaver student groups. Therefore, non-care leaver students are the closest comparator group in most performance metrics to Unite Foundation Scholarship students. The direct comparison of Unite Foundation Scholarship students and non-care leaver students can be seen in Figure 9.

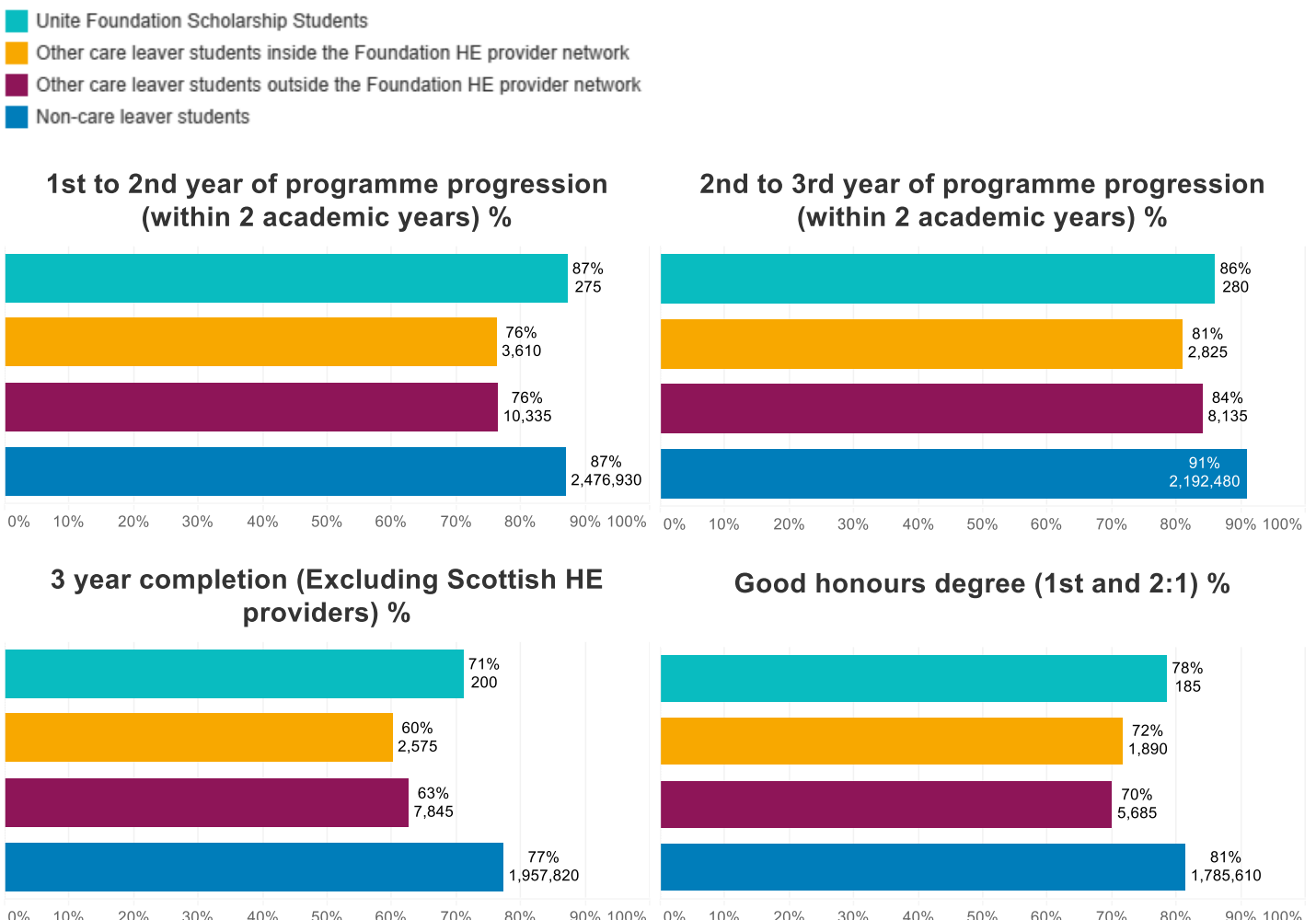
Figure 9 - Summary of all four performance metrics comparing Unite Foundation Scholarship students and non-care leaver students. These charts are a subset of Figures 5-8.



**Figure 10 shows in all four performance metrics Unite Foundation Scholarship students performed at a statistically significantly higher percentage than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network. Unite Foundation Scholarship students performed at a statistically significantly higher percentage than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network in all but one performance metric.**

- A two-proportion z-test was performed to investigate if the specified performance metric is significantly different between Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other care leaver students inside and outside the HE provider foundation network. All z-tests are performed at the 5% significance level ( $p < 0.05$ ).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) at a statistically significantly higher percentage than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network and higher than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network, though not statistically significantly higher.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three academic years at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a 'good honours' degree at a statistically significantly higher percentage than all other care leaver student groups.

Figure 10 - Summary of all four performance metrics comparing the Unite Foundation Scholarship students and comparator groups. These charts are a summary of Figures 5-8.



## Section 3- Comparison of Unite Foundation Scholarship students and other comparator groups performance metrics investigating known performance indicators including sex, tariff, and Russell Group HE providers

Section 2 highlighted the higher performance of Unite Foundation Scholarship students over all other care leaver student groups. This section aims to understand the potential impact of known performance indicators within the data on Unite Foundation Scholarship students improved performance. The performance indicators considered were sex (male or female), entry tariff (high or low) and enrolment at a Russell Group provider (Russell Group or Non-Russell Group). Other student performance indicators such as ethnicity and disability were considered but could not be included as the Unite Foundation Scholarship student population was too small.

Sector figures show a statistically significant higher student performance in all four performance metrics of non-care leavers compared to care-leavers, females compared to males, high tariff compared to low tariff, and Russell Group enrolment compared to non-Russell Group enrolment (see Appendix 1, Figure 11).

The Unite Foundation Scholarship student's female to male ratio closely matches all other care leaver student groups. This suggests sex is not a factor contributing to the higher performance of Unite Foundation Scholarship students.

Unite Foundation Scholarship students had an overrepresentation of both higher achieving high tariff and Russell Group students compared to all other care leaver and non-care leaver student groups.

58% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students were entered HE with a high tariff; 17 percentage points higher than all other care leaver student groups, and five percentage points higher than non-care leaver students. 34% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students attended a Russell Group HE provider, this was 21 percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network, 20 percentage points higher than other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network and eight percentage points higher than non-care leaver students.

To understand if this overrepresentation is the cause of the improved performance students were split into four control population and analysed independently against all four performance metrics.

Control populations:

- High tariff students
- Low tariff students
- Russell Group students
- Non-Russell Group students

Tariff and Russell Group variables were controlled for individually opposed to in combination due to the limited size of the Unite Foundation Scholarship student population.

## Year to year programme progression (control testing)

Year to year programme progression metrics measured the percentage of students who progressed from one year of programme to the next within 2 academic years at UK HE providers. Sector figures show care leaver students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), at a statistically significantly lower percentage than non-care leaver students (10 vs 8 percentage points difference).

**Evidence from the overall population and controlled populations suggests that the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a positive impact on year to year progression, with the impact of the scholarship being most significant between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme.**

- Between 2012/13 and 2018/19, 275 Unite Foundation Scholarship students entered their first year of programme, 87% progressed to their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years). This percentage matched the non-care leaver population and was statistically significantly higher by 11 percentage points than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (76%)
- Between 2012/13 and 2018/19, 280<sup>10</sup> Unite Foundation Scholarship students entered their second year of programme, 86% progressed to their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this was statistically significantly higher by five percentage points than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%) and five percentage points lower than non-care leaver students (91%).
- When individually controlling for tariff and Russell Group students, Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) at a higher percentage compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network in all control populations.
- 1st to 2nd year of programme progression (within two academic years) appears to be where the Unite Foundation Scholarship has the largest impact. When individually controlling for tariff, and Russell Group students, the difference to all other care leaver student groups was the largest compared to all other metrics.
- The overall population and majority of controlled Unite Foundation Scholarship student populations demonstrated the slowing progression percentage between 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme.
- The slowing in progression is very likely the result of the high progression percentage seen between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme, this leads to a larger proportion of the Unite Foundation Scholarship students who entered 1<sup>st</sup> year reaching their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme compared to other student groups. Because of this it would be unrealistic to expect progression rate to increase as seen in other comparator groups.

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<sup>10</sup> This figure increased from the number in first year programme due to some students receiving the Scholarship from second year of programme onwards.

## Three year completion (control testing)

The three year completion metric measured the number of students who successfully completed their first degree within three academic years at UK HE providers (excluding Scotland). Limitations of the number of years the Unite Foundation Scholarship has been delivered, and the cohort size in earlier years of the scholarship prevented 4 or 5 year completion percentages being possible. Sector figures show care leaver students completed a first degree within three years at a statistically significantly lower percentage than non-care leaver students (15 percentage points difference). This was the largest disparity between care leaver and non-care leaver students.

**Evidence from the overall population and controlled populations suggest that the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a positive impact on a student's 3 year completion percentage.**

- Between 2012/13 and 2017/18, 200 Unite Foundation Scholarship students entered their first year of programme, 71% completed a first degree within three years. This percentage was statistically significantly higher by 11 percentage points than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (60%) and six percentage points lower than non-care leaver students.
- When individually controlling for tariff and Russell Group students, Unite Foundation Scholarship students had a higher 3 year completion percentage compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network in all but one controlled population. The exception to this was Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students who completed a first degree within three years five percentage points lower.

## Good honours degree (control testing)

The good honours degree metric measured the percentage of first degree students who achieved first or upper second class honours, referred to as a 'good honours' degree at UK HE providers. Sector figures show care leaver students achieved a good honours degree at a statistically significantly lower percentage than non-care leaver students (10 percentage points difference).

**Evidence from the overall population and controlled populations suggests that the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a positive impact on student first degree outcomes.**

- Between 2012/13 and 2020/21, 185 Unite Foundation Scholarship students qualified with a classified first degree, and 78% achieved a good honour's degree. This percentage was statistically significantly higher by six percentage points than other care leaver groups inside of the Foundation HE provider network (72%) and three percentage points lower than non-care leaver students.
- When individually controlling for tariff and Russell Group students, Unite Foundation Scholarship students had a higher percentage of good honours degrees compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network in all but one of the controlled populations. The exception was Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students who achieved good honours degrees three percentage points lower.

## Other findings

**When individually controlling for tariff and Russell Group students, a theme that emerged from the analysis was the greater impact of the Unite Foundation Scholarship on lower achieving groups, specifically low tariff and non-Russell Group students.**

- Unite Foundation Scholarship students had a higher performance of low tariff over high tariff students in 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme progression (within two academic years), and 3 year completion percentage. Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see this trend.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students had a higher performance of non-Russell Group over Russell Group students in 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme progression (within two academic years), and 3 year completion percentage. Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see this trend.
- Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only controlled population to be outperformed by other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network, in 3 year completion and good honours percentage rates.

# Appendix 1

Figure 11 shows:

- Female students' performance was statistically significantly higher than males in all four metrics by between three and six percentage points.
- High tariff students' performance was statistically significantly higher than low tariff students in all four metrics by between four and nine percentage points.
- Russell Group students' performance was statistically significantly higher than non-Russell Group students in all four metrics by between six and 12 percentage points.

Figure 11 - Summary of all four performance metrics comparing sex (male/ female), tariff (high and low) and Russell Group students (Russell Group/ Non-Russell Group)

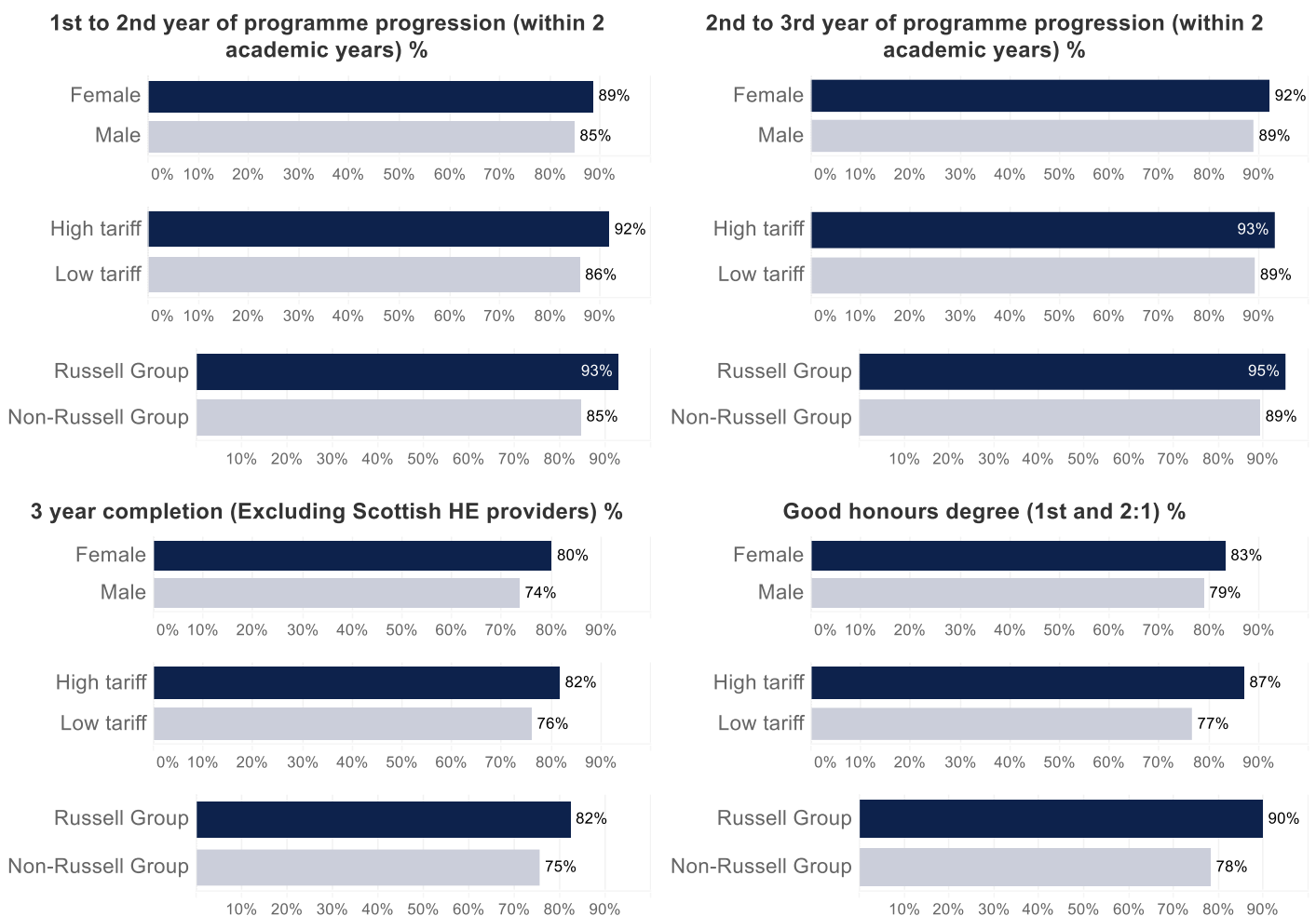


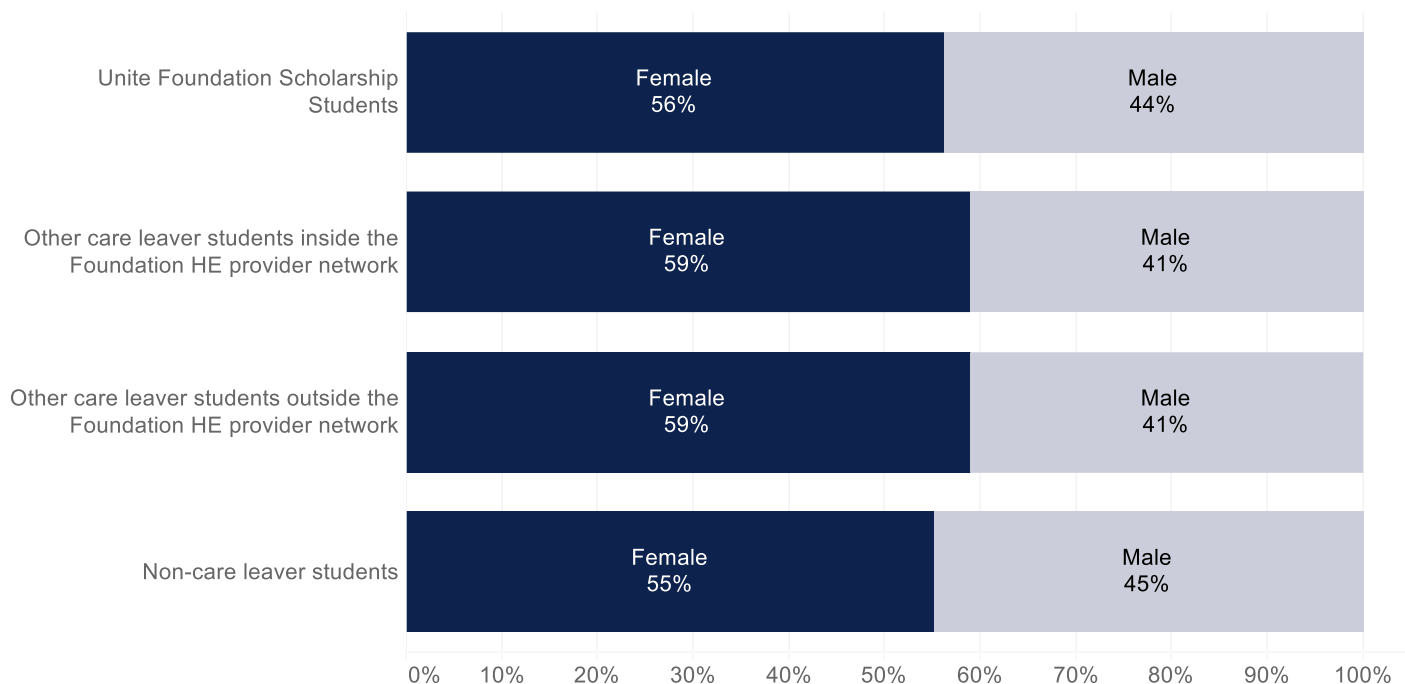
Figure 12 shows:

- 56% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students were female, compared to 59% in both other care leaver student groups.
- 55% of non-care leaver students were female.

**Figure 12 shows the percentage of Unite Foundation Scholarships students who were female is three percentage points lower than their key comparator, other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

Considering the higher performance of female students in all four performance metrics highlighted in Figure 11, Figure 12 suggests sex is not a factor contributing to the higher performance of Unite Foundation Scholarship students compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.

Figure 12 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2020/21 students)

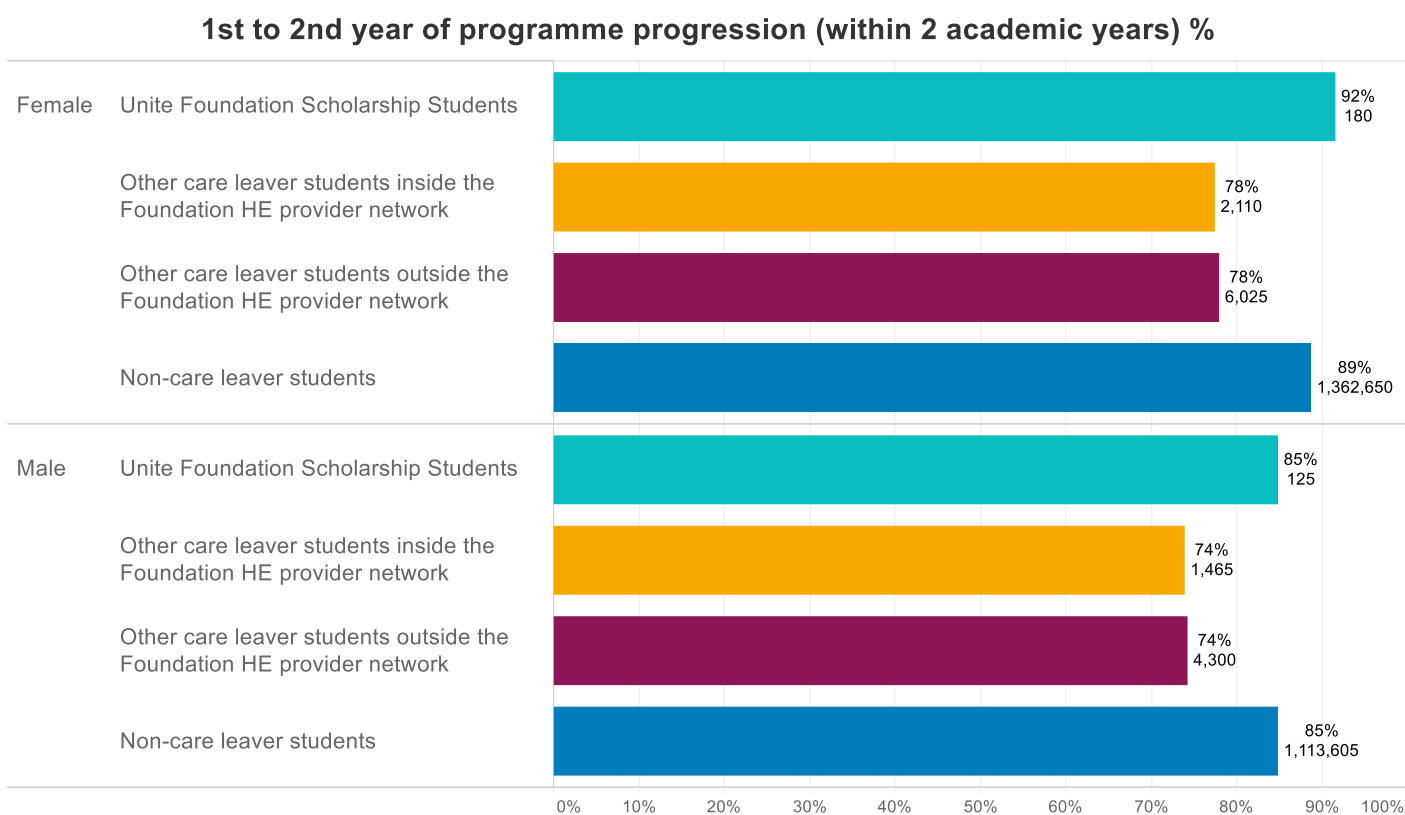




**Figure 13 shows a higher percentage of male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 92% of female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is 14 percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (78%).
- 85% of male Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is 11 percentage points higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (74%)
- 89% of female non-care leaver students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is three percentage points lower than female Unite Foundation Scholarship students (92%)
- 85% of male non-care leaver students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is the same percentage as male Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) seven percentage points higher than male - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.

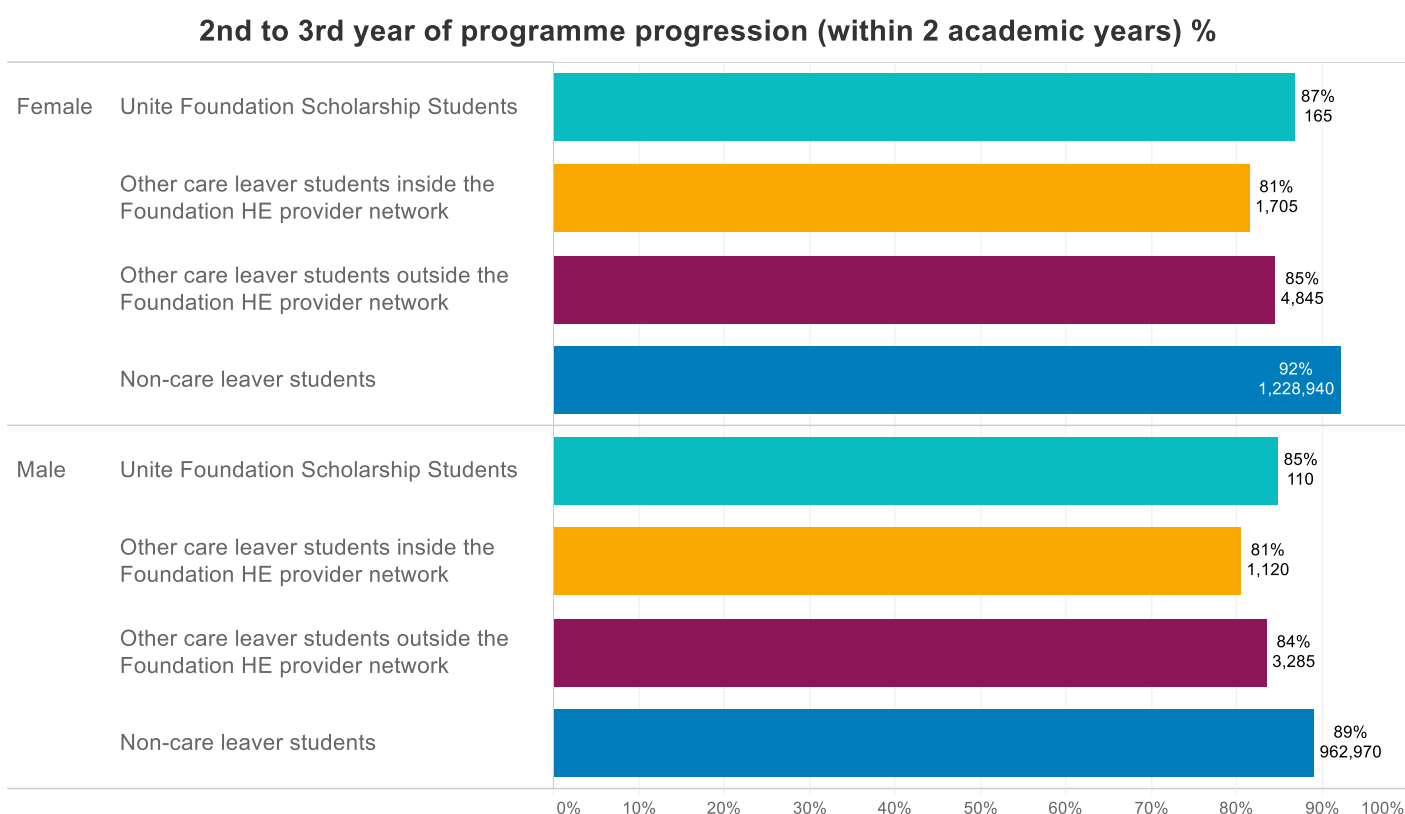
Figure 13 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)



**Figure 14 shows a higher percentage of male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 87% of female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is six percentage points higher than female other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%).
- 85% of male Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is four percentage points higher than male other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%).
- 92% of female non-care leaver students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is five percentage points higher than female Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 89% of male non-care leaver students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is four percentage points higher than male Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Male Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) at the same percentage (85%). Female Unite Foundation Scholarship student's 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> (92%) to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (87%) year of programme progression dropped by five percentage points.
- Female Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) by two percentage points higher than male Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.

Figure 14 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)

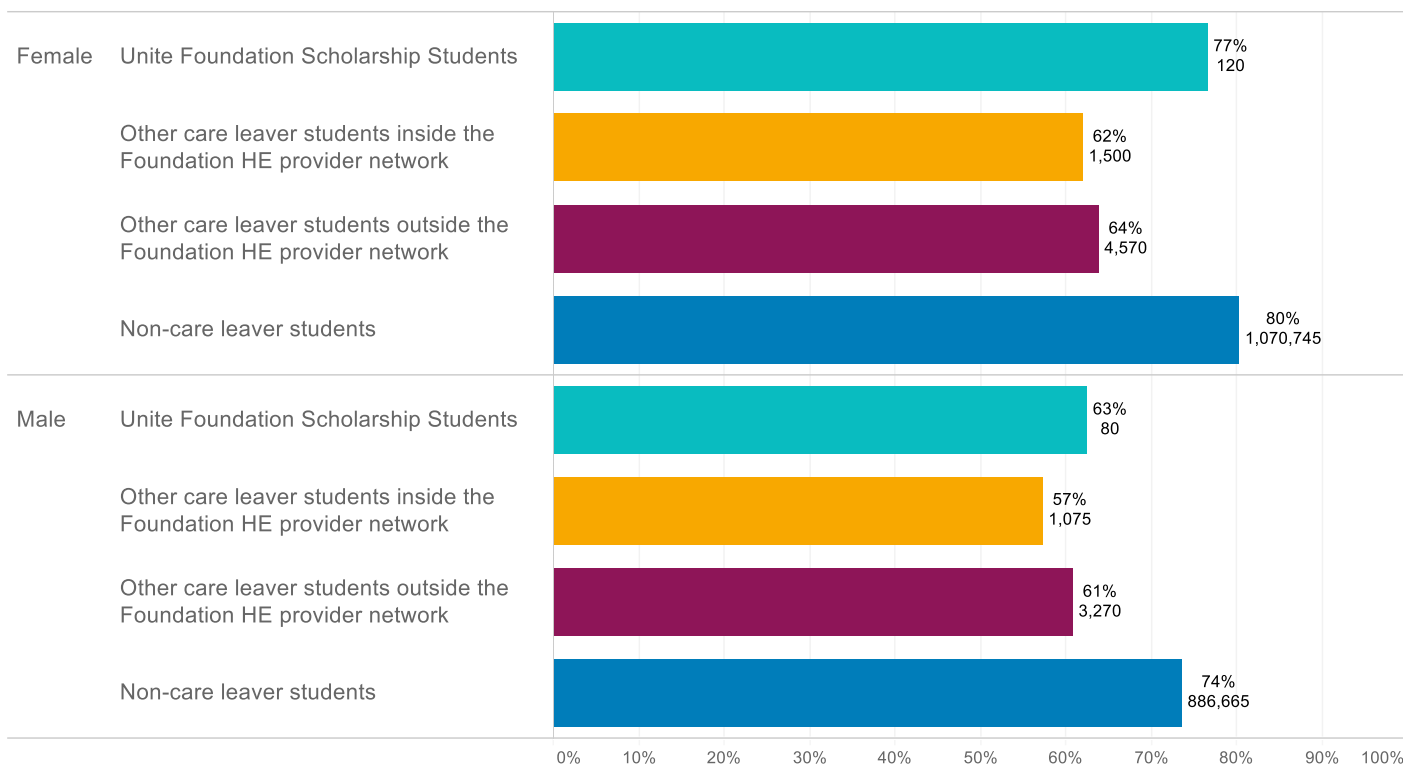


**Figure 15 shows a higher percentage of male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 77% of female Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is 13 percentage points higher than female other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (62%).
- 63% of male Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is six percentage points higher than male other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (57%).
- 80% of female non-care leaver students completed a first degree within three years, this is three percentage points higher than female Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 74% of male non-care leaver students completed a first degree within three years, this is 11 percentage points higher than male Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Female Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years six percentage points higher than male Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.
- The 3 year completion metric represents the largest disparity in performance between male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students at 14 percentage points.

Figure 15 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrants)

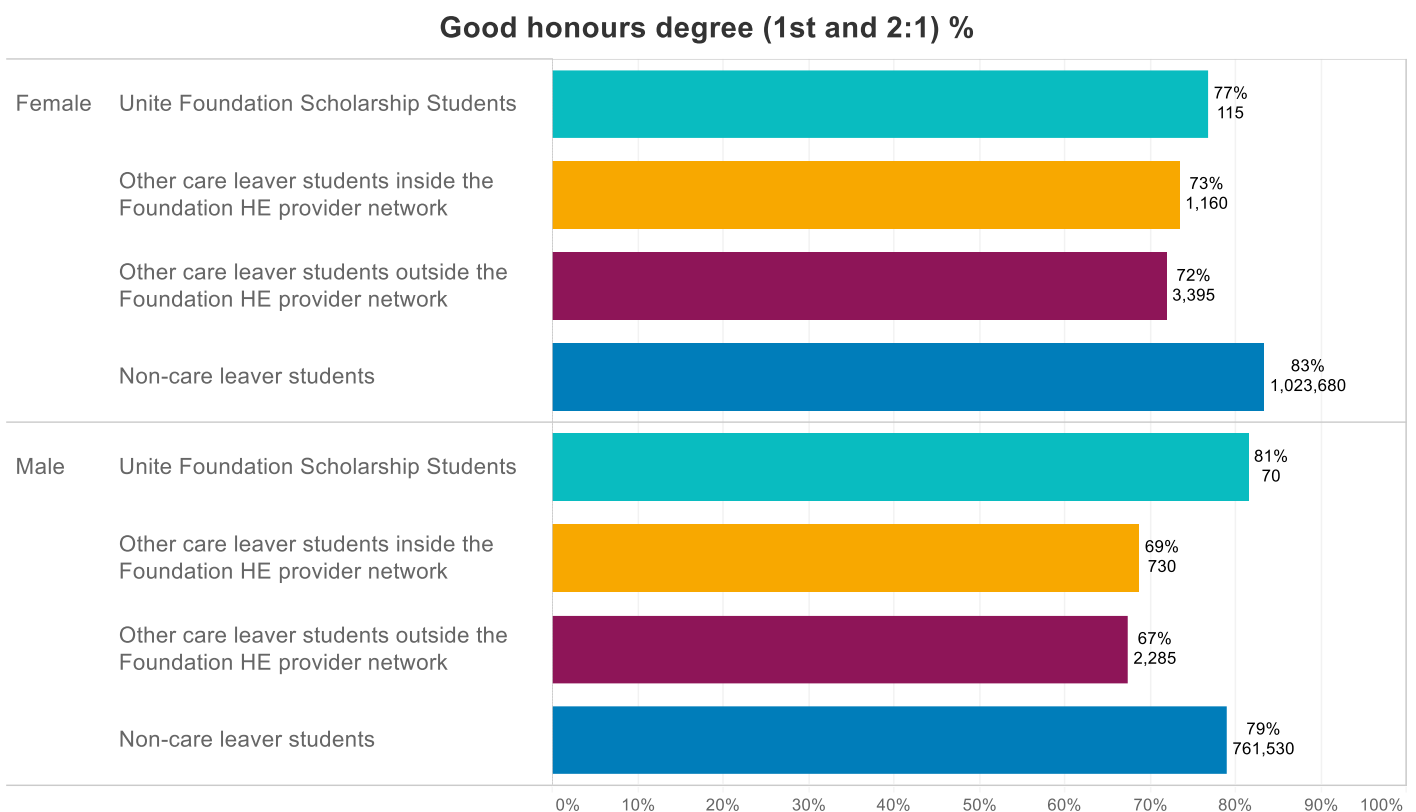
### 3 year completion (Excluding Scottish HE providers) %



**Figure 16 shows a higher percentage of both male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 77% of female Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree, this is four percentage points higher than female other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (73%).
- 81% of male Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree, this is 12 percentage points higher than male other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (69%).
- 79% of male non-care leaver students achieved a good honours degree, this is two percentage points lower than male Unite Foundation Scholarship students (81%).
- 83% of female non-care leaver students achieved a good honours degree, this is six percentage points higher than female Unite Foundation Scholarship students (77%).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see a higher percentage of good honours degrees for male students compared to female by four percentage points.

Figure 16 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and sex (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)



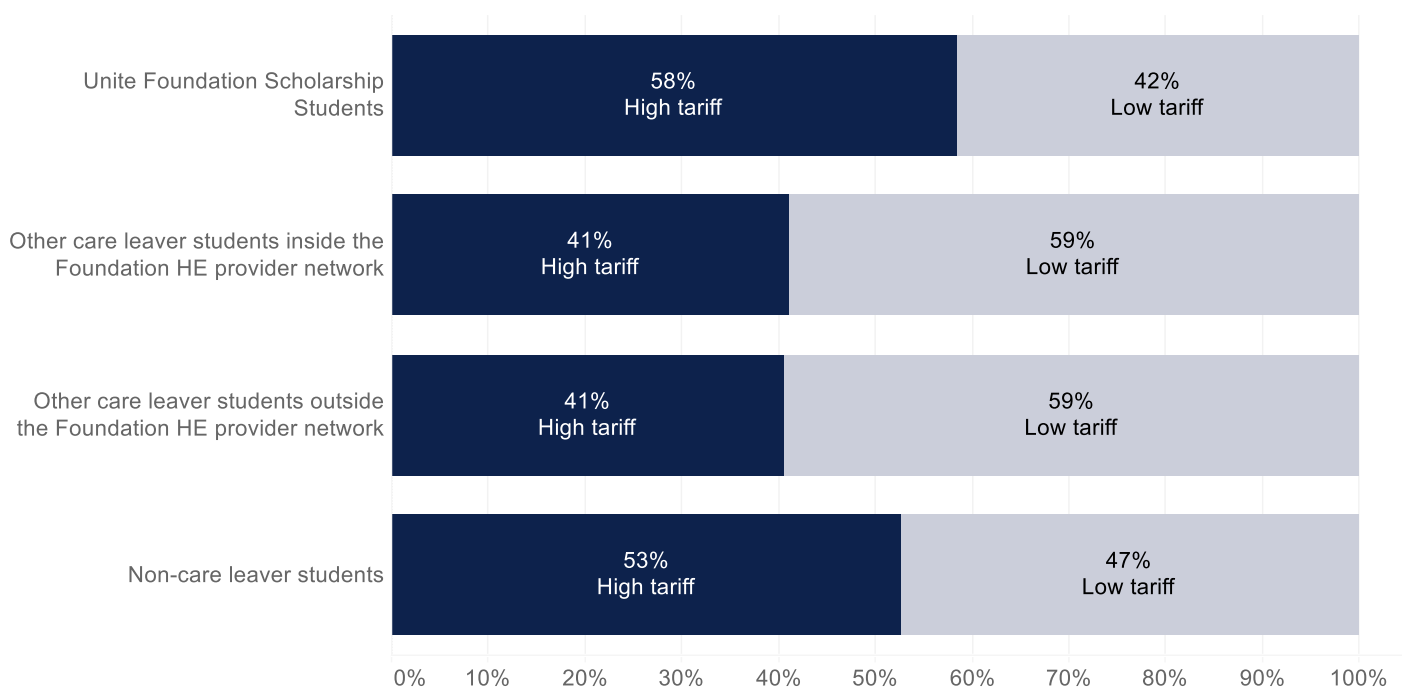
Figures 13-16 shows when controlling for sex, both male and female Unite Foundation Scholarship students perform higher than other care leavers groups inside the Foundation HE provider network in all four performance metrics. This further supports evidence that the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a positive impact on student performance regardless of sex. Figures 13 – 16 also suggest the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a similar impact on both male and female students.

Figure 17 shows:

- 58% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students had a high tariff score on entry to HE (high tariff students), compared to 41% in both other care leaver student groups.
- 53% of non-care leaver students had a high tariff score on entry to HE Figure 17 shows the percentage of high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarships students is 17 percentage points higher than their key comparator, other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.

Considering the higher performance of high tariff students in all four performance metrics highlighted in Figure 11, Figure 17 suggests the percentage of high tariff students may contribute to the higher performance of Unite Foundation Scholarship students compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.

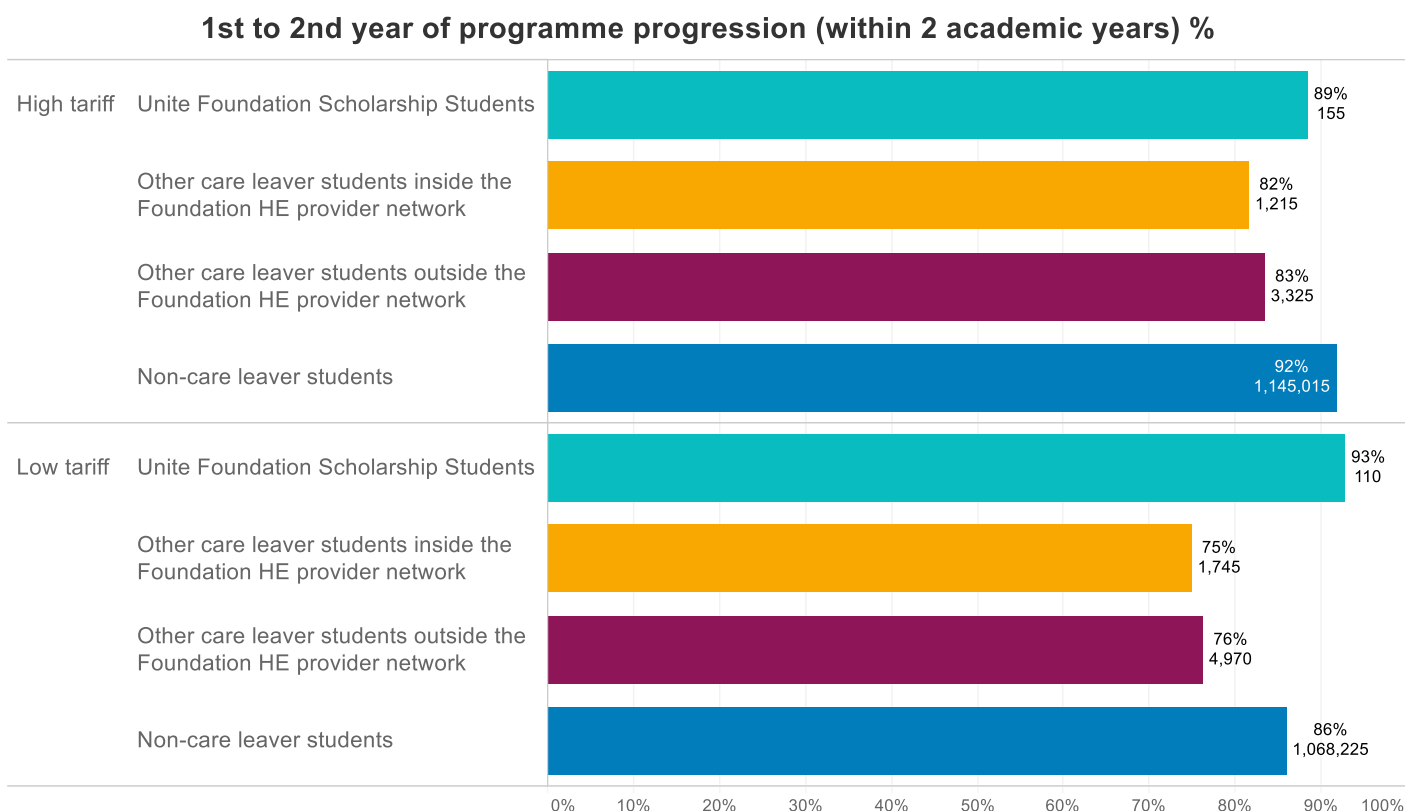
Figure 17 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2020/21 students)



**Figure 18 shows a higher percentage of high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 89% of high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year (within two academic years), this is seven percentage points higher than high tariff other care leaver students in the Foundation HE provider network (82%).
- 93% of low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year (within two academic years), this is 18 percentage points higher than low tariff other care leaver students in the Foundation HE provider network (75%).
- 92% of high tariff non-care leaver students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year (within two academic years), this is three percentage points higher than high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 86% of low tariff non-care leaver students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year (within two academic years), this is seven percentage points lower than low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see a higher percentage of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of progression (within two academic years) for low tariff students compared to high tariff by four percentage points.

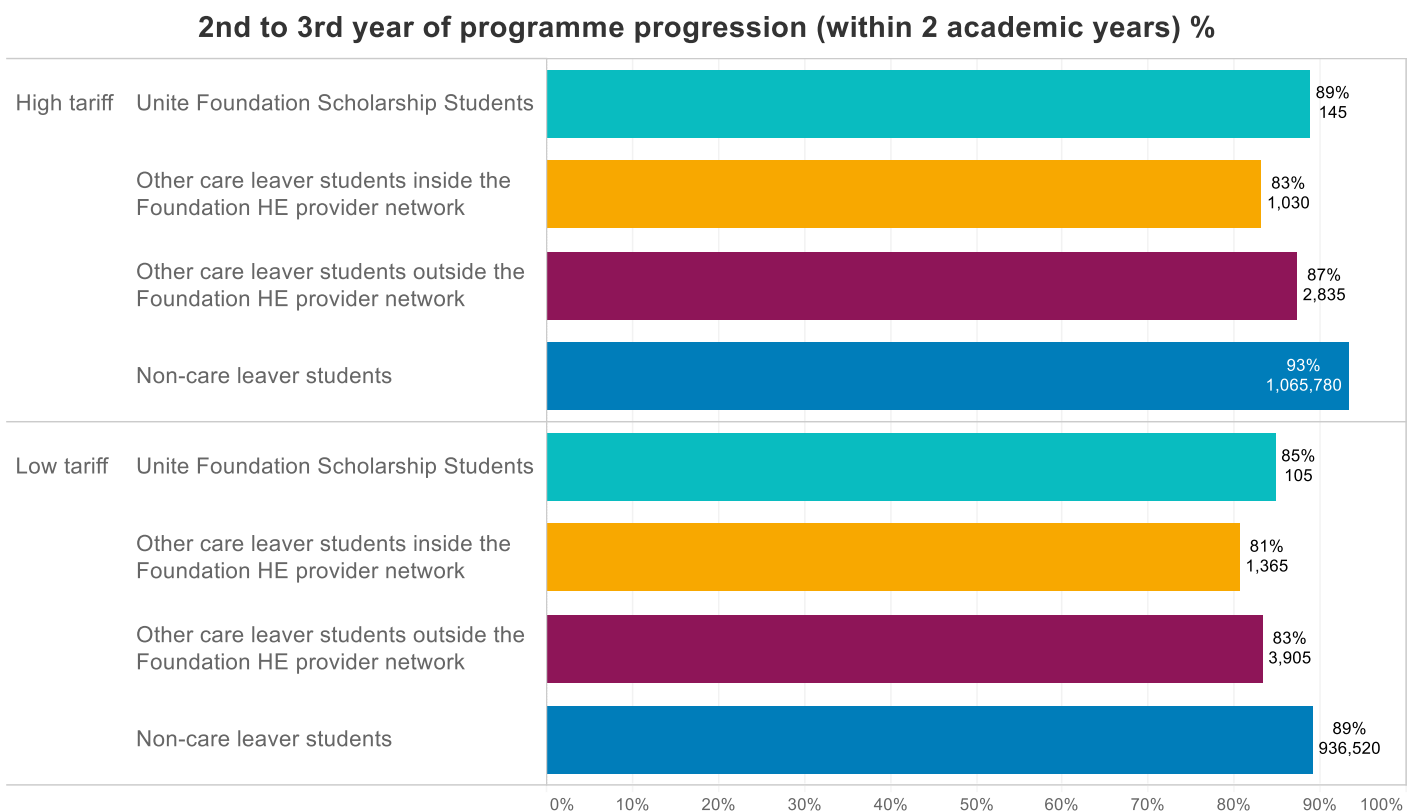
Figure 18 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)



**Figure 19 shows a higher percentage of high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 89% of high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is six percentage points higher than high tariff other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (83%).
- 85% of low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is four percentage points higher than low tariff other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%).
- Both high (93%) and low (85%) tariff non-care leaver student progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) four percentage points higher than high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- High tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) at the same percentage (89%). Low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship student's 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> (93%) to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (85%) year of programme progression dropped by eight percentage points.
- High tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) four percentage points higher than low tariff Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.

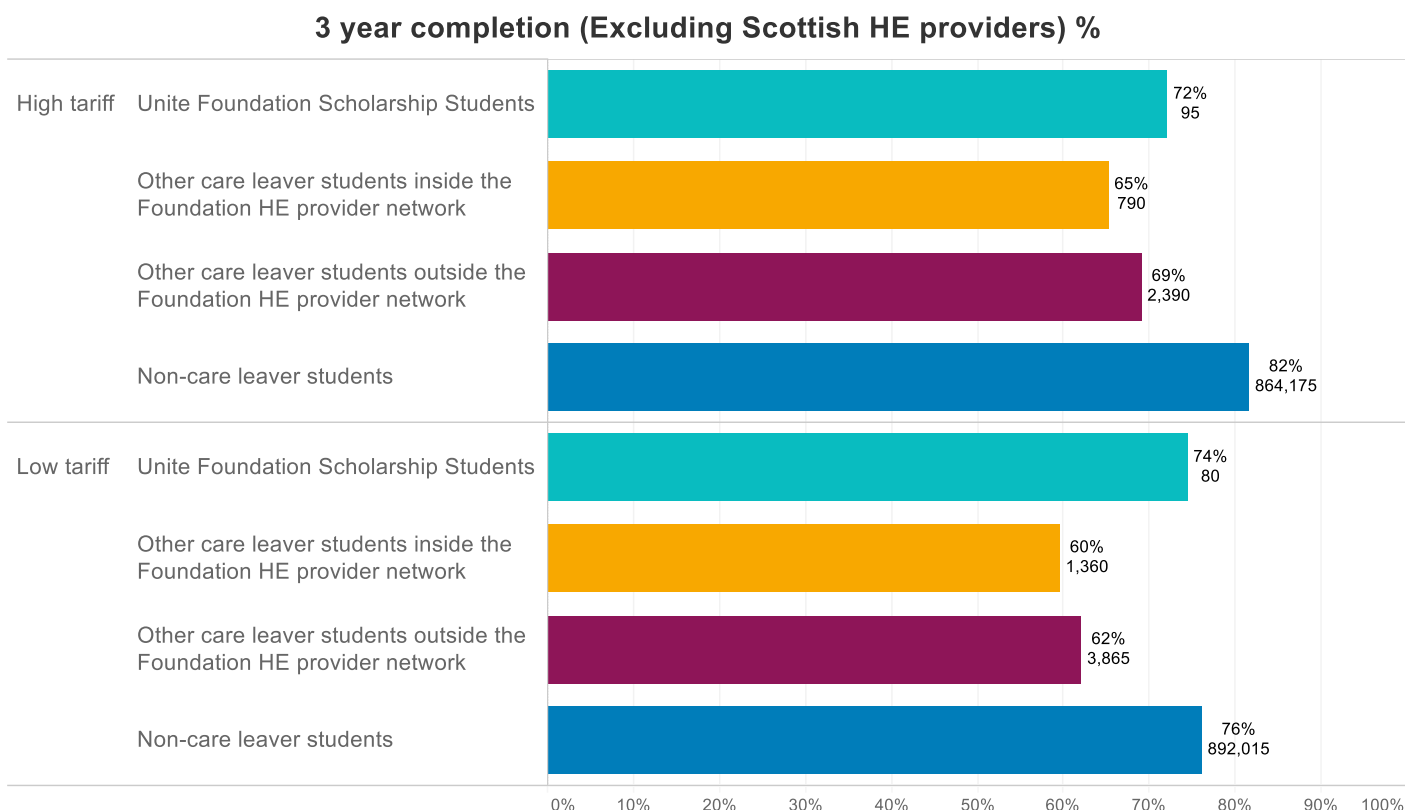
Figure 19 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)



**Figure 20 shows a higher percentage of high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 72% of high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is seven percentage points higher than high tariff other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (65%).
- 74% of low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is 14 percentage points higher than low tariff other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (60%).
- 82% of high tariff non-care leaver students completed a first degree within three years, this is 10 percentage points higher than high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 76% of low tariff non-care leaver students completed a first degree within three years, this is two percentage points higher than low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see a higher 3 year completion percentage for low tariff students compared to high tariff by two percentage points.

Figure 20 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)

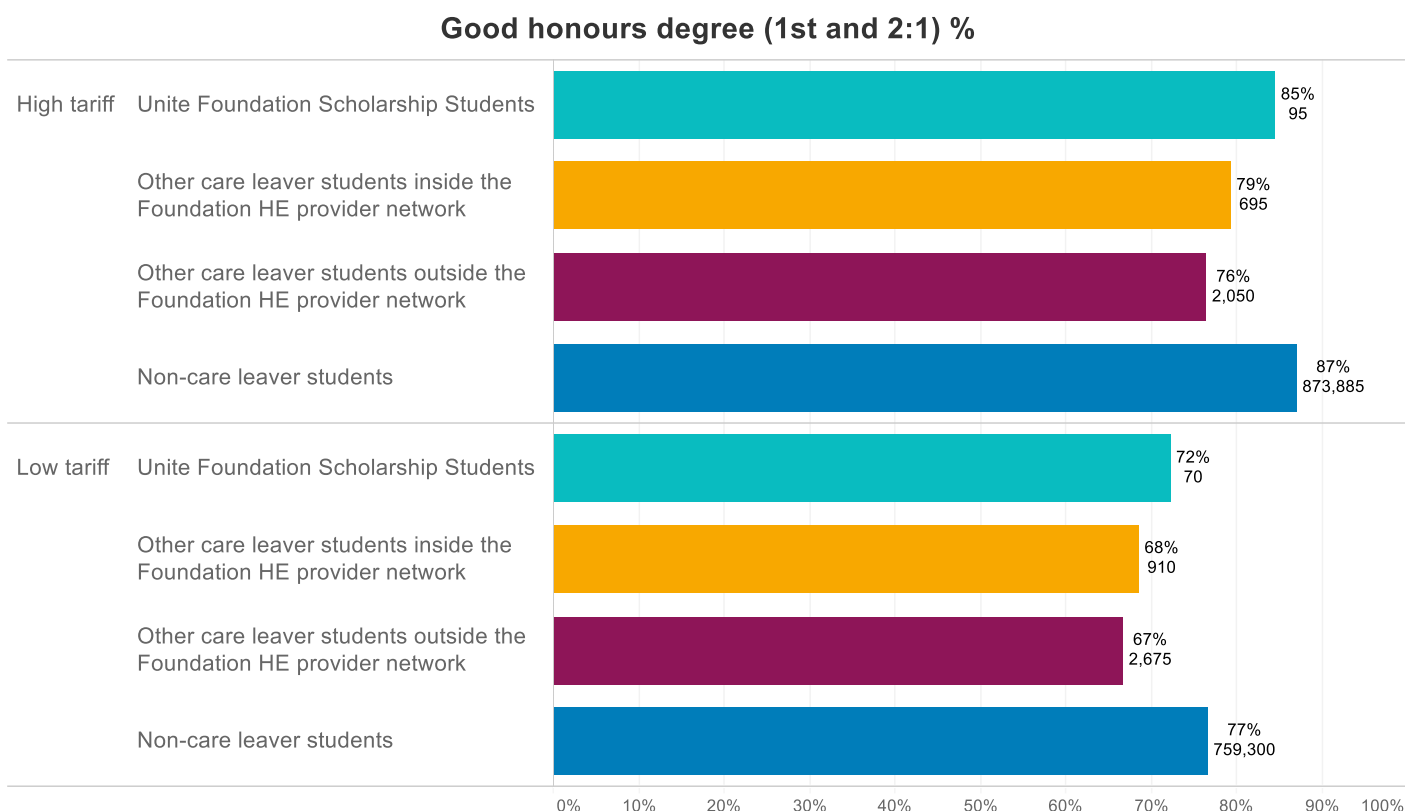




**Figure 21 shows a higher percentage of high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 85% of high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree, this is six percentage points higher than high tariff other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (79%)
- 72% of low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree, this is four percentage points higher than low tariff other care leaver students in the Foundation HE provider network (68%)
- 87% of high tariff non-care leavers achieved a good honours degree, this is two percentage points higher than high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 77% of low tariff non-care leavers achieved a good honours degree, this is five percentage points higher than low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- High tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree 13 percentage points higher than low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.
- The good honours degree percentage metric represents the largest disparity in performance between high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students at 13 percentage points.

Figure 21 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and tariff marker (high/low) (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)



Figures 17- 21 shows when controlling for tariff, high and low tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students perform higher than other care leavers inside the Foundation HE provider network in all four performance metrics. This further supports evidence that the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a positive impact on student performance regardless of a student's entry tariff.

Figures 17-21 also suggest the Unite Foundation Scholarship has a higher impact on low tariff compared to high tariff students. This is evidenced by low tariff students having a higher 3 year completion and 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) progression percentage compared to high tariff students. Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only student group to see this trend.

The Russell Group is a self-selected group of HE providers and often have higher entry tariff requirements than other HE providers which leads to a higher tariff student population. 85% of Russell Group UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry were high tariff students compared to only 40% of Non-Russell Group. For this reason, we would expect a similar metric performance in metrics controlling for both Russell Group (Figures 23-26) and tariff (Figures 18-21).

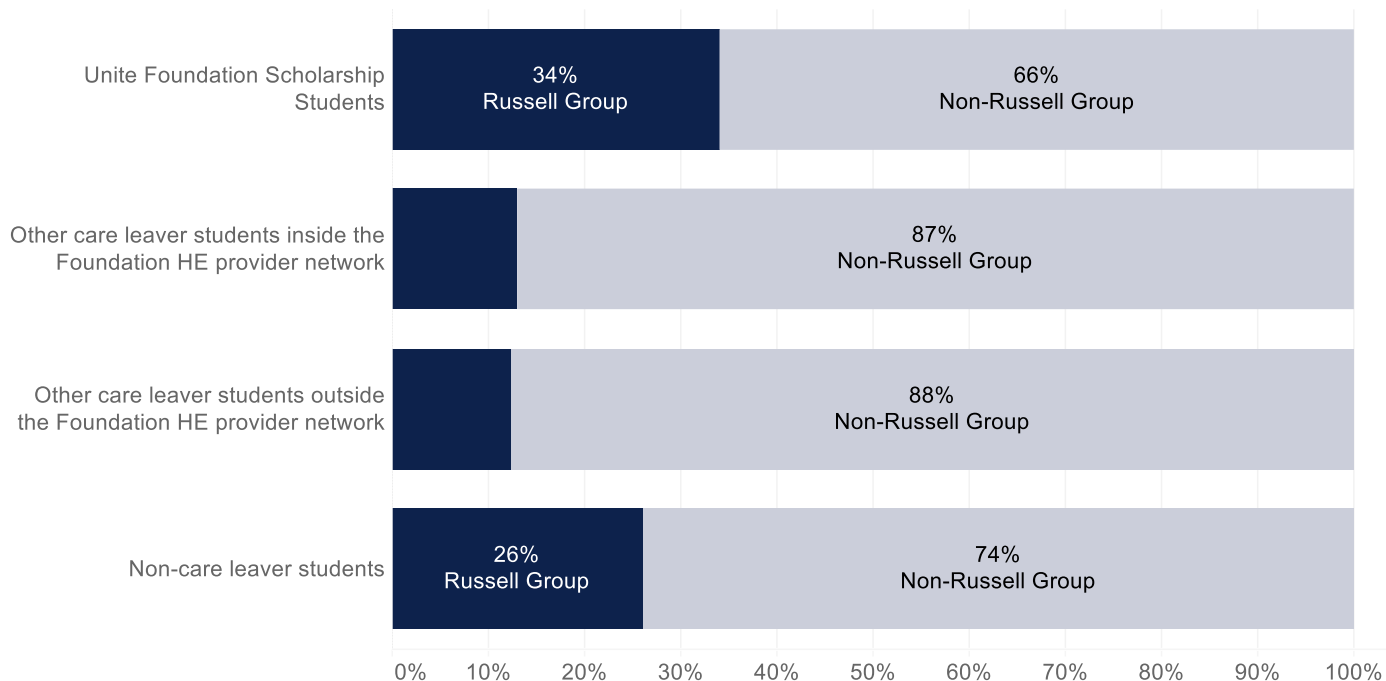
Figure 22 shows:

- 34% of Unite Foundation Scholarship students attended a Russell group HE provider, compared to 13% of other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network and 12% of other care leaver students outside the Foundation HE provider network
- 26% of non-care leaver students attended a Russell Group HE provider.

**Figure 22 shows the percentage of Unite Foundation Scholarships students who attended a Russell Group HE provider is 21 percentage points higher than their key comparator, other care leaver students in the Foundation HE provider network.**

Considering the higher performance of Russell Group students in all four performance metrics highlighted in Figure 11, Figure 22 suggests the percentage of students who attended a Russell Group HE provider is a likely factor contributing to the higher performance of Unite Foundation Scholarship students compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.

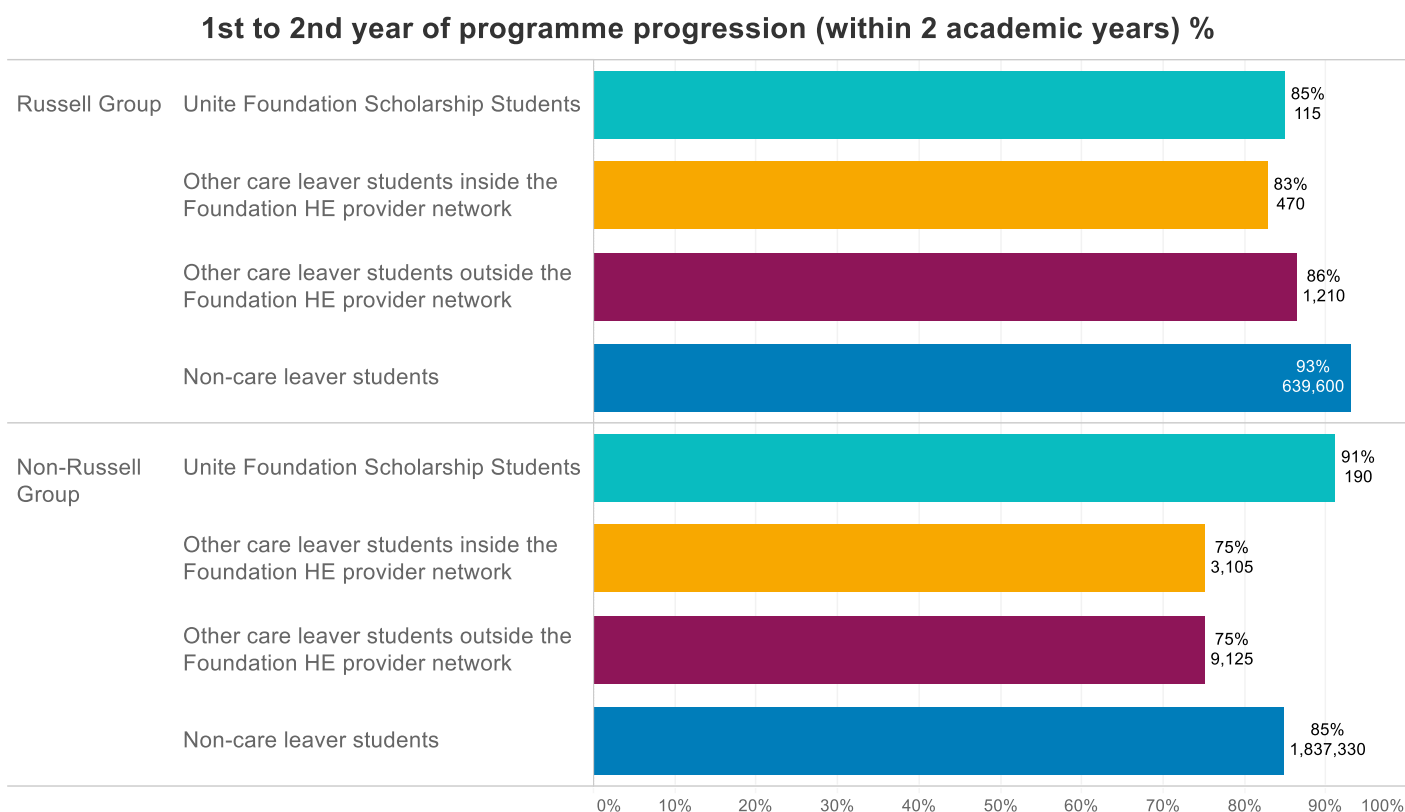
Figure 22 - UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 students combined)



**Figure 23 shows a higher percentage of Russell Group and non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 85% of Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is two percentage points higher than Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (83%).
- 91% of non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is 16 percentage points higher than non-Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (75%).
- 93% of Russell Group non-care leaver students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is eight percentage points higher than Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 85% of non-Russell Group non-care leaver students progressed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is six percentage points lower than non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only population to see a higher percentage of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of progression (within two academic years) for non-Russell Group students compared to Russell Group by six percentage points.

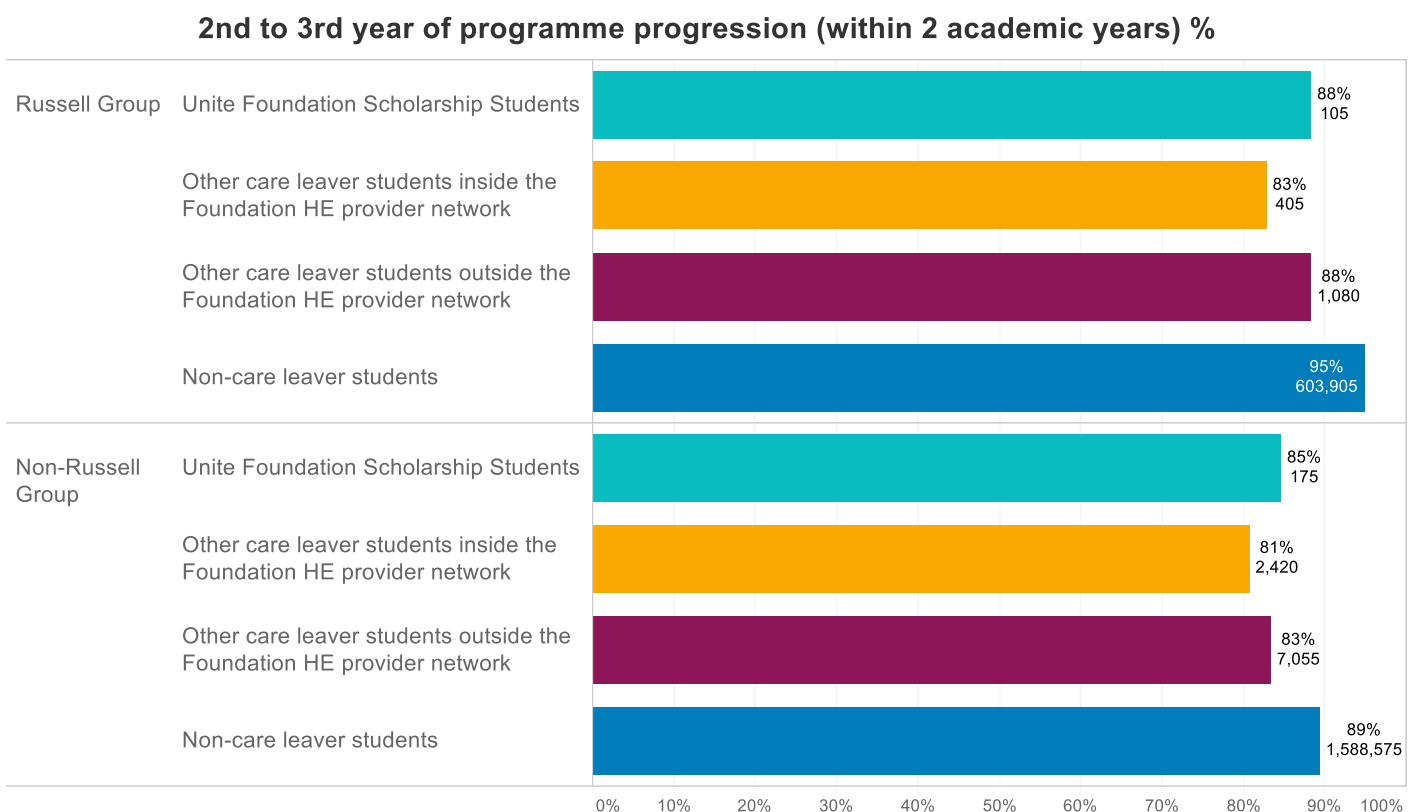
Figure 23 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)



**Figure 24 shows a higher percentage of Russell Group and non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 88% of Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is five percentage points higher than Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (83%).
- 85% of non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is four percentage points higher than non-Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (81%).
- 95% of Russell Group non-care leaver students progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is seven percentage points higher than Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students. 89% of non-Russell Group non-care leaver students progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years), this is four percentage points higher than non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship student's 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> (85%) to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (88%) year of programme progression (within two academic years) increased by three percentage points. Non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship student's 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> (91%) to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> (85%) year of programme progression (within two academic years) dropped by six percentage points.
- Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students progressed from their 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within two academic years) three percentage points higher than non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.

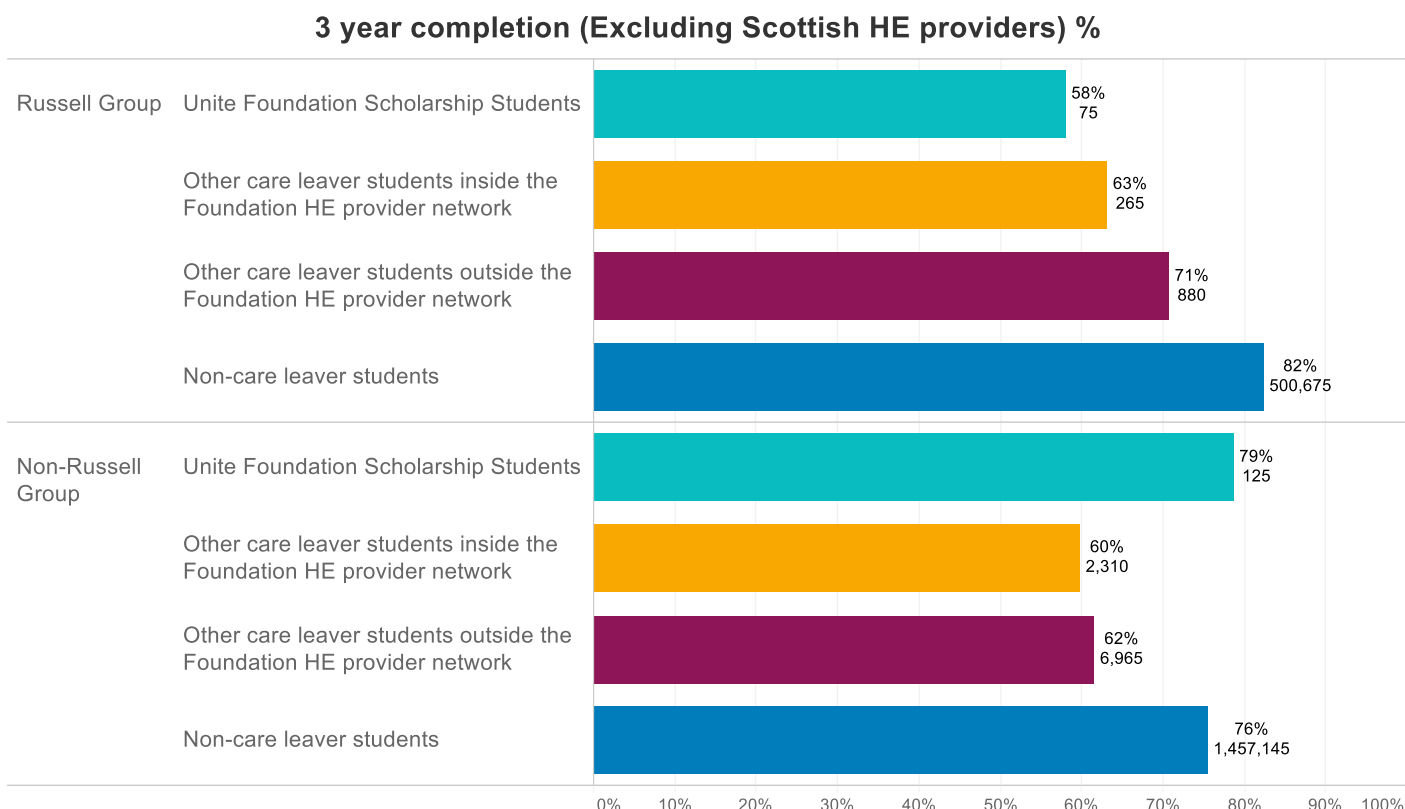
Figure 24 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme (within 2 academic years) by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)



**Figure 25 shows a higher percentage of non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years compared to all non-Russell Group comparator groups including non-care leavers.**

- 79% of non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is 19 percentage points higher than non-Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (60%) and three percentage points higher than non-Russell Group non-care leaver students (76%).
- 58% of Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students completed a first degree within three years, this is five percentage points lower than Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (63%) and 24 percentage points lower than Russell Group non-care leaver students (82%).
- Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the only population to see a higher 3 year completion percentage in non-Russell Group students compared to Russell Group by 21 percentage points.
- The 3 year completion metric represents the largest disparity in performance between Russell Group and non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students at 21 percentage points.

Figure 25 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)

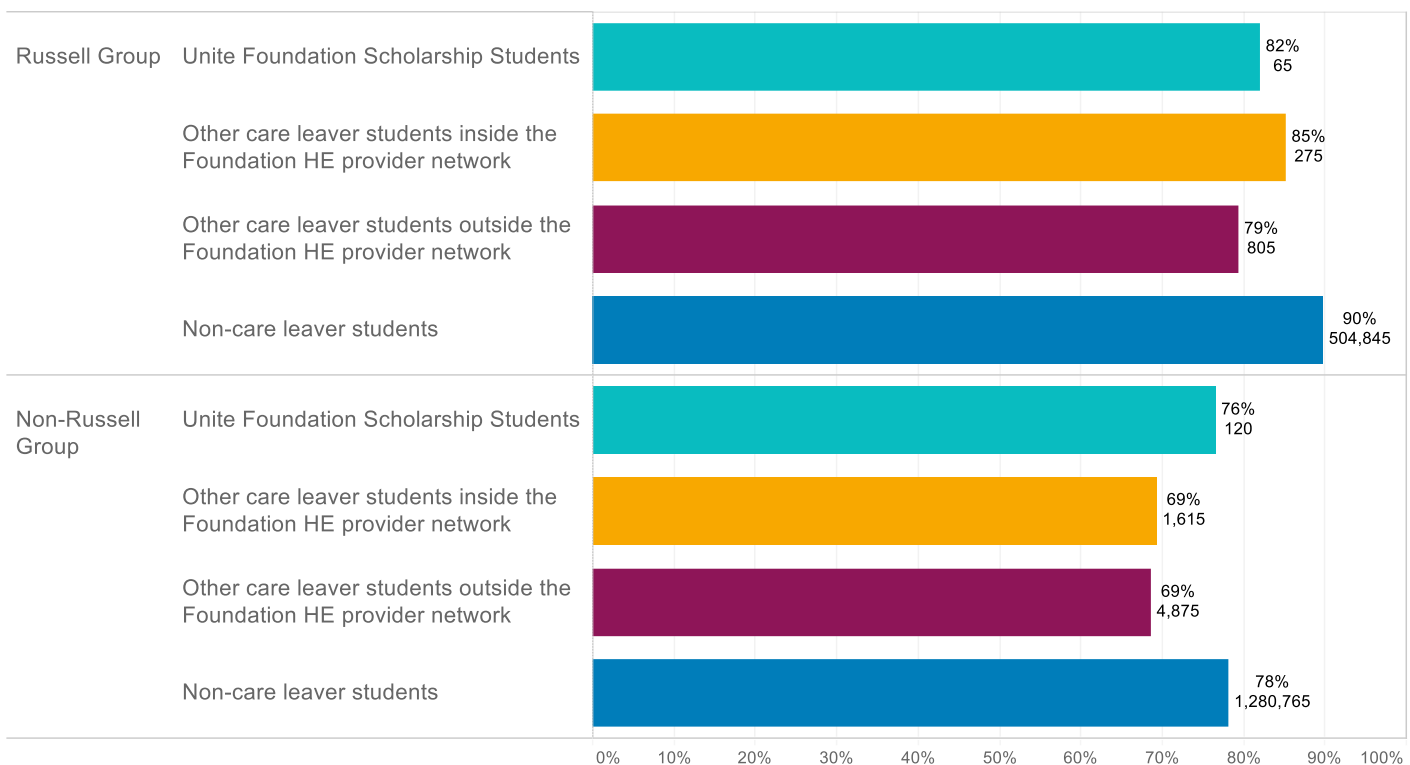


**Figure 26 shows a lower percentage of Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network.**

- 82% of Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved of good honours degree, this is three percentage points lower than Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (85%).
- 76% of non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved of good honours degree, this is seven percentage points higher than non-Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network (69%).
- 90% of Russell Group non-care leaver students achieved of good honours degree, this is eight percentage points higher than Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- 78% of non-Russell Group non-care leaver students achieved a good honours degree, this is two percentage points higher than non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students.
- Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students achieved a good honours degree six percentage points higher than non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students - this matches the overall trend shown in all 3 comparator groups.

Figure 26 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by comparator groups and Russell Group marker (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)

**Good honours degree (1st and 2:1) %**



Figures 23-26 show that when controlling for Russell Group and non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students, Russell Group students performed higher in both 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of programme progression but lower in both good honours and 3 year completion percentages compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network. Non-Russell Group Unite students performed higher in all four metrics compared to other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network. This evidence suggests Unite Foundation Scholarship has a higher impact on non-Russell group students compared to Russell Group students. This is further supported by non-Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students having a higher 3 year completion and 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year of programme progression percentage compared to Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students. Unite Foundation Scholarship students were the student group to see this trend.

Figures 17 – 21 show that in all four metrics high tariff Unite Foundation Scholarship students performed higher than other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network. Considering the relationship between high tariff and Russell Group students, we would have expected all Russell Group Unite Foundation Scholarship students to perform higher than Russell Group other care leaver students inside the Foundation HE provider network. However, in both 3 year completion and good honours percentage this was not the case. This suggests the educational experience at a Russell Group HE may be impacting on Unite Foundation Scholarship student performances.



# Appendix 2

Figure 27 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)

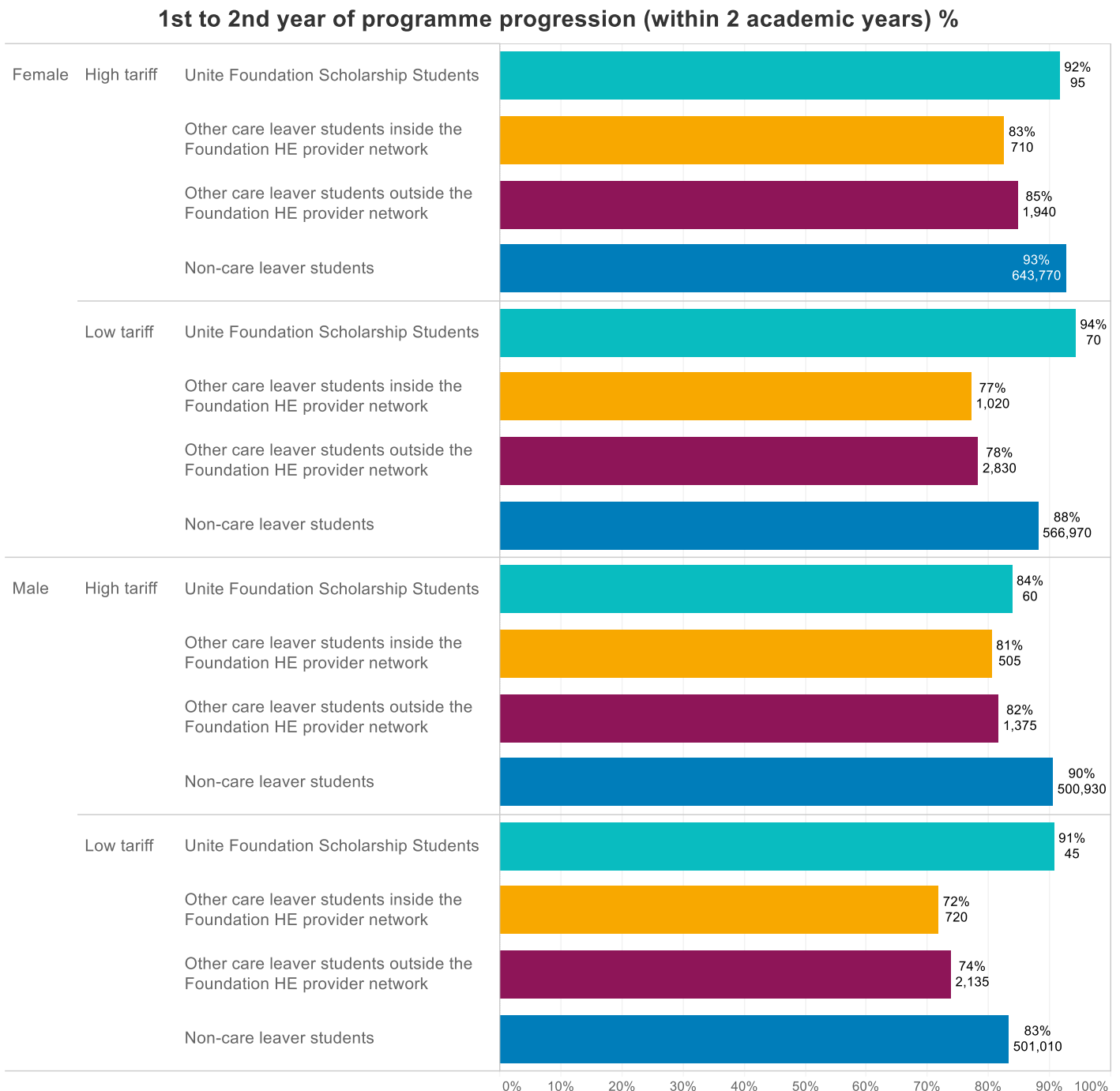


Figure 28 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 1st to 2nd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 first year of programme students)

**1st to 2nd year of programme progression (within 2 academic years) %**

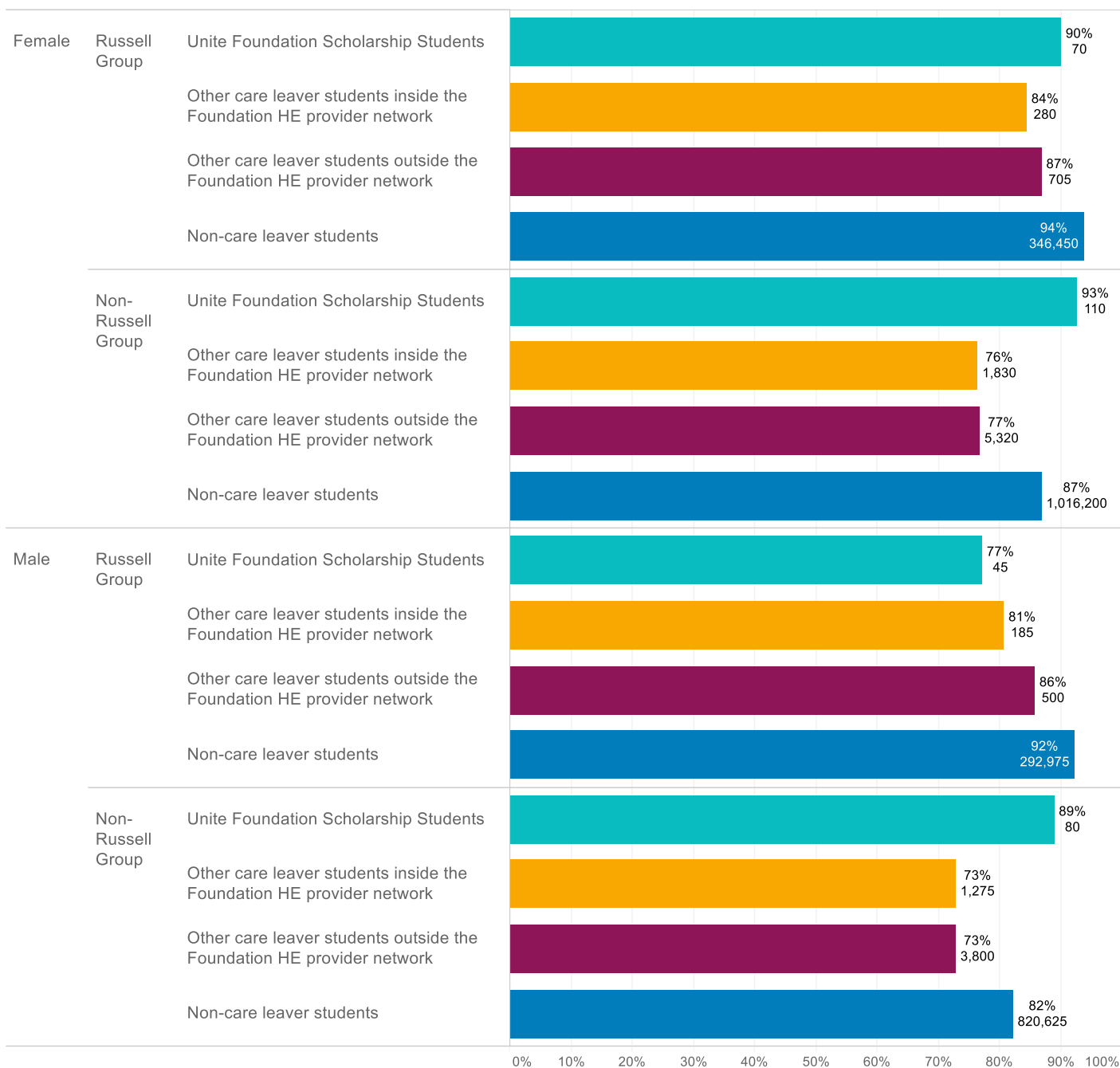


Figure 29 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)

### 2nd to 3rd year of programme progression (within 2 academic years) %



Figure 30 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who progressed from 2nd to 3rd year of programme (within 2 academic years) by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2018/19 second year of programme students)

### 2nd to 3rd year of programme progression (within 2 academic years) %

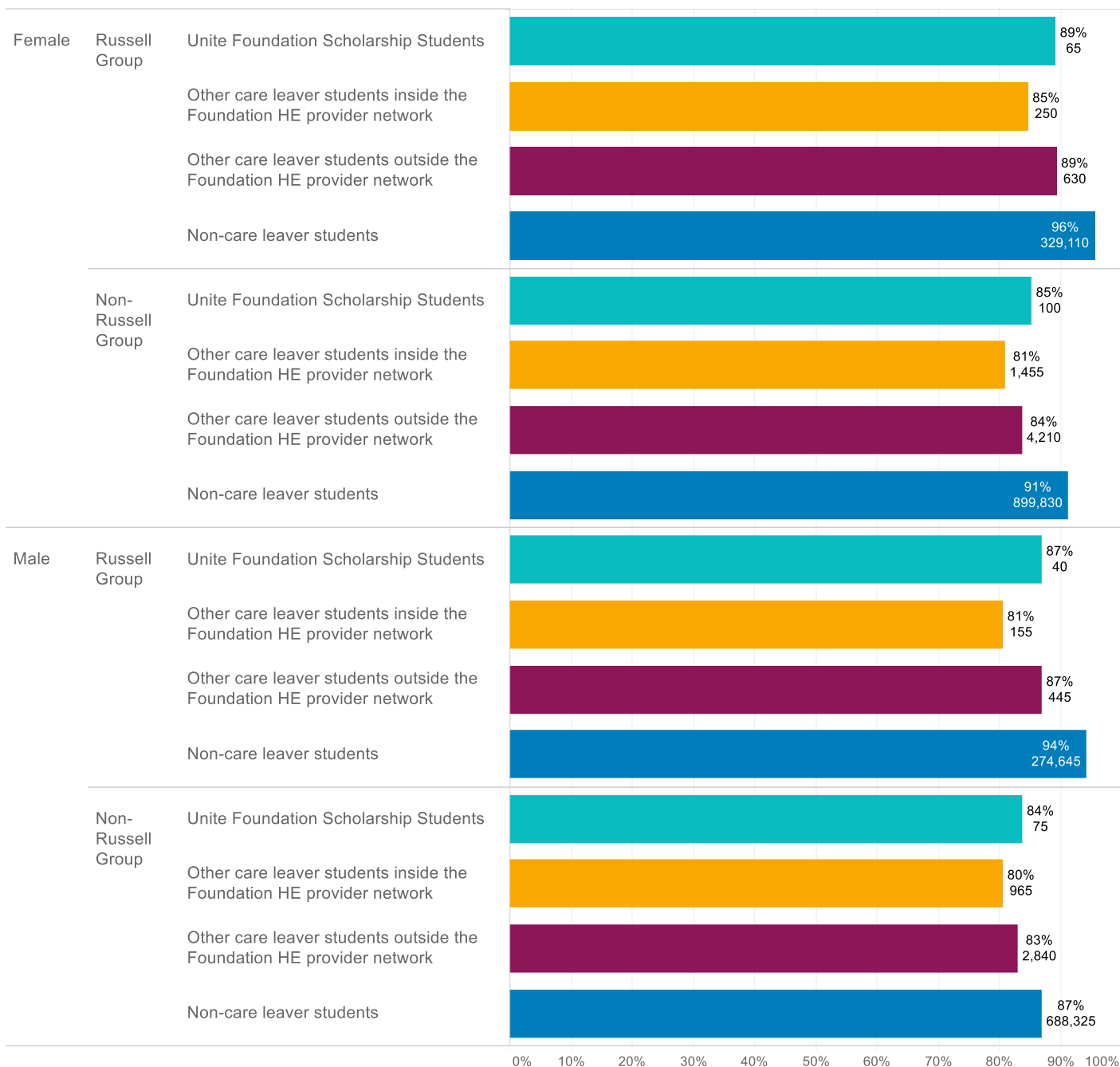


Figure 31 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)

### 3 year completion (Excluding Scottish HE providers) %

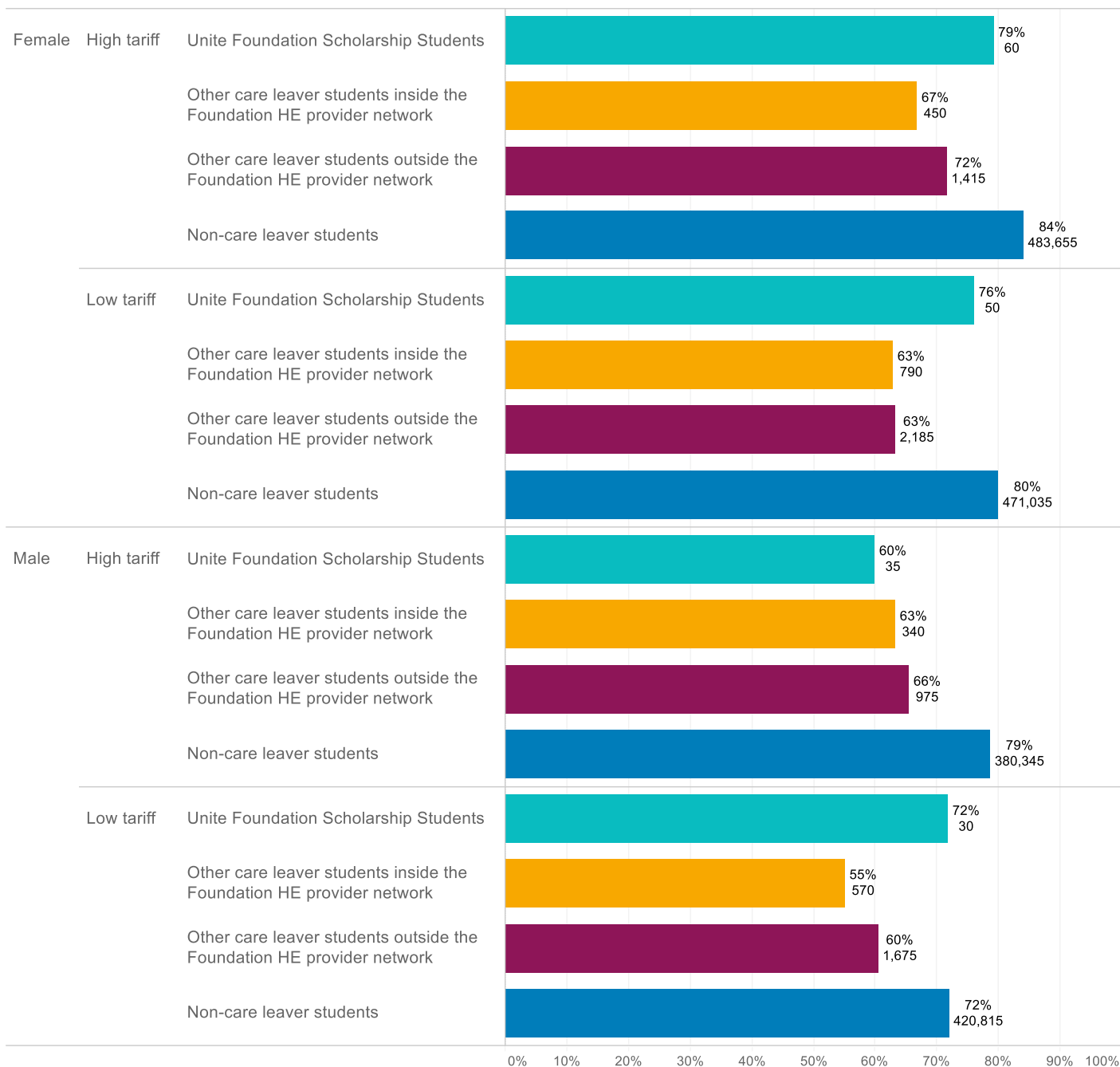


Figure 32 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who completed their first degree within 3 years by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2017/18 entrant students)

### 3 year completion (Excluding Scottish HE providers) %

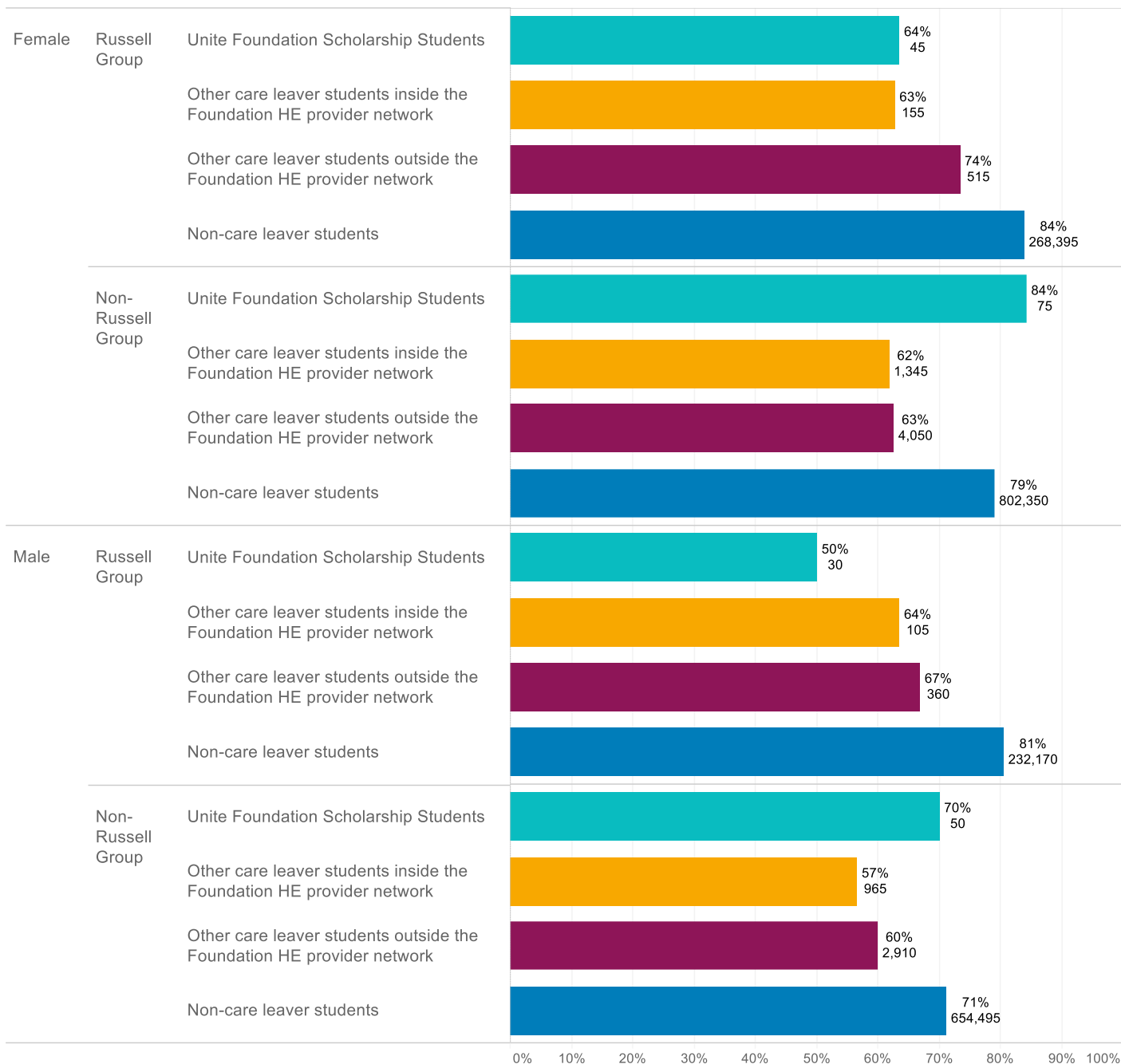


Figure 33 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by sex, tariff marker (high/low) and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)

### Good honours degree (1st and 2:1) %

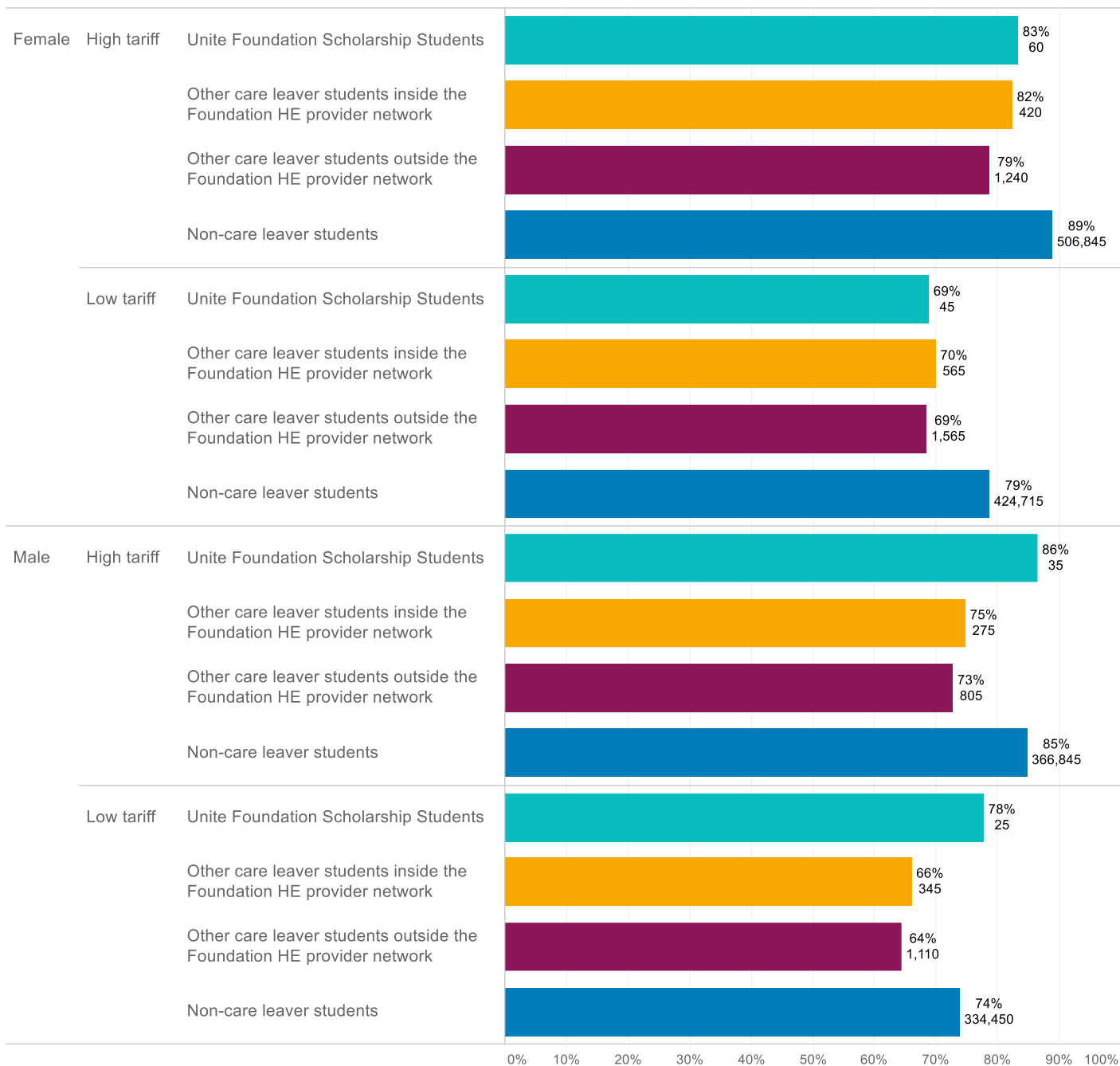
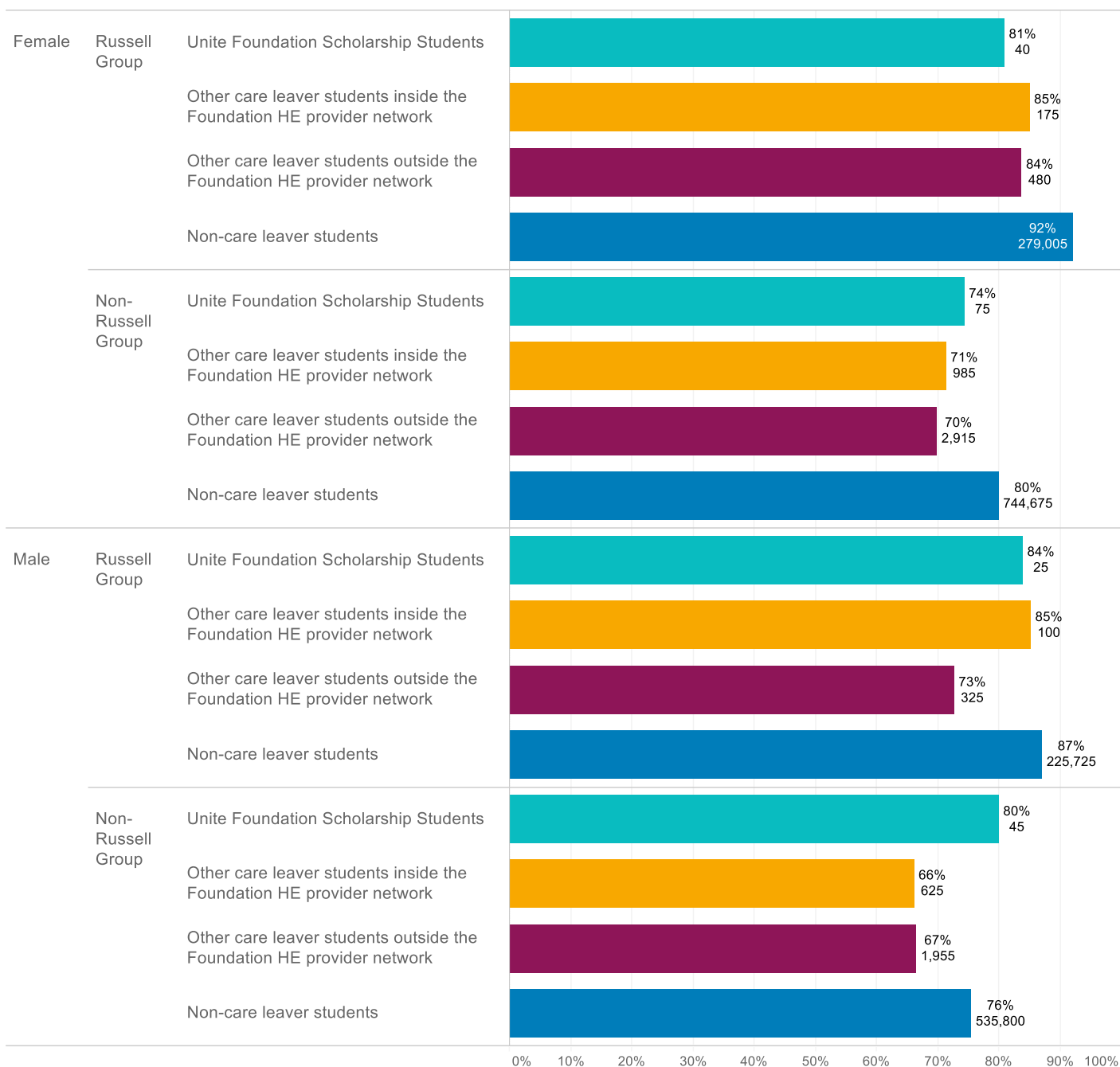


Figure 34 - Percentage of UK domiciled, full-time, first degree students who were 25 years or under on entry who achieved a good honours degree by sex, Russell Group marker and comparator groups (2012/13 to 2020/21 qualifier students)

### Good honours degree (1st and 2:1) %





# Definitions

## HESA student population

A count of the number of HE student instances active at a reporting HE provider in the reporting period 1 August to 31 July. Dormant students (those who have ceased studying but have not formally de-registered); incoming visiting and exchange students; students where the whole of the programme of study is outside of the UK; students on sabbatical, and writing-up students are excluded from the population.

## Higher education (HE) students

Students on courses for which the level of instruction is above that of level 3 of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) (e.g., courses at the level of Certificate of HE and above).

## Rounding strategy

HESA implements a strategy in published and released tabulations designed to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. This strategy involves rounding all numbers to the nearest multiple of 5. This rounding strategy is also applied to total figures, the consequence of which is that the sum of numbers in each row or column rarely matches the total shown precisely. Average values and proportions values prepared by HESA have been calculated on precise raw numbers. However, percentages calculated on populations which contain fewer than 22.5 FPE have been suppressed and represented as '.' as have averages based on populations of 7 or fewer. More information can be found here <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/students#rounding-and-suppression-strategy>.

## Full-time students

Those normally required to attend an HE provider for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of programme, on thick or thin sandwich courses, and those on a study-related year out of their HE provider. During that time students are normally expected to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week. For students and students this includes writing-up status where the mode of study was previously full-time and students changing to dormant status previously full-time.

## First degree

First degrees (including eligibility to register to practice with a health or social care or veterinary statutory regulatory body), first degrees with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)/registration with a General Teaching Council (GTC), enhanced first degrees, first degrees obtained concurrently with a diploma and intercalated first degrees.

## Classification of first degree

The class obtained from first degree qualifications. Certain qualifications obtained at first degree level are not subject to classification of award, notably medical and general degrees. These, together with ordinary degrees and aegrotat qualifications have been included within Unclassified. Third class honours, fourth class honours and the pass have been aggregated as Third class/pass. Lower second and undivided second class honours have been aggregated as Lower second class.

**Sex** – Where the data refers to sex this field records the sex of the student, as opposed to the gender with which they identify. This field includes the return 'Other', for students whose sex aligns with terms such as intersex, androgyne, intergender, ambigender, gender fluid, polygender and gender queer. When the data is shown by sex in both the analysis and data visualisations, 'Other' students have been excluded due to Unite Foundation Scholarship students are only returned as either 'Male' or 'Female' and sector numbers for 'Other' are small.

**Tariff** – The tariff system assigns a numerical value to a student's pre-HE qualifications, with each qualification awarded a set number of tariff points. HESA's calculation of tariff is broadly based on the system published by UCAS but may differ in some points of detail. The methodology of collecting and calculating tariff points has changed a number of times throughout HESA years of data collection. In this report the tariff system used between 2012/13 – 2016/17 will be referred to as old tariff and the system used from 2017/18 – 2020/21 will be referred to as new tariff. Students have been separated into either a 'high' or 'low' tariff classification, based on what tariff band they sit. 53% of the sector fall into 'high' and 47% low- this slightly uneven distribution is due to accounting for both new and old tariff in analysis.

The breakdown of new and old tariff into high and low tariff groups are summarised below:

	Old tariff (2012/13 - 2016/17)	New tariff (2017/18- 2020/21)
High	360-419	128-143
	420-479	144-159
	480-539	160-175
	540-998	176-191
	999 and above	192-207
		208-223
		224-239
		240+ and over
Low	1-79	Less than 48
	80-119	48-63
	120-179	64-79
	180-239	80-95
	240-299	96-111
	300-359	112-127

**Russell Group HE providers<sup>11</sup> – a membership group of UK HE providers and are listed in the table:**

The University of Birmingham	Newcastle University
The University of Bristol	University of Nottingham
The University of Cambridge	The University of Oxford
University of Durham	The University of Sheffield
The University of Exeter	The University of Southampton
The University of Leeds	The University of Warwick
The University of Liverpool	The University of York
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	The University of Edinburgh
King's College London	The University of Glasgow
London School of Economics and Political Science	Cardiff University
Queen Mary University of London	Queen's University Belfast
University College London	The University of Manchester

<sup>11</sup> <https://Russellgroup.ac.uk/>