

GM4WOMEN2028

EDUCATION GROUP briefing report 2023

Scorecard Data¹

2022 Scorecard:

- 17% of 1st year engineering and technology undergraduates at a GM university are women. (HESA 2019/20)
- 2% of under-19yr old apprentices in 'Construction and the Built Environment' in GM are women (DoE, 2018/19)

2023 Scorecard:

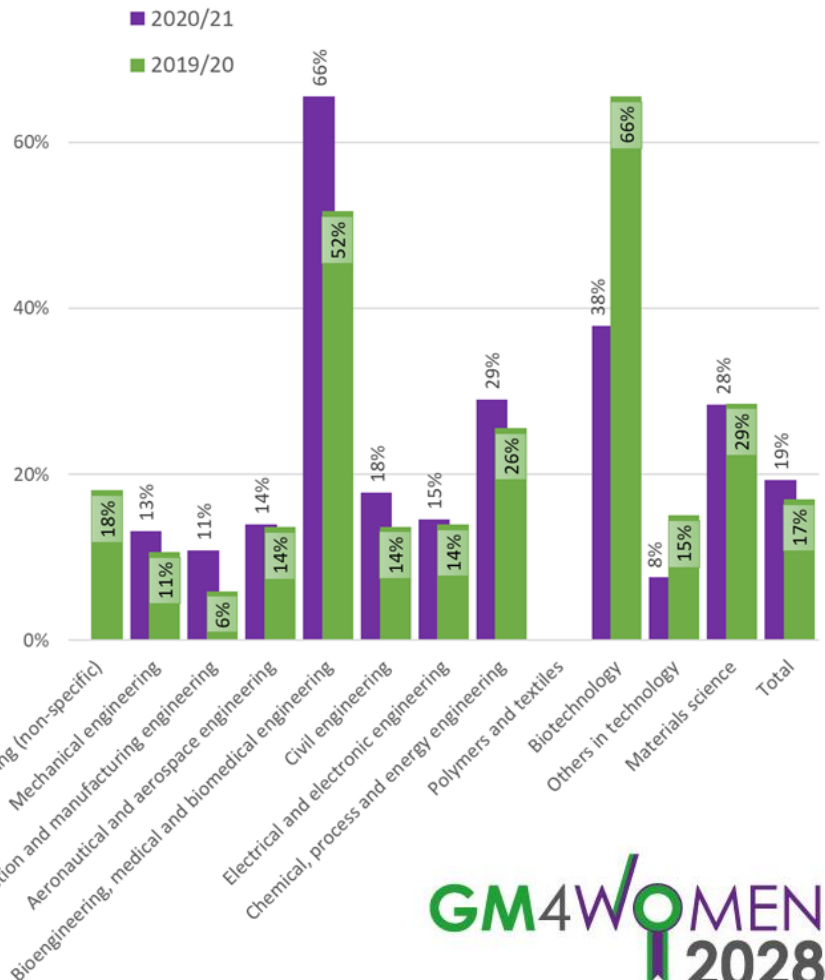
- 19.3% of 1st year engineering and technology undergraduates at a GM university are women. (HESA 2020/21)
- 2% of under-19yr old apprentices in 'Construction and the Built Environment' in GM are women (DoE, 2019/20)

Undergraduate degree subject choices:

There has been a positive increase in women's representation amongst first year Engineering and Technology undergraduate students. This is an increase in both proportion and actual numbers, taking the share of the cohort to 19.3% women

Taking a closer look at the subject areas under 'Engineering and Technology', women show greater representation in 'Bioengineering, Medical and Biomedical Engineering', and 'Biotechnology' (Chart 1).

It is worth noting that these subjects were not included in 'Engineering and Technology' broad subject codes used prior to 2019.

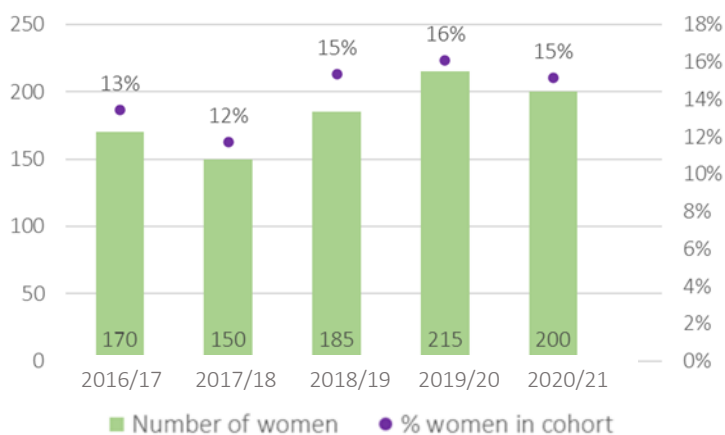


1. Please note, data presented here is limited by the categories for data collection/sufficient reporting numbers used by the agencies referenced.

Interestingly, the Biotechnology subject area is the only one which has seen a decrease in the absolute number of women from the 2019 intake to the 2020 intake (data not provided in line with rules to preserve the anonymity of personal data, known as the Heidi Plus Rounding Methodology²).

In recent years we have also monitored the number of women from the Greater Manchester area who choose to study an Engineering and Technology subject, at any UK higher education institute (HEI). Further analysis compared the proportion of students from the Greater Manchester area who started an undergraduate degree in an Engineering or Technology subject (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Women as a proportion of 1st year students from GM studying Engineering and Technology undergraduate degrees in the UK

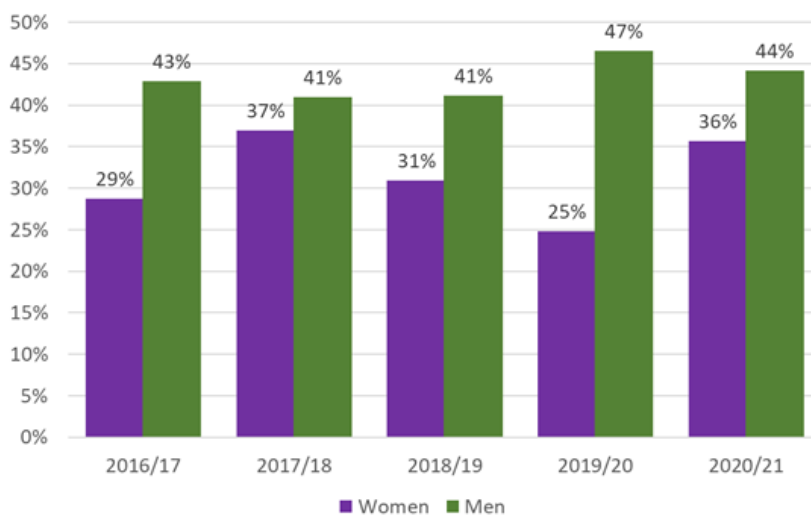


The number of women from GM choosing to study Engineering and Technology is increasing gradually year on year (Chart 2).

This increase is in line with an overall increase in students from the region – resulting in just a 2% difference in the proportion of women in this group from 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Chart 3: Engineering and Technology students from Greater Manchester studying at a Greater Manchester university

What is particularly striking is the difference in where students choose to study. Close to half of men from Greater Manchester studying an Engineering and Technology degree, do so in the region, compared to around a third of women (Chart 3).



The reasons behind this data is unclear but further investigation could be valuable to understand influences on subject choice and which activities can have larger impact.



2. <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/rounding-and-suppression-anonymise-statistics>

Apprenticeships subject choices:

Chart 4 shows very different profiles for men and women's apprentice subject choices. Whilst few GM women (under 19yrs) are choosing 'Construction and the Built Environment' apprenticeships, this subject is one which is highly popular amongst men in the region (27% of men); second place behind 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies' (40% of men, Chart 4 and Table 1).

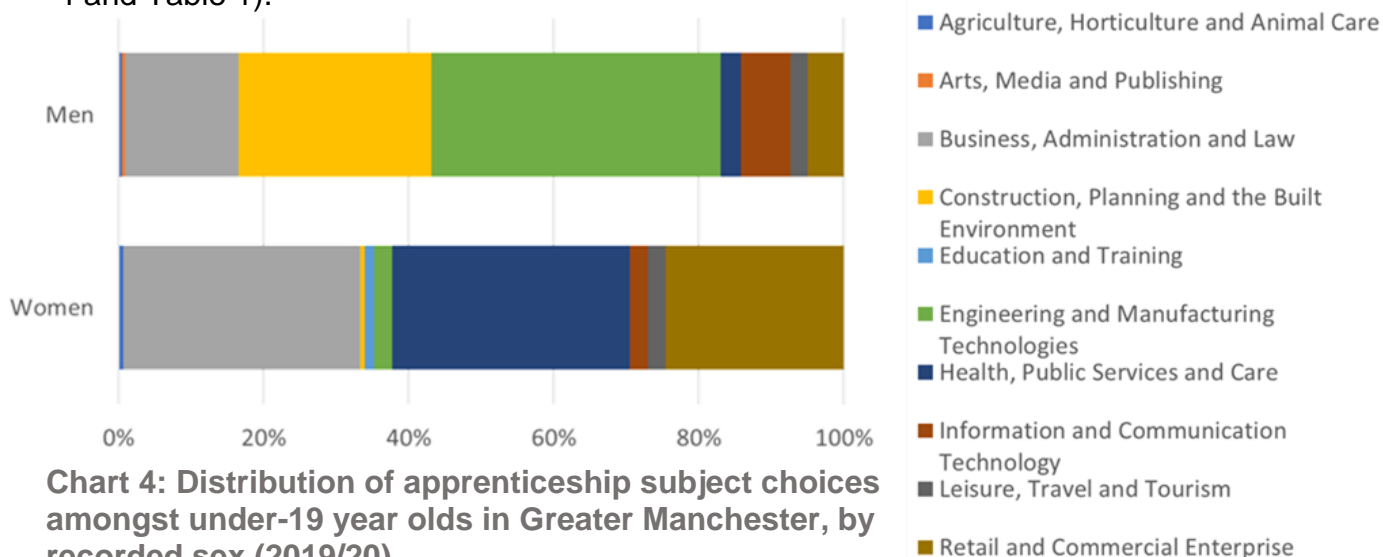


Chart 4: Distribution of apprenticeship subject choices amongst under-19 year olds in Greater Manchester, by recorded sex (2019/20)

Under 19-year olds Sector Subject Area (Greater Manchester, all levels)	Number of women	% of women	Number of men	% of men
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	10	1%	10	0%
Arts, Media and Publishing	0	0%	10	0%
Business, Administration and Law	520	33%	340	16%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	10	1%	580	27%
Education and Training	20	1%	0	0%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	40	3%	870	40%
Health, Public Services and Care	520	33%	60	3%
Information and Communication Technology	40	3%	150	7%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	40	3%	50	2%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	390	25%	110	5%

Table 1: The distribution of sector subject area choices amongst under-19 yr old apprentices in Greater Manchester (2019/20). (Rounded data source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>)



The most popular subjects for women in the region are 'Business, Administration and Law', 'Health, Public Services and Care', and 'Retail and Commercial Enterprise', where women are also overrepresented (63%, 88% and 76% of apprentices in each subject respectively). Interestingly, only 3% of women choose 'Information and Communication Technology', but make up 22% of apprentices in this subject.

Whilst the representation of women in



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'Construction and the Built Environment' in Greater Manchester is the same as that recorded nationally in the subject area (2%), we should not limit potential to that achieved nationally

Key Asks from the GM4Women Education Group

1. Ensuring the investment (by schools, colleges and any GM wide learning provider) in careers' training dispels myths equating career sectors to gender stereotypes. Monitored by survey to be conducted by GM4Women Education Group to schools in the first instance.
2. Industries in GM to encourage the visibility of women in all their diversity in historically male sectors. Invite organisations to sign up to an annual GM4Women pledge and evidence active commitment to improving diversity in their field to be publicised on our webpage and social media.
3. School-wide commitment to equality and anti-sexism in school. Will launch GM4Women Education Network to facilitate sharing of best practice and resources and peer support for this work.

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