UTC Insights

UTC student destinations

This short report provides insight into leaver destinations for UTC students. It is divided into 2 parts: the first provides an analysis of the self-reported data collected from UTCs during Autumn **2019** for students leaving UTCs in the summer of 2019; the second summarises Department for Education (DfE) official destination data, released in October of this year, for students leaving UTCs in the summer of **2017**. This is the most recent 'official' destination data provided by the DfE. An explanation of the different methodologies of data collection is provided at the end of this report.

Executive summary

Part 1 : Self-reported destinations collected from UTCs (2019 leavers)

• In 2019, **45%** of Y13 UTC leavers started higher education at university compared with **35%** nationally[2]. **22%** started apprenticeships, compared with **10%** nationally[3].

• Where the level of apprenticeship was indicated, higher starts (Level 4+) accounted for more than half of all UTC leaver apprenticeship destinations (**57%**).

• Combining UTC leaver university starts in 2019 with known higher apprenticeship starts provides an aggregate for all UTC leavers who progressed to a 'higher' destination. **53%** of Y13 UTC leavers progressed into these 'higher' destinations compared with **36%** nationally[4].

• STEM subjects continue to prove popular with UTC students with **75%** of those entering university starting a course related to Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (where a preference was indicated). Nationally, **45%**[5] students take a STEM-related course at university.

• UTC leavers are much more likely to choose an engineering-related course at university (**41% vs 7%**[6] nationally). Four of the top five most popular courses are Engineering-related: Mechanical, Civil, Aeronautical, and General. Computer Science is also in the top five.

• The most popular university destinations for UTC leavers were Coventry University (which took **58** UTC students), Liverpool John Moores University (**39**), Portsmouth University (**32**), Sheffield Hallam University (**29**), and De Montfort University (**22**).

• **15** organisations hired **5** or more UTC students either as apprentices or as employees. The 2 most popular organisations in 2019 were The Royal Navy (**28** UTC students) and The Royal Air Force (**21** UTC students). Cisco employed the most (**5**) UTC students to start degree apprenticeships.

• Combined, The Royal Navy, The Royal Air Force, and The British Army took on **26** apprentices and **29** employees across the UTC programme in 2019, or **7%** of the total number of Y13 UTC leavers starting either an apprenticeship or a job.

Part 2 : Latest DfE destinations data for UTCs (2017 leavers)

• Headline figures show UTCs sent the same percentage of students to university (**35%**) in 2017 compared with mainstream schools and colleges, and a similar percentage into employment (**23% vs 25%**).

• UTCs sent twice the percentage of students into apprenticeships (**21% vs 10%**) and 4 times as many at higher and degree level apprenticeships as national averages.

• UTCs produced a lower percentage of NEETS (**9% vs 13%**).

• A higher percentage of disadvantaged students from UTCs attend university than non-disadvantaged students (**39% vs 32%**). The opposite is true for all mainstream schools and colleges (**25% vs 38%**).

• Destinations data for Y11 leavers shows a similar percentage (**38%**) of students staying at their UTC into sixth form compared with the national average.

• Apprenticeship destinations for Y11 leavers account for **9%** of the UTC total (**5%** at Level 3) compared with just **4%** for mainstream schools (just 1% at Level 3).

Part 1 – 2019 UTC leavers

The following is an analysis of 2,370 anonymised individual Y13 leaver records from 46 UTCs reported to UTC Hub in the Autumn of 2019. This represents just over 98% of all UTC Y13 students on roll in June 2019. This is now the fifth year that Baker Dearing has captured extensive Y13 leaver destinations data.

Headlines

In 2019, **45%** of Y13 UTC leavers started higher education at university, **22%** started apprenticeships, an additional **13%** commenced employment and **5%** progressed to further education.

UTC Year 13 leaver destinations 2019
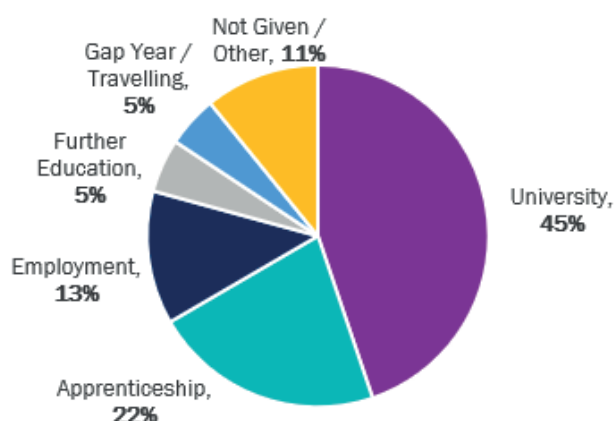
5% of students reported that they were taking a 'gap year' or travelling. For the final **11%** of students, where a destination was either 'not known' or not provided, experience from previous years suggests that these students will most likely move into employment or (for a smaller percentage) become NEET (not in education, employment, or training). Therefore, it is unlikely that the percentage attending university or apprenticeship will increase from current figures.

When compared against the national averages for all state-funded mainstream schools and colleges, (which now include leavers of all levels, not just those at Level 3 (see Part 2)), UTC leaver destinations are impressive: **45%** of Y13 leavers started at university compared with a national average of **35%,** and **22%** of Y13 UTC leavers started an apprenticeship compared with **10%** nationally.
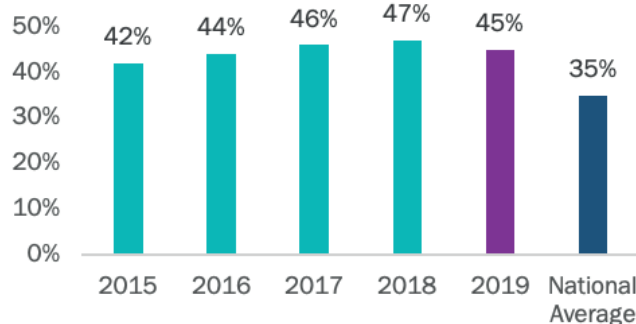
UTC Year 13 leaver destinations vs national averages
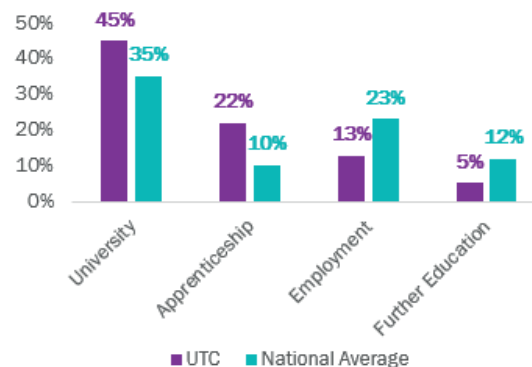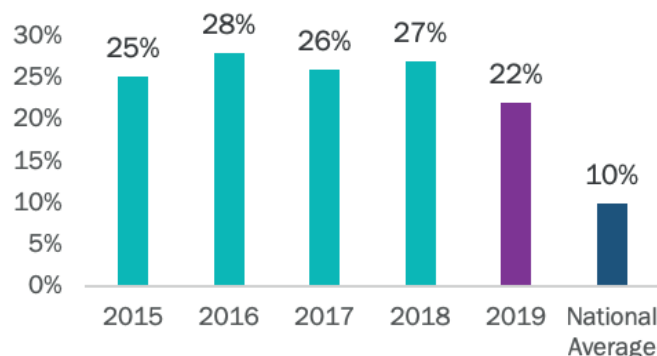

Destinations over time

The percentage of Y13 UTC leavers starting university has been consistently around the mid-40s mark over the past 5 years:

% Higher education

Apprenticeship destinations dropped slightly in 2019 when compared with previous years (mid-20s%):

% Apprenticeship (all levels)

Where UTC leavers have indicated a level of apprenticeship (**70%** of responders), over half (**57%**) are at a higher or degree level, compared with fewer than **10%** for all mainstream school and college leavers. This percentage is broadly in line with last year but has risen since 2017 (**37%**).

Year 13 apprenticeships % starts by level
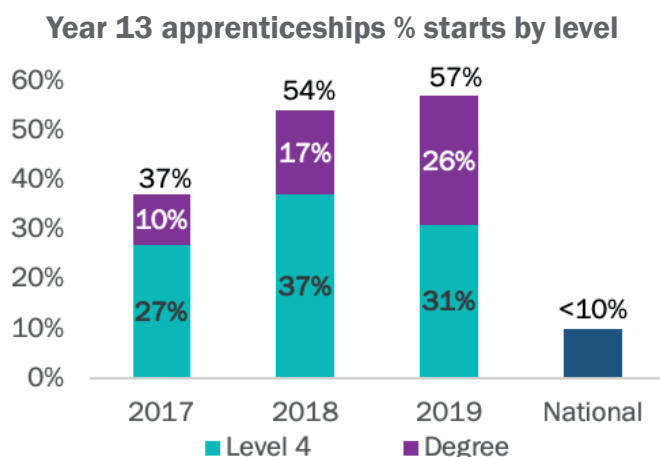
Combining university starts in 2019 with higher apprenticeship starts provides an aggregate for all UTC leavers who progressed to a 'higher' destination. Taking a conservative estimate for UTC Level 4+ apprenticeships (by ignoring the 30% of responders who did not indicate a level) and adding the 1,062 university starts, shows that just over **53%** of Y13 UTC leavers progressed into higher destinations, compared with **36%** (35% to university and 1% to higher apprenticeship) for all mainstream schools and colleges.

University destinations

Submissions to UTC Hub allow an analysis of university destinations and courses. This is not possible by looking solely at DfE-produced statistics.

90% of UTC students who started university submitted their university choice to UTC Hub. The top **5** universities, accounting for almost **20%** of all university destinations, were Coventry University (**58**), Liverpool John Moores University (**39**), Portsmouth University (**32**), Sheffield Hallam University (**29**), and De Montfort University (**22**).

16% of UTC students who submitted their university choice started at a Russell Group university in 2019 compared with a national average for schools and colleges of about **24%**. 3 UTC students started at Oxford University (all studying subjects related to mathematics).

The top 20 university destinations are shown in the table below.

No	University	Students
1	Coventry	58
2	Liverpool John Moores	39
3	Portsmouth	32
4	Sheffield Hallam	29
5	De Montfort	22
6	Greenwich	21
7	Aston	21
8	Westminister	20
9	Birmingham City	20
10	Nottingham Trent	19
11	London South Bank	19
12	Liverpool	19
13	Hertfordshire	19
14	Salford	17
15	Nottingham	17
16	Kingston	17
17	Middlesex	16
18	Derby	16
19	Birmingham	16
20	UWE	15

STEM subjects continued to prove popular with UTC students: **75%** started a course related to Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (where a preference was indicated). The national percentage for students starting university in England on a STEM-related course is **45%**.

Broken down by STEM subject, UTC leavers are much more likely to choose an Engineering-related course (**41%** vs **7%** nationally).

UTC Year 13 leaver subject choice percentages at university
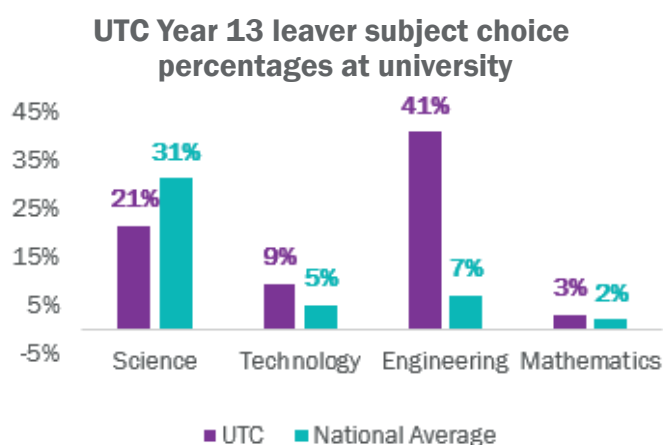
By university course, the top **15** courses for UTC leavers account for **2/3** of all university destinations. 4 of the top 5 are for Engineering: Mechanical, Civil, Aeronautical, and General.

No.	Course Type	No. of Students	% Total
1	Mechanical Engineering	90	10%
2	Civil Engineering	58	6%
3	Aeronautical/Aerospace Eng.	46	5%
4	Computer Science	46	5%
5	Engineering (General)	45	5%
6	Biomedical Science	40	4%
7	TV & Film	37	4%
8	Science	32	3%
9	Architecture	31	3%
10	Nursing	31	3%
11	Mathematics	28	3%
12	Gaming	28	3%
13	Business	27	3%
14	Electronic and Electrical Eng.	26	3%
15	Product Design	25	3%

Apprenticeship destinations

22% of Y13 UTC students started an apprenticeship in 2019. Of these 517 students, **70%** provided information regarding the level of their apprenticeship.

Of those Y13 UTC students providing this information, just **5%** were at Level 2. Just over 1/4 (**26%**) were at degree level. Combined, higher and degree level apprenticeship starts (Level 4+) accounted for more than half of all UTC leaver destinations (**57%**).

Apprenticeship Level	UTC % Starting
Intermediate (Level 2)	5%
Advanced (Level 3)	38%
Higher (Level 4+)	31%
Degree (Level 6-7)	26%

Although relatively new, **93** Y13 UTC leavers across the programme secured a degree apprenticeship in 2019. To put this in context, only **175** degree apprenticeships were advertised on the government's 'Find an Apprenticeship' website in November 2019.

2/3 of UTC leavers provided a description of their apprenticeship. The table below shows this by industry grouping. Unsurprisingly, a very high percentage of apprenticeship starts are in Engineering-related industries.

UTC Year 13 leaver % apprenticeship starts by industry
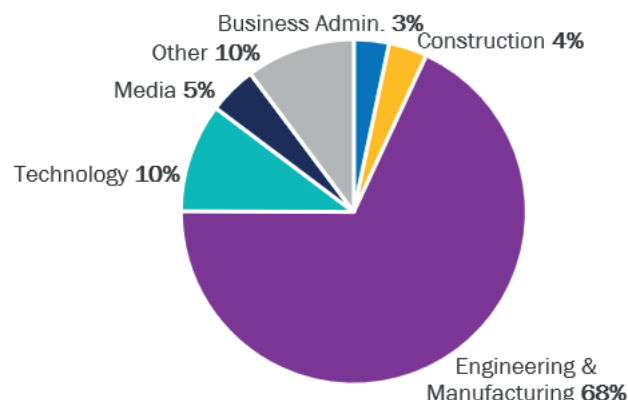
At the employer level, 15 took on 5 or more UTC students either as apprentices or as employees. The two most popular organisations in 2019 were The Royal Navy (**28** UTC students) and The Royal Air Force (**21** UTC students). Cisco took the most (**5**) UTC students to start degree apprenticeships.

Combined, The Royal Navy, The Royal Air Force, and The British Army took on **26** apprentices and **29** employees across the UTC programme in 2019, or **7%** of the total number of Y13 UTC leavers starting either an apprenticeship or a job.

The table below shows the **15** most popular employers for UTC leavers:

	Employer	Apprenticeship Level					Job Start	Total
		2	3	4	6	N/A		
1	Royal Navy		7	9	1	4	7	28
2	Royal Air Force		5	3		1	12	21
3	JCB		8	3		1		12
4	Global		8					8
5	British Army		1				7	8
6	Airbus			4	3			7
7	Rolls Royce		3	3		1		7
8	BAE Systems			2	4			6
9	Sellafield	1	1	1	3			6
10	British Airways			2	1		2	5
11	Cisco				5			5
12	HS2			3	2			5
13	JLR		2		1	1	1	5
14	National Grid			3	1	1		5
15	Network Rail	1	2	1		1		5

Part 2 – Student destinations

The following summarises Department for Education (DfE) official destination data, released in October 2019, for students leaving UTCs in the summer of 2017.

Executive summary

After Y13, UTCs sent the same percentage of students to university as the national average (**35%**) for all mainstream schools and colleges. UTCs sent twice the percentage of students into apprenticeships and **4x** as many at higher and degree levels. UTCs produced a lower percentage of NEETS (**9%** vs **13%**).

There is clear evidence that a higher percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds progress to university compared with national averages.

DfE destination data

The most recent destination data from the DfE relates to Y13 students leaving UTCs in the summer of 2017. Confusingly this data is referred to as 2018 destination data since the DfE looks at sustained participation over 6 months to March 2018. During summer 2017, there were **40** UTCs with Y13 leavers. For the first time, this data includes all students who took post-16 courses 2 years earlier at all levels, not just Level 3 courses. This new approach makes comparisons with previous years less meaningful. While **95%** of state school students, vs. **89%** of UTC students, study at Level 3 at post 16, just **45%** of FE college students study at this level. As a consequence, historically Y13 destination data captured just **71%** of all leavers (see chart below).

Headline figures show that UTCs sent the same percentage of students to university (**35%**) as did mainstream schools and colleges, and a similar percentage of students into employment (**23%** vs **25%**). However, UTCs produced over twice as many apprentices (**21%**) compared with the national average (**10%**) and a lower percentage of NEETS (**9%** vs **13%**).

UTC leavers vs national average
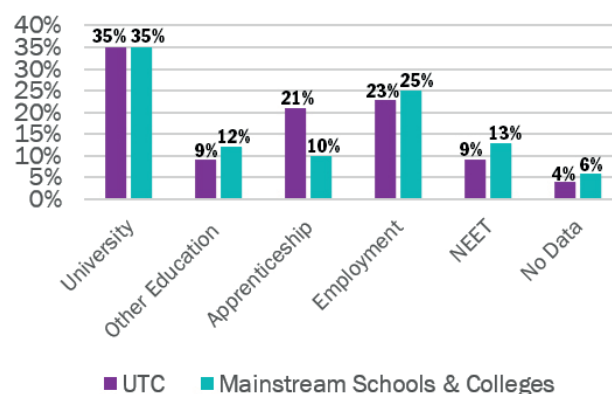
The breakdown by apprenticeship level shows that **4%** of UTC leavers at 18 start a higher (or degree) level apprenticeship, compared with just **1%** for the national average. A further **11%** of UTC leavers commence at an advanced level. Therefore 3 times as many (**15%**) UTC leavers start apprenticeships at advanced or higher level, compared with the national average.
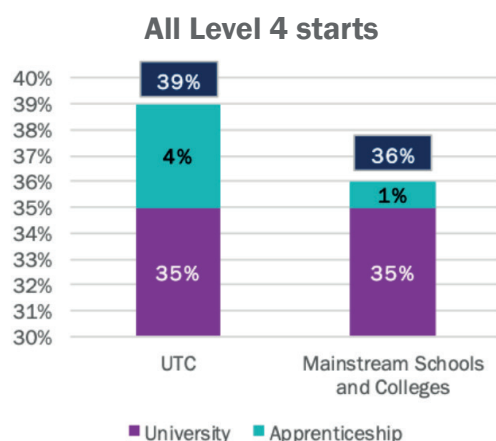
Percentage of Year 13 leavers by level
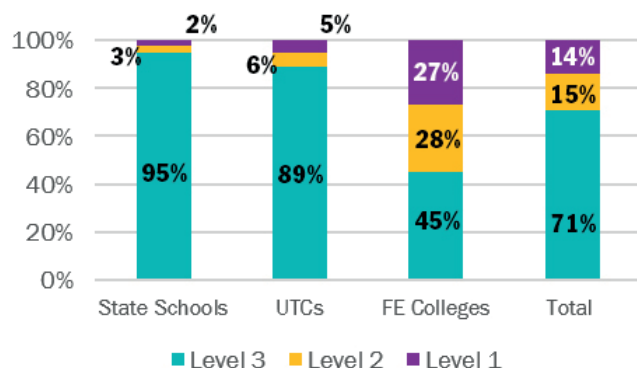
**Apprenticeship destination by level**
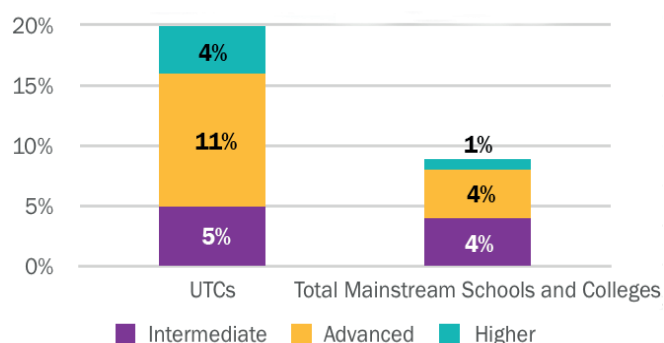
Combining university destinations with Level 4+ apprenticeship starts (i.e. all 'higher' education destinations) shows that UTCs send **39%** on a 'higher' pathway, compared with **36%** nationally.

All Level 4 starts

The DfE Y13 leaver data breaks down leaver percentages into 'disadvantaged' and 'other' students. Disadvantaged status is given in Y11. 'Disadvantaged' pupils are defined as those who were eligible for free school meals at any point in the previous six years or have been looked after by their local authority. These are the pupils who would have attracted the Pupil Premium Funding while in Y11.

While the overall percentage of leavers going to university is the same for UTCs and mainstream schools and colleges (**35%**), the mix shows that a much higher percentage of disadvantaged students from UTCs attend university than otherwise (**39%** vs **32%**). The opposite is true for mainstream schools and colleges (**25%** vs **38%**).
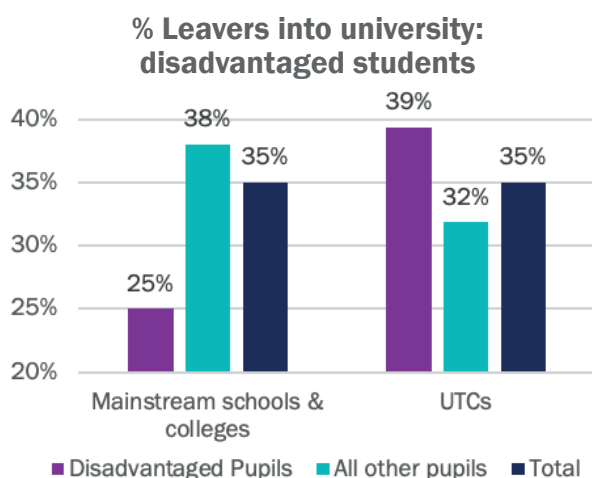
This could be a strong argument for the contribution that UTCs make to social mobility. Baker Dearing has commissioned the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) to investigate this further.

While comparisons with previous years are difficult to make, the DfE data is also broken down by level. Therefore, comparing Level 3 leavers for the latest year with those of the previous year's leavers is an appropriate approach.

This data shows a consistent picture over these 2 years.

UTC Year 13 destinations vs previous year (Level 3)
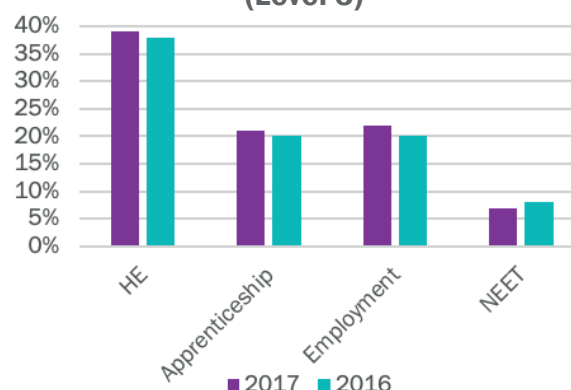
Destinations data for Y11 leavers shows a similar percentage (**38%**) of students staying at their UTC compared with the national average. Apprenticeship destinations account for **9%** of the UTC total (**5%** at Level 3) compared with just **4%** for mainstream schools (just **1%** at Level 3).

% Leavers into university: disadvantaged students

Year 11 UTC leavers vs national average
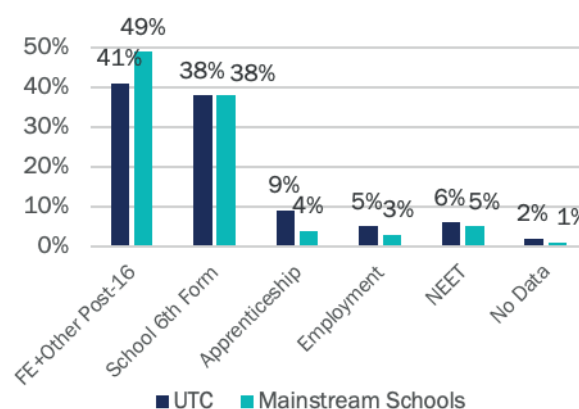
The table below provides a breakdown by UTC of Year 13 leaver destinations:

Leaver breakdown by destination – UTC level

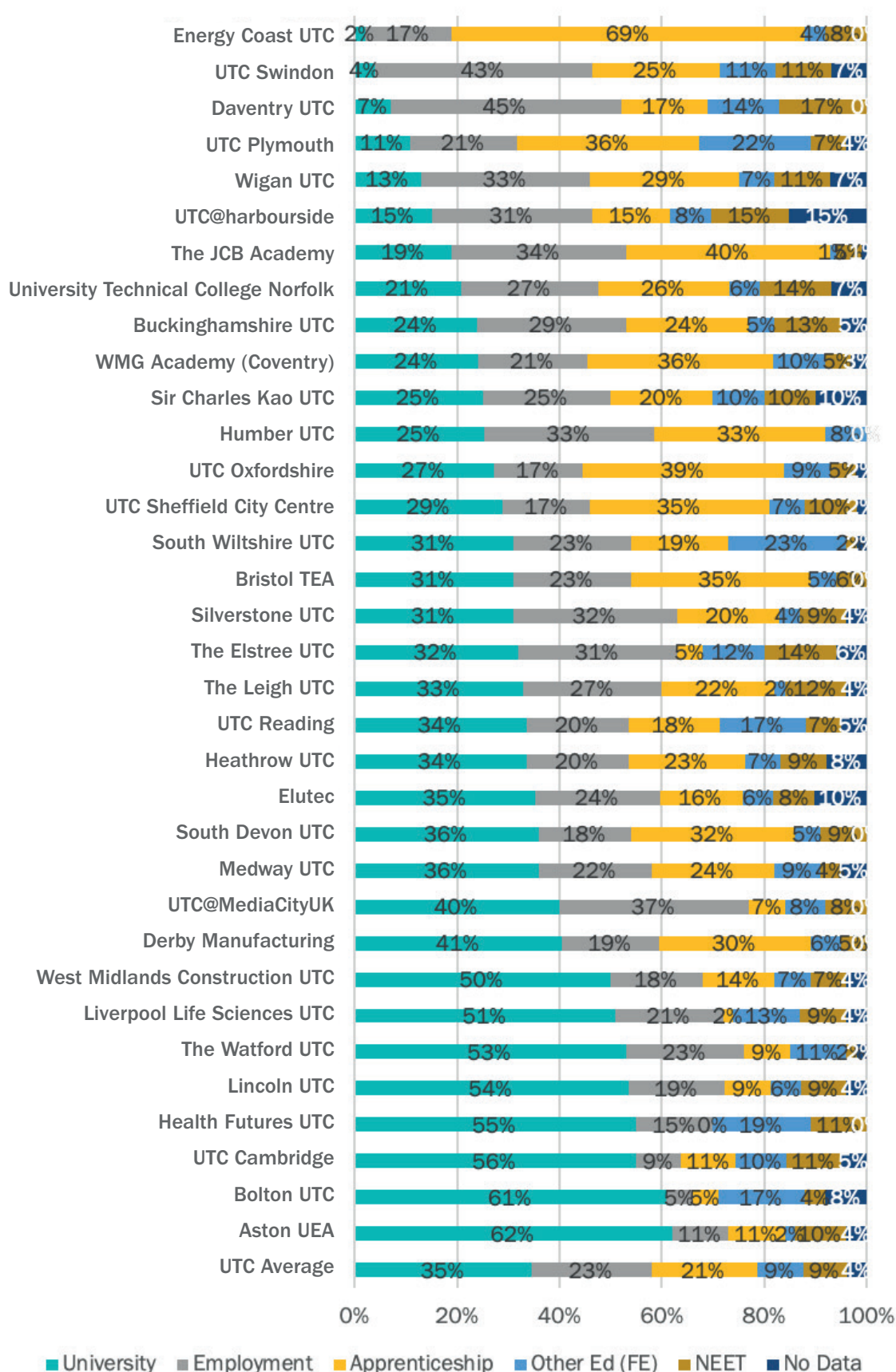| UTC	University	Employment	Apprenticeship	Other Ed (FE)	NEET	No Data
Energy Coast UTC	2%	17%	69%	4%	8%	0%
UTC Swindon	4%	43%	25%	11%	11%	7%
Daventry UTC	7%	45%	17%	14%	17%	0%
UTC Plymouth	11%	21%	36%	22%	7%	4%
Wigan UTC	13%	33%	29%	7%	11%	7%
UTC@harbourside	15%	31%	15%	8%	15%	15%
The JCB Academy	19%	34%	40%	1%	5%	1%
University Technical College Norfolk	21%	27%	26%	6%	14%	7%
Buckinghamshire UTC	24%	29%	24%	5%	13%	5%
WMG Academy (Coventry)	24%	21%	36%	10%	5%	3%
Sir Charles Kao UTC	25%	25%	20%	10%	10%	10%
Humber UTC	25%	33%	33%	8%	0%	0%
UTC Oxfordshire	27%	17%	39%	9%	5%	2%
UTC Sheffield City Centre	29%	17%	35%	7%	10%	2%
South Wiltshire UTC	31%	23%	19%	23%	2%	2%
Bristol TEA	31%	23%	35%	5%	6%	0%
Silverstone UTC	31%	32%	20%	4%	9%	4%
The Elstree UTC	32%	31%	5%	12%	14%	6%
The Leigh UTC	33%	27%	22%	2%	12%	4%
UTC Reading	34%	20%	18%	17%	7%	5%
Heathrow UTC	34%	20%	23%	7%	9%	8%
Elutec	35%	24%	16%	6%	8%	10%
South Devon UTC	36%	18%	32%	5%	9%	0%
Medway UTC	36%	22%	24%	9%	4%	5%
UTC@MediaCityUK	40%	37%	7%	8%	8%	0%
Derby Manufacturing	41%	19%	30%	6%	5%	0%
West Midlands Construction UTC	50%	18%	14%	7%	7%	4%
Liverpool Life Sciences UTC	51%	21%	2%	13%	9%	4%
The Watford UTC	53%	23%	9%	11%	2%	2%
Lincoln UTC	54%	19%	9%	6%	9%	4%
Health Futures UTC	55%	15%	0%	19%	11%	0%
UTC Cambridge	56%	9%	11%	10%	11%	5%
Bolton UTC	61%	5%	5%	17%	4%	8%
Aston UEA	62%	11%	11%	2%	10%	4%
UTC Average	35%	23%	21%	9%	9%	4%

■ University ■ Employment ■ Apprenticeship ■ Other Ed (FE) ■ NEET ■ No Data

Methodologies

Department for Education methodology[7]

The DfE uses 'sustained destinations'. To be counted as a 'sustained destination', young people have to be recorded as having sustained participation for a 6 month period in the destination year. This means attending for all of the first 2 terms of the academic year (October 2017–March 2018 in this case) at one or more education providers; spending 5 of the 6 months in employment; or a combination of the 2. Specific destinations, such as school sixth forms, higher education institutions or apprenticeships, are reported for these students. A sustained apprenticeship is noted when 6 months of continuous participation is recorded at any point in the destination year.

For the first time, the DfE has incorporated all leavers at 18 into its destinations analysis. Previously, only Level 3 leavers were analysed, which led to a distorted picture of the destinations of young people. For the 2018 destination data, the number of leavers from state-funded mainstream schools and colleges was 534,328, of which 70% had a Level 3 qualification.

Baker Dearing methodology

Baker Dearing measures self-reported (student or UTC) destination starts in the Autumn of 2019. There are practical and good reasons for this: first, the significant amount of data crunching required to collect 6 subsequent months' worth of information is beyond our small charity's budget; second, 'starts' data is a perfectly valid measure which is used, for example, in university and apprenticeship statistics.

Our motivation for collecting destinations data is to gain a timely insight into the success of the relatively young UTC programme. If we were to rely solely on DfE data, this understanding would always be 2 years out of date. However, it's not just the timeliness of the data which matters, it's also the granularity. UTCs are employer led and supported by universities. These organisations provide much to ensure that the programme is a success, and many are destinations of UTC leavers. Rightly, they want to know about the companies UTC leavers are joining, apprenticeship levels etc.. DfE data does not provide this detail. Such information is also of interest to all UTCs and forms a key part of their promotional material to encourage students to join.

References

[1]DfE Statistics – Destinations of Key Stage 4 and 16 to 18 students 2018 (October 2019).
[2]DfE Statistics – HE Destinations 2018 all levels (October 2019).
[3]DfE Statistics – 16 to 18 Destinations 2018 all levels (October 2019).
[4]DfE Statistics – HE Destinations added to Level 4+ Apprenticeship Destinations 2018 (October 2019).
[5]HESA Statistics – Subject starts England 2017/18.
[6]HESA Statistics – Engineering and associated courses subject starts England 2017/18.
[7]DfE Statistics – All comparisons for UTCs are made against state-funded mainstream schools and colleges (October 2019).