

BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD

# Bar Training 2023

Statistics on enrolment, results,  
and student progression overall

February 2023

Produced by the Bar Standards Board Research Team. If you would like this report in an alternative format, please contact the BSB Research Team at [research@barstandardsboard.org.uk](mailto:research@barstandardsboard.org.uk)

# Executive Summary

This report details trends in vocational training to become a barrister, and student progression onto the professional stage of training in England and Wales. It covers the period from 2011/12 to 2022/23, a period which contains two different courses in vocational training to become a barrister; the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), which ran from 2011/12-2019/20; and the Bar training courses offered from 2020/21 following the Future Bar Training reforms.

There are several areas detailed within the report, and these can broadly be divided into:

- Details on course providers and course fees; trends in enrolment on Bar training courses; trends in student results; and progression onto pupillage following on from Bar training;

## Course providers and the cost of training over time

- As of the 2022/23 academic year, there are 10 providers offering Bar training courses at 21 sites in total. There have been two additional providers of the course and three additional sites at an already existing provider compared to the final year of the BPTC, 2019/20. Vocational Bar training courses are offered via several different pathways and on a part-time basis at several providers.
- On average, course fees from 2020/21 onwards have decreased quite substantially compared to the fees charged for the BPTC. On average, the drop in the cost of Bar training would have saved students almost £4,000 in tuition fees in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 after adjusting for inflation<sup>1</sup> (and around £3,000 when not adjusting for inflation).

## Enrolment on Bar training courses

- Enrolment on Bar training courses increased in 2020/21 compared to the final year of the BPTC. In 2020/21 2,112 students enrolled on Bar training courses, compared to 1,685 in 2019/20. Enrolment increased again in 2021/22 to 2,178 students.
- **Pathways** – Enrolment on the four-step training pathway declined slightly in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. After providing the course in this format in 2020/21, two providers have ceased offering this pathway.
- **Study mode** - The number of students enrolling part-time on Bar training courses has remained relatively stable over time, but as the number of students enrolled overall has increased, the proportion of them that are part-time has decreased. Throughout the period of analysis, the vast majority of part-time students have been UK domiciled prior to enrolment.
- **Degree class** - The proportion of Bar training students with a first-class degree has increased over time, and the proportion enrolling with a lower second-class degree has decreased.
- **Domicile** - The proportion of overseas domiciled students undertaking vocational Bar training each academic year has remained relatively stable at around 45 per cent of all students since 2015/16, having increased from 35 per cent of all students from 2011/12.
- **Ethnicity** – From 2011/12-2022/23, around 80 per cent of students domiciled overseas prior to enrolment on Bar training were from an Asian/Asian British ethnic background each year. The proportion of UK domiciled students from a White ethnic background has decreased throughout the period of analysis, going from around 70 per cent in 2011/12-2013/14 to 56 per cent in 2021/22-2022/23 – this decrease has seen a corresponding increase in the proportion of stu-

<sup>1</sup> To Q1 2022/23 prices using the UK Government GDP deflator.

dents from minority ethnic backgrounds, with the increase principally driven by those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds, and those from Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.

- **Gender**- There has been a greater proportion of female students enrolling in more recent years compared to that seen in 2011/12-2015/16– this change has been mostly driven by differences seen for UK domiciled students – for example, in 2011/12 around 53 per cent of UK domiciled students were female, compared to around 61 per cent in 2022/23.
- **School attended** - The proportion of students who mainly attended a fee paying school between the ages of 11-18 has fluctuated at around 40 per cent from 2011/12 to 2022/23. This is far higher than the rate seen in the UK population as a whole (estimated around 7% of the entire population, and 10% of first time degree entrants).

### Student results on Bar training

- It is difficult to determine trends in student results between years from this report, given the change in the format of Bar training from 2020/21 onwards, missing data, and due to this report not including snapshots of results taken in the past for comparison between years.
- It is possible to comment on differences seen within demographic groups, but with the caveat that we only control for degree classification when presenting results, and there are other variables related to student results that are not controlled for. When looking at differences within demographic groups, the following trends are seen.
- **Degree class** – Based on trends seen on the BPTC, it would appear that well over half of those with any degree classification will go on to pass the course overall, and that there are relatively large differences in the proportion of students passing Bar training courses by first degree classification, with those with a first class degree performing better than those with a 2:1, who in turn are more likely to pass than those with a 2:2 overall.
- **Study mode and age** - For BPTC students enrolled between 2011/12-2018/19 (a period which may represent longer term trends better than more recent years), part-time students are slightly less likely to have completed the course, and more likely to have withdrawn from the course in comparison to full time students. This may be partly related to age, as part time students are more likely to be aged 35+, and such students also appear to be slightly more likely to withdraw/ not complete a Bar training course they enrol on.
- **Disability** – There appears to be some relationship between disability and results on Bar training, with those with a declared disability slightly more likely than those with no declared disability to have not yet completed Bar training when controlling for first degree classification.
- **Domicile** – Overall, results across degree classification are quite similar for those domiciled in the UK and those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment, and differences seen may be more related to study mode (as more UK students are part-time, it will take such students longer to finish the course, and this will affect the proportions passing to some extent).
- **Ethnicity** - For those with a 2:1 degree (there are more students with a 2:1, giving more reliable comparisons by ethnicity), there are some differences between those from different ethnic backgrounds in the proportion passing the course. The differences seen are particularly pronounced for those from Black/Black British backgrounds, with such students slightly less likely to pass the course compared to those from other ethnic groups for several cohorts.
- **Gender** – When comparing results on Bar training between male and female students, there does not appear to be any clear trend seen across all years and degree classifications. Differences in pass rates by gender are generally quite small across years.

## Student progression onto pupillage

- It is also difficult to determine trends in student progression onto pupillage between years from this report, given that Bar training graduates have up to five years in which to gain pupillage, and so those graduating in more recent years would be expected to have lower pupillage rates than those graduating 5 or more years ago. There are some trends that we can comment on within demographic groups, but with the caveat that only first degree classification, and degree institution have been controlled for.
- **Degree class** – Overall, out of those who pass the course, those with a first-class degree go onto gain pupillage in the greatest proportions, with around 60 per cent and more of such UK domiciled course graduates gaining pupillage in the long run. Those with a 2:2 degree do not gain pupillage in such proportions, with typically less than one in five UK domiciled course graduates with this degree class going onto pupillage. It is likely that some of the difference in the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage for each degree class is due to differences in results on vocational training (which co-vary alongside degree class ).
- **Degree institution** – There is a clear difference in the proportions gaining pupillage when comparing different groupings for university. Oxbridge graduates gain pupillage in greater proportions than those who attended another Russell Group university, who in turn gain pupillage in greater proportions than those attending other UK universities - part of this trend may be due to course results correlating with degree institution, but it is unlikely it can solely be explained by this given results from previous research, which found a strong relationship between degree institution and likelihood of gaining pupillage and did control for BPTC grade.
- **Age** - When controlling for degree class, similar proportions of UK domiciled course graduates aged under 25 and those aged 25-34 go on to gain pupillage. It appears that a lower proportion of those aged 35+ go on to gain pupillage when controlling for degree class, although this may be partly related to studying the course on a part-time basis. These trends also appear to be present when degree institution is controlled for.
- **Disability** - No clear trend emerges from the data regarding student progression by disability status. In some instances for degree class groupings, those with a declared disability have gained pupillage in greater proportions, and in some instances, the opposite is seen.
- **Ethnicity** – Ethnic background does show some relationship with the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage following on from a vocational Bar training course. UK domiciled course graduates from minority ethnic backgrounds do not appear to gain pupillage in the same proportions as UK domiciled students from White ethnic backgrounds This appears to be the case when degree class and first-degree institution are controlled for, and appears to affect Asian/Asian British and Black/Black British students to a slightly greater extent than those from Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.
- **Gender** – When controlling for degree institution, differences in the pupillage rate of female and male UK domiciled Bar training graduates are relatively small throughout the period of analysis. However, across the period of analysis, we have a record of around 5,000 females and 4,000 males completing Bar training. We also have a record of 1,641 females gaining pupillage, and 1,593 males. So, while the total number of female pupils does outnumber that of males, it is not to the same extent as may be expected based upon the extent to which female Bar training graduates outnumber male Bar training graduates.

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# Introduction

This is a report detailing trends in several aspects related to the vocational and professional components of training to become a barrister in England and Wales

The data used for this report come principally from the data provided to the BSB by training providers. Students on Bar Training courses are also able to update details in their record directly through MyBar<sup>2</sup>, and we strongly encourage this as it helps enable the production of more detailed reporting and research on training to become a barrister in England and Wales.

## About the Bar Standards Board

The Bar Standards Board (BSB) is the regulatory body for barristers in England and Wales. The work that we do is governed by The Legal Services Act 2007 (the Act) as well as a number of other statutes.

Our responsibilities include setting the education and training requirements for becoming a barrister in England and Wales.

## About training to become a barrister in England and Wales

Those seeking to practise as a barrister in England and Wales are required to satisfy the requirements of three components of training:

- the academic component;
- the vocational component, and
- the pupillage component.

Completing all components should provide a prospective barrister with the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to meet the requirements of the Professional Statement for Barristers: this describes the knowledge, skills and attributes that all barristers should have on “day one” of practice at the Bar.<sup>3</sup>

To complete the academic component of training, a prospective barrister needs either a law degree, or a non-law degree and the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL). The degree needs to be a minimum of a 2:2 (lower second-class degree).

The vocational component of training is provided via courses run by a number of course providers. Course providers are authorised by the BSB to deliver vocational training for the Bar through one of the approved training pathways. The vocational component of training may be offered in a few different ways:

- a course in one part, which may be full-time over a year or part-time over a longer period;
- a course in two parts, which may involve face-to-face teaching for both parts or may involve self-study only for one of the parts; and
- a longer course which combines study of the subjects of the vocational component with an undergraduate degree in law.

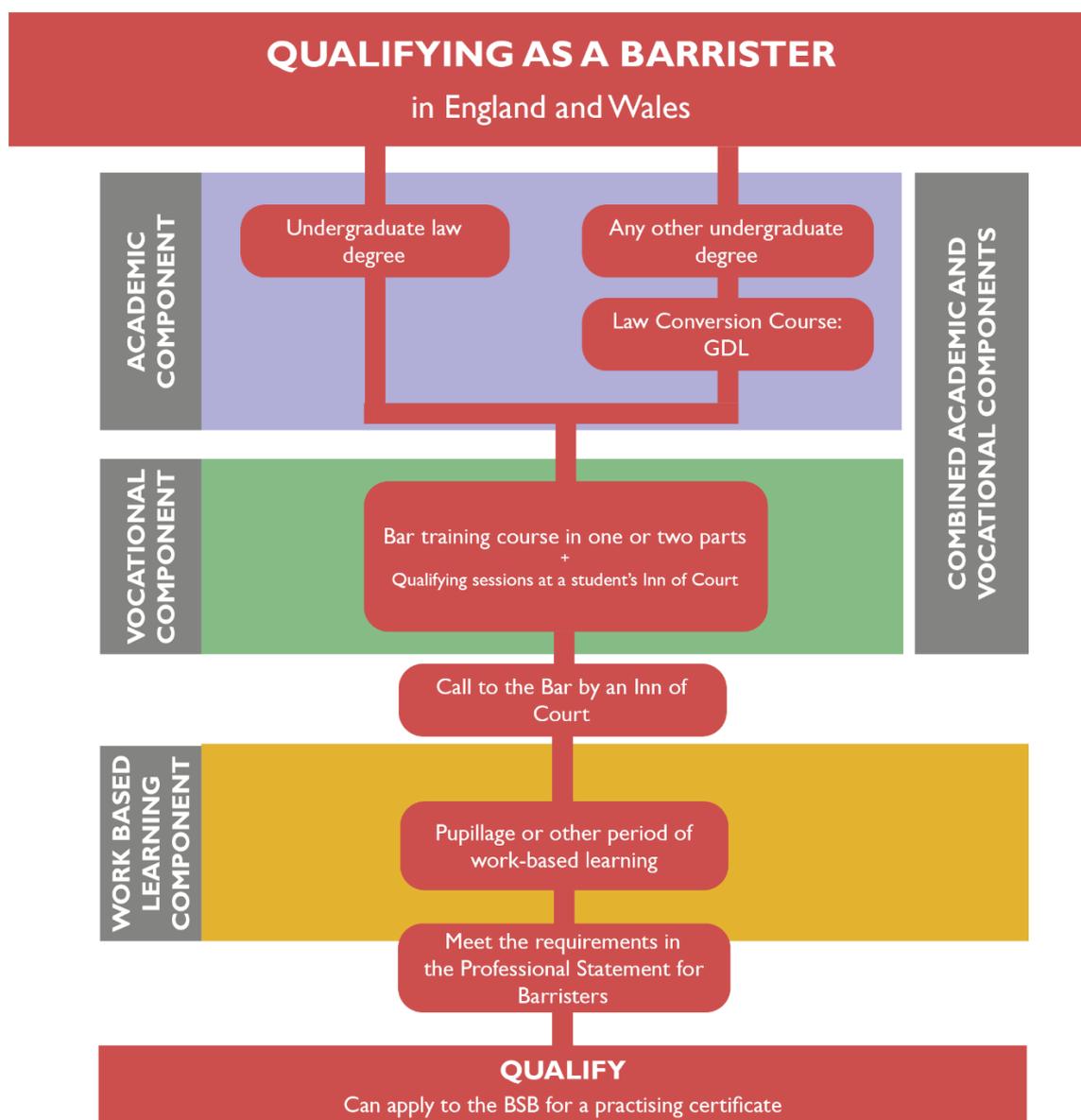
Upon passing vocational training and satisfying the requirements of their Inn of Court, prospective barristers are eligible to be called to the Bar and to undertake the work-based component of training, pupillage.

2 <https://www.mybar.org.uk/login.html>

3 See <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/the-professional-statement.html>

Prospective barristers have five years following completion of vocational training in which to gain pupillage (although a waiver extending this period may be granted, and waivers for other parts of the training pathway may also be granted in some circumstances).<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 1. Overview of training to qualify as a barrister in England and Wales**



From 2011/12-2019/20 the vocational stage of training for the Bar consisted of the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). The BPTC was replaced from 2020/21 onwards by courses approved under the BSB Authorisation Framework, resulting from training reforms.

Both courses aimed to provide barristers with knowledge and skills necessary for a successful career at the Bar, but there are some notable differences between the two. These include:

- A lack of continuity in grades awarded – there were three passing grades achievable on the BPTC, which were defined by the BSB. From 2020/21 onwards, the BSB has responsibility for setting the passing threshold but does not define additional passing grades, and so the academ-

<sup>4</sup> Further information on training to become a barrister can be found on our website via <https://www.bar-standardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification.html>

ic awards given for completing Bar training may differ by course provider;<sup>5</sup>

- A different format for the centralised assessments (these are three modules set on behalf of the BSB and assessed centrally by the BSB);
- Different start times for courses throughout the year – on the BPTC, students were only able to enrol in September/October each year; and
- The addition of new, more flexible pathways for taking the course

## About this report

This report contains information on enrolment and results on vocational Bar training, and subsequent progression onto the professional stage of training. It details trends that span both the BPTC and the courses offered from 2020/21 onwards. The trends detailed relate to the cost of training, enrolment, results and student progression for Bar training courses.

As the grades awarded for completing Bar training courses do not directly match-up between the BPTC and the Bar training course from 2020/21 onwards, the measures of student results and progression given are those that are directly comparable over time. This includes:

- % pass/not yet complete on the course overall
- % of students gaining pupillage

Enrolment figures are unaffected by the above and can be given in terms of raw numbers and percentage values.

The statistics in the report are frequently given by first degree classification, as different cohorts may have different student profiles, and disaggregating the data in this way helps to better control for this. Statistics are only provided where there are 20 or more students in a particular group, as statistics on smaller cohorts may give an unrepresentative picture.

The data used for this report come principally from the data provided to the BSB by training providers, as well as data provided by students in MyBar. In addition, the data on pupillages come directly from information stored at the BSB on registered pupillages.

## Data protection and confidentiality

We take our responsibilities for data protection very seriously and have made every attempt to make sure that individual students cannot be identified from the data in this publication. We have adhered to the Anonymisation: managing data protection risk code of practice report from the Information Commissioner's Office, (November 2012) and applied anonymisation techniques where appropriate. The data in this report were compiled by staff of the Bar Standards Board.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to course providers for providing us with data used in this report.

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<sup>5</sup> Bar training students and graduates are able to see their training record for course results by module via MyBar, and this is something that is comparative between students. The overall grades awarded by each provider are no longer prescribed by the Bar Standards Board however.

# Cost of and format of Bar training

## Format of Bar training

Table 1 below gives an overview of the courses offered by provider for the last three academic years.

**Table 1. Options for Bar training offered by provider - 2020/21-2022/23**

Provider	2020/21				2021/22				2022/23			
	3-step	4-step	LLM	PT	3-step	4-step	LLM	PT	3-step	4-step	LLM	PT
BPP Birmingham	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
BPP Bristol	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
BPP Leeds	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
BPP London <sup>6</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
BPP Manchester	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	
Cardiff University	X		X		X		X		X		X	
City Law School <sup>7</sup>	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Inns of Court College of Advocacy	X	X			X	X			X	X		
Manchester Metropolitan University	X			X	X			X	X		X	X
Nottingham Trent University	X				X		X		X		X	
ULaw Birmingham	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
ULaw Bristol	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
ULaw Leeds	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
ULaw Liverpool	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
ULaw London	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
ULaw Manchester	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
ULaw Newcastle									X		X	
ULaw Nottingham	X	X	X		X		X		X		X	
University of Hertfordshire									X		X	
University of Northumbria <sup>8</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
University of the West of England	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	

The variety of pathways offered has broadened since the BPTC, with several providers choosing to offer the course in two parts via the four-step pathway (although two providers appear to have discontinued providing the course in this format), and most providers providing the option of incorporating vocational Bar training into a Master of Laws (LLM) course. Undertaking the course as a Master's degree may enable students to access a Postgraduate Master's Loan offered by the government. Students are

6 BPP offers Bar training with a specialist legal studies option as well.

7 CLS offers a specialist add on to the Bar training course as well.

8 UNN also offers an undergraduate degree with vocational Bar training incorporated

also able to apply for a number of scholarships and bursaries specific to Bar training.<sup>9</sup>

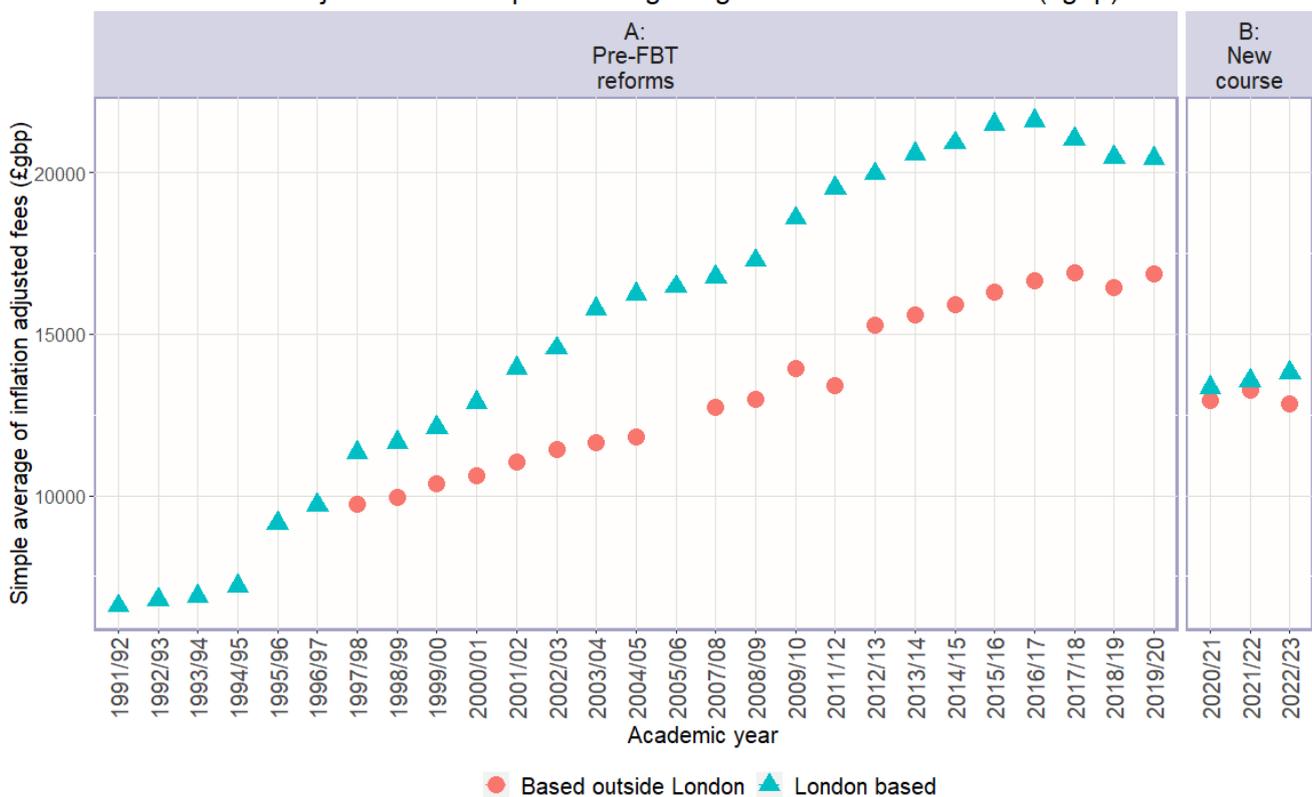
The number of providers has also increased, with the provision of the course at two additional providers, the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, and the University of Hertfordshire; and at three new sites for ULaw – Liverpool, Newcastle and Nottingham.

## Cost of Bar training over time

The chart below shows the inflation adjusted cost of vocational Bar training courses over time by location of provider (the figures are for the course overall – ie the three step pathway). Figures are adjusted to 2022/23 prices using a UK Government published GDP deflator.<sup>10</sup>

**Chart 1. Inflation adjusted cost of vocational Bar training courses over time**

Simple inflation adjusted average of Bar training fees for course providers  
Adjusted to 22/23 prices using UK government GDP deflator (£gbp)



Overall, the cost of training has increased above inflation over time, with large increases occurring from the latter half of the 1990s all the way up to the first half of the 2010s, after which fee increases seen on the BPTC were lower.

The implementation of the new courses from 2020/21 onwards saw a drop in the fees charged across the majority of providers. The drop in the cost of the course is particularly notable for providers based in London, as shown in Chart 1.

On average, the drop in the cost of Bar training tuition fees was almost £4,000 in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 after adjusting for inflation (and around £3,000 in tuition fees when not adjusting for inflation).

9 For more information on this see - <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/students-and-graduates/student-funding-and-scholarships.html>

10 Found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gdp-deflators-at-market-prices-and-money-gdp-march-2022-quarterly-national-accounts>

This is a simple average of course providers' fees, and not what the average student would pay, as some providers have more students than others.

When weighting the average tuition fee with regard to the number of students at each provider in the relevant year, the average student in 2019/20 would have paid around £18,700 in tuition fees when adjusting for inflation (to 2022/23 prices), compared to an average of around £13,500 in 2020/21, and around £14,000 in 2021/22. When not adjusting for inflation, the figures for 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22 are £17,200, £13,100, and £13,500 respectively.

For the latest year of entry, 2022/23, the average fees charged by Bar training provider for UK domiciled students taking the three-step pathway was around £14,200, with London sites charging around £14,900 on average, and non-London providers charging around £13,800 on average.

Overall, based on the fees charged by provider and enrolment figures, the sum of fees paid across all providers when not adjusting for inflation is estimated at around £28,993,000 in 2019/20, £27,710,000 in 2020/21, and £29,067,000 in 2021/22. An increase in student numbers (which is detailed in the next section) appears to have largely made up for the decrease in tuition fees in terms of the total revenue generated by Bar training courses across all providers.

## Enrolments

This section of the report provides information on the demographics of those enrolling on Bar training in England and Wales from 2011/12 to 2022/23. The statistics presented have been calculated based upon the BSB's record of student results and progression as of January 2023.

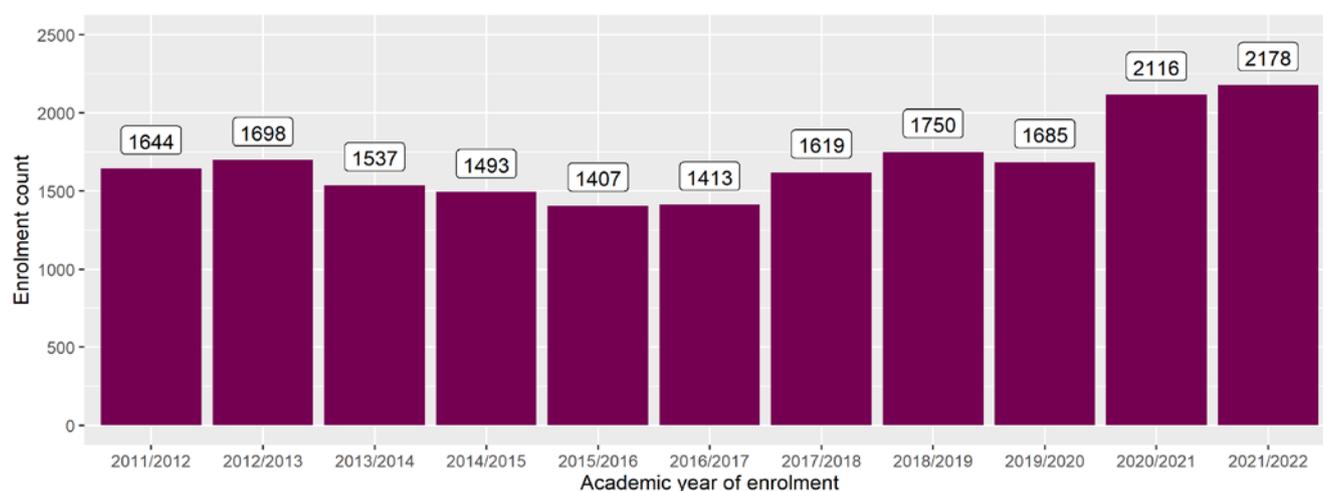
Our record of enrolment for the 2022/23 academic year is incomplete as students can enrol at various points in the year, and some of the year is still to come at the time of writing. Our record for 2022/23 is however shown in charts including percentages.

Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

### Overall

Chart 2 below shows the number of students enrolling in each academic year on Bar training courses from 2011/12 to 2021/22. 2022/23 is not shown as the academic year is not over and we do not yet have a record of all enrolments in the year as a result.

**Chart 2. Enrolments by year overall**



From 2011/12-2019/20 the vocational stage of training to become a barrister in England and Wales was the BPTC. Enrolment on the BPTC declined overall from 2011/12 to 2016/17, and then increased in the last few years of the course. For courses offered from 2020/21 onwards, overall enrolment figures have increased once again compared to the numbers on the BPTC. In 2021/22 around 400 more students enrolled on Bar training courses than in the year of the BPTC with the greatest number of students (2018/19).

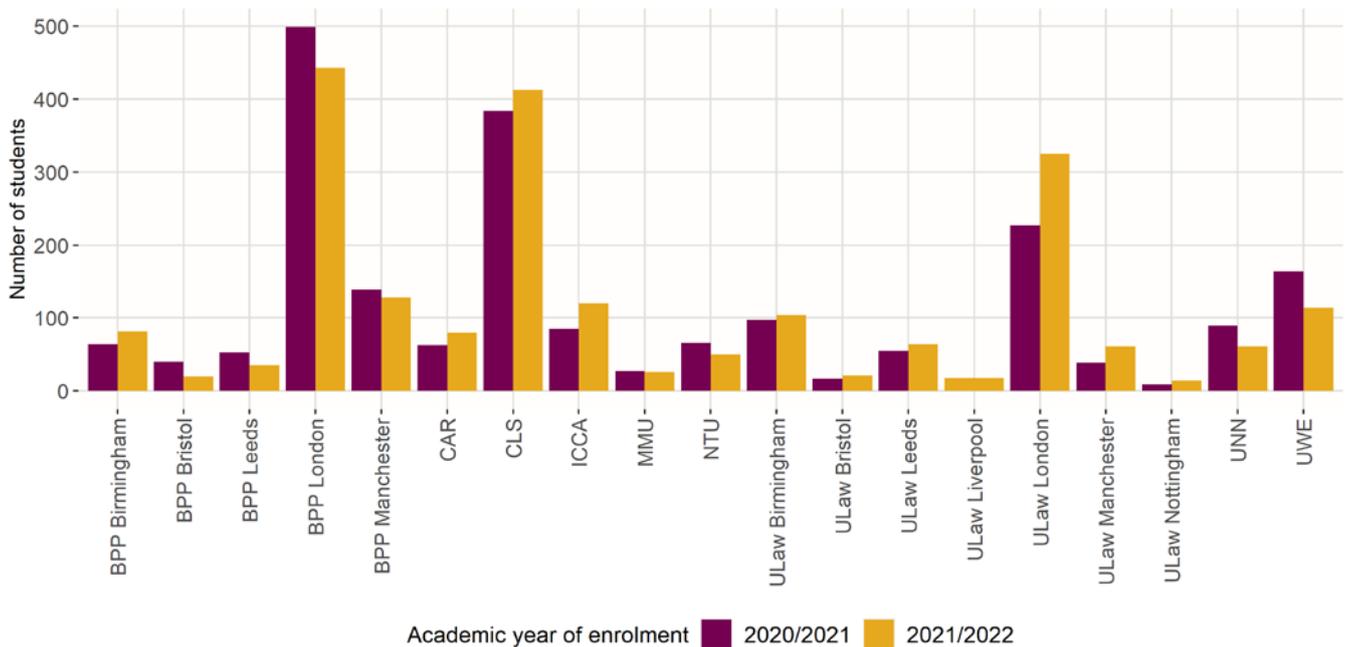
This increase in student numbers may lead to a lower proportion of students going on to pupillage, if the number of pupillages available does not increase proportionately.

Chart 3 below, gives the number of enrolments by provider for the last two academic years. Enrolment is now possible at multiple starting times per year across training providers – prior to 2020/21 this was not the case.

The largest sites in terms of number of students were BPP London, City Law School (CLS) and ULaw London - enrolment at each in 2021/22 was greater than 300 students. There were also several providers with around 100 or more students in the same academic year - BPP Birmingham, BPP Manchester, the Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA) and UWE.

In 2020/21 the overall number of students based at London providers was 1,194 compared to 922 students based at providers outside London. The comparative figures for 2021/22 were 1,300 and 878 respectively.

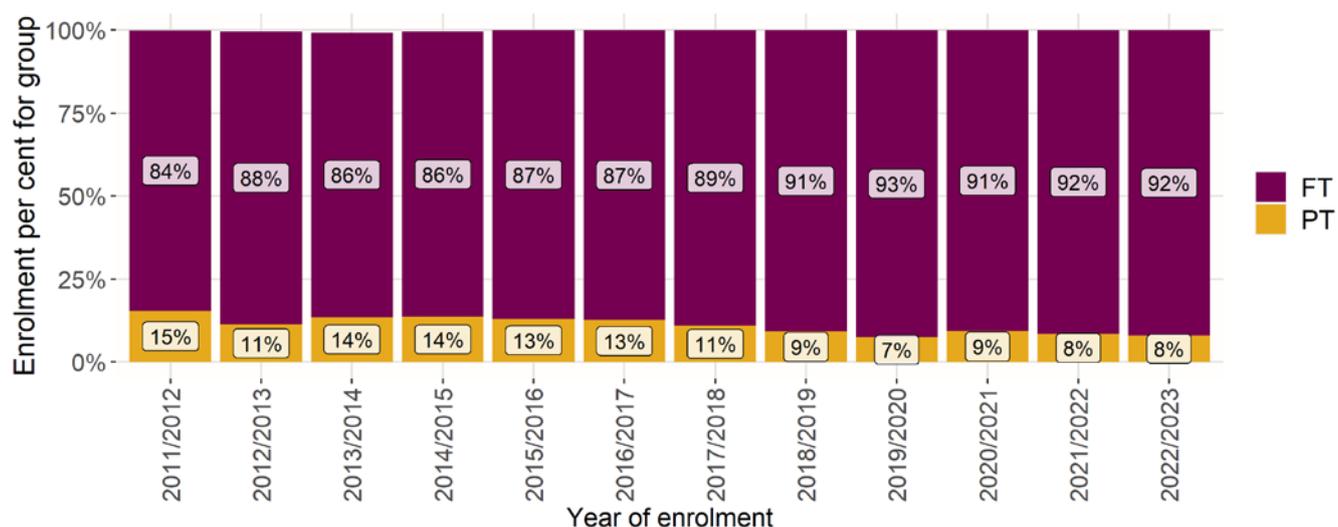
**Chart 3. Enrolments by training provider for 2020/21 and 2021/22**



## Study mode and pathway

The chart below shows enrolments for each academic year by study mode (full time or part time).

**Chart 4. Enrolment on Bar training over time by study mode (% of cohort)**



The *percentage* of part-time students has decreased slightly over time. The *number* of part-time students has not changed significantly, however (for example, there were 208 part-time students enrolled in 2013/14, 160 in 2018/19, and 183 in 2021/22). The trend is more related to an increase in the number of full-time students, which is partly driven by an increase in the number of overseas domiciled students, as such students are more likely to study full-time than UK domiciled students.<sup>11</sup>

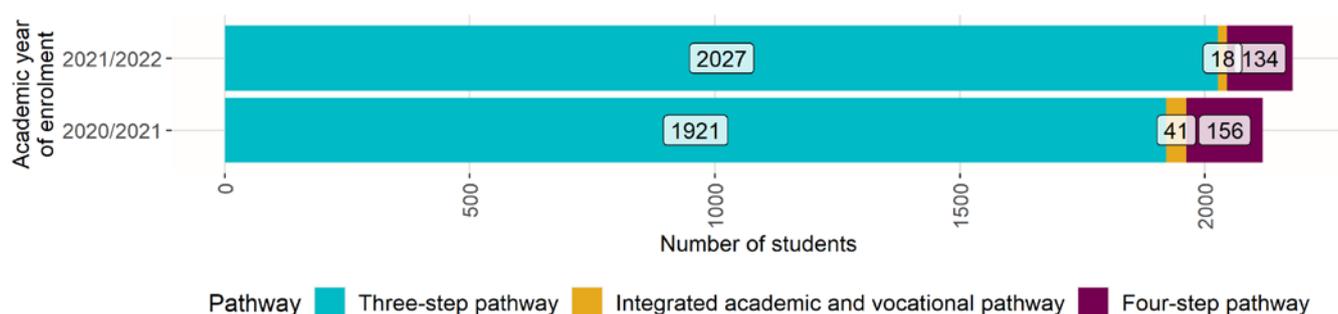
Study mode also has a strong relationship with age, particularly for students domiciled in the UK prior to Bar training enrolment. This is shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Study mode by age range for students enrolling on Bar training from 2011/12-2021/22**

Age Range	Overseas			UK		
	FT	PT	Total	FT	PT	Total
Under 25	99%	1%	100%	89%	11%	100%
25 to 35	94%	6%	100%	72%	28%	100%
35+	85%	15%	100%	55%	45%	100%
Total	98%	2%	100%	82%	18%	100%

Chart 5 below shows the number of students enrolling in 2020/21 and 2021/22 by training pathway.

**Chart 5. Enrolment on Bar training over time by training pathway (numbers)**

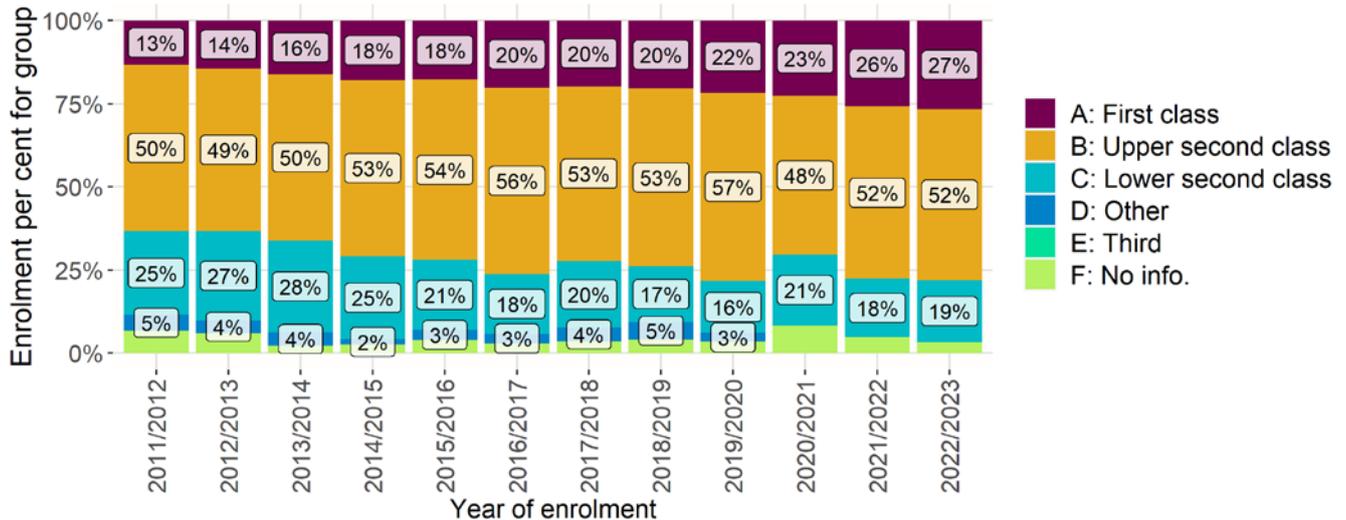


The three-step pathway consists of vocational Bar training as a one-part course, and the four-step pathway includes the two-part vocational Bar training course. As shown in Chart 5, three-step pathway is the predominant way of undertaking vocational Bar training. The four-step pathway declined in popularity very slightly from 2020/21 to 2021/22 (from 5.9% of students to 5.1%).

### First degree classification

Chart 6 below shows the first-degree classification of those enrolling on Bar training courses from 2011/12 to 2022/23.

**Chart 6. Enrolment on Bar training over time by first degree classification (% of cohort)**

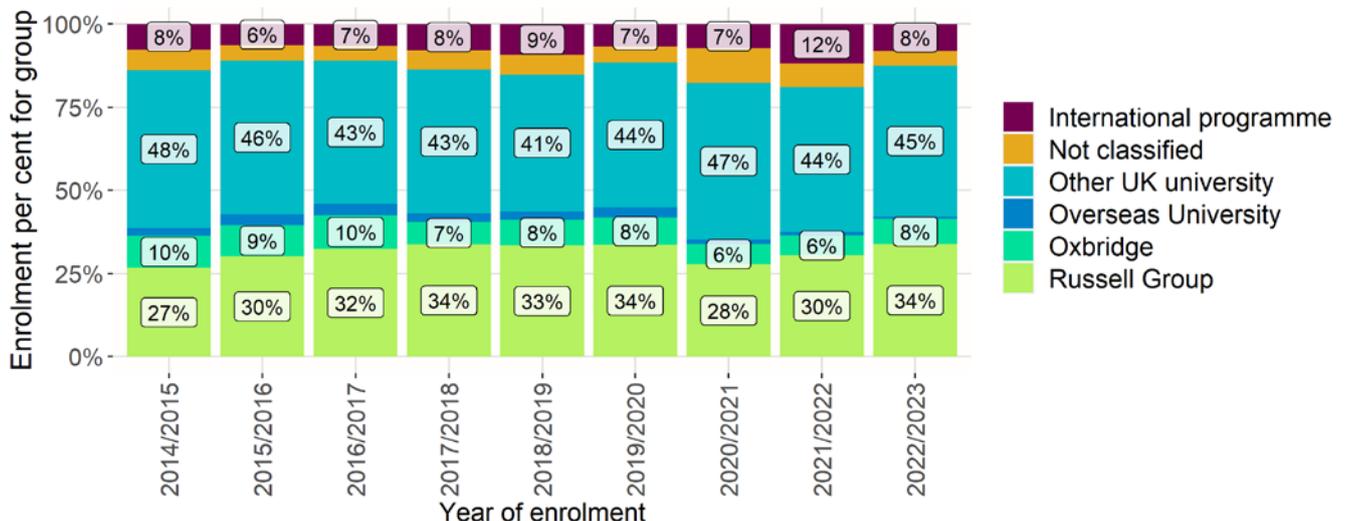


There has been an increase in the proportion of students enrolling with a first-class degree, and a reduction in the proportion of students enrolling with a lower second class degree over time.

### University Attended

Chart 7 below shows the university institution attended of those enrolling on Bar training courses from 2011/12 to 2022/23. Data is not shown for 2011/12-2013/14 as we do not have a good record of university attended for students during this time.

**Chart 7. Enrolment on Bar training over time by first degree institution (% of cohort)**



## Age

**Chart 8. Enrolment on Bar training over time by age when enrolling (% of cohort)**

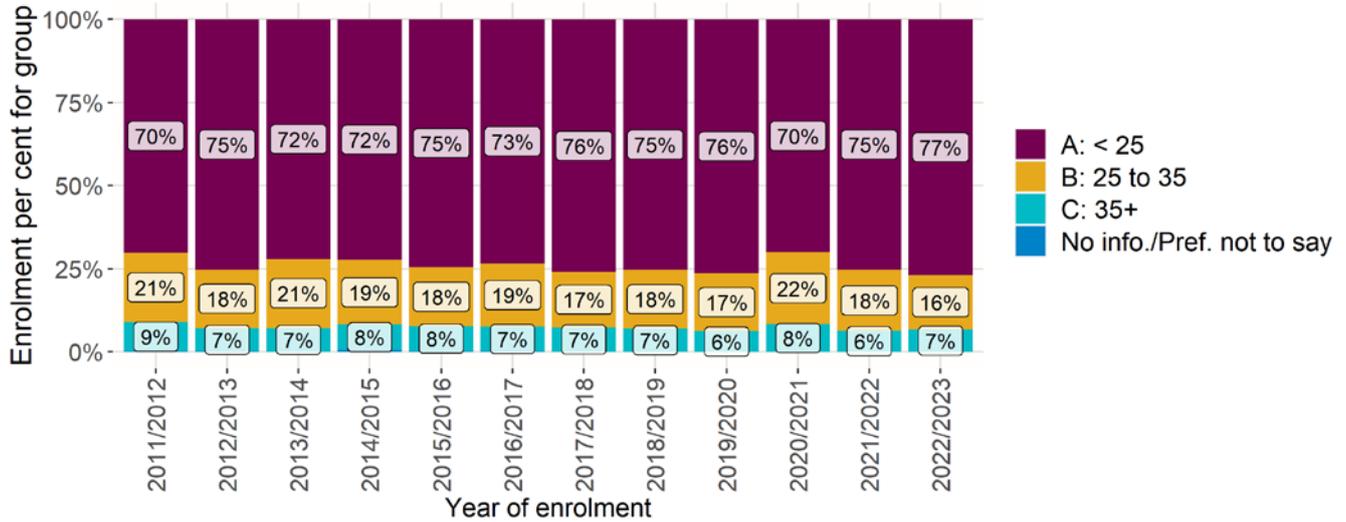
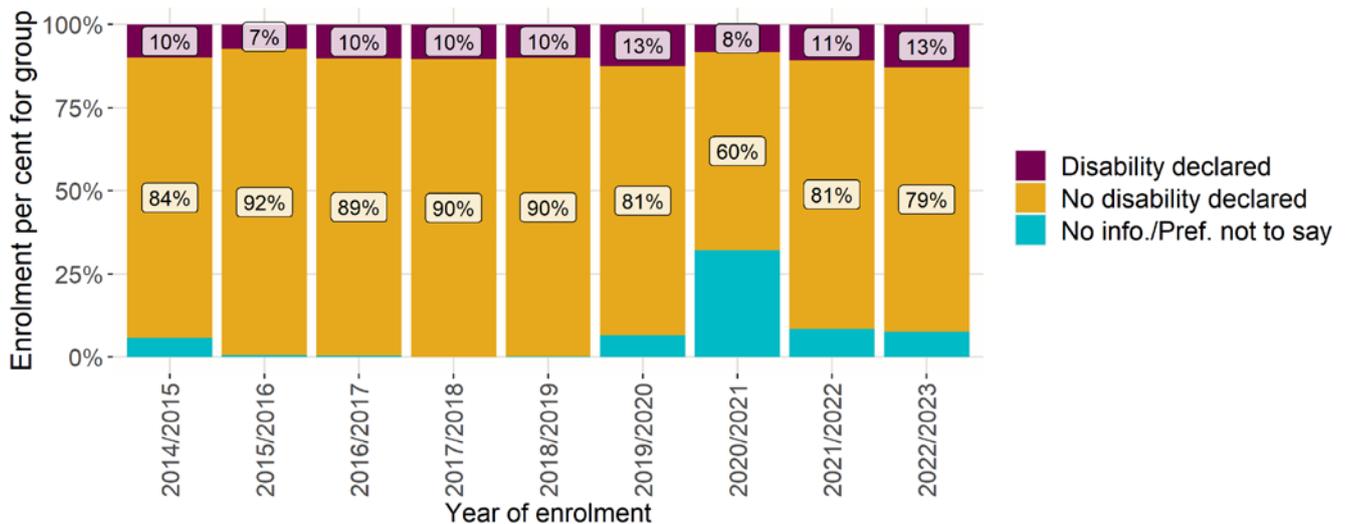


Chart 8 above breaks the enrolments for each academic year down by age range. Overall, the proportion of students on Bar training courses aged under 25 upon enrolment has remained relatively stable over time, fluctuating at between 70-75%. The proportion in other age ranges has also remained relatively stable over time.

## Disability

Chart 9 below breaks down the proportions of students on vocational Bar training courses by disability status...Overall, the proportion of those with a declared disability has remained relatively stable over time, at around 10 per cent of students. Data is not shown for 2011/12-2013/14 as we do not have a good record of disability data on students during this time.

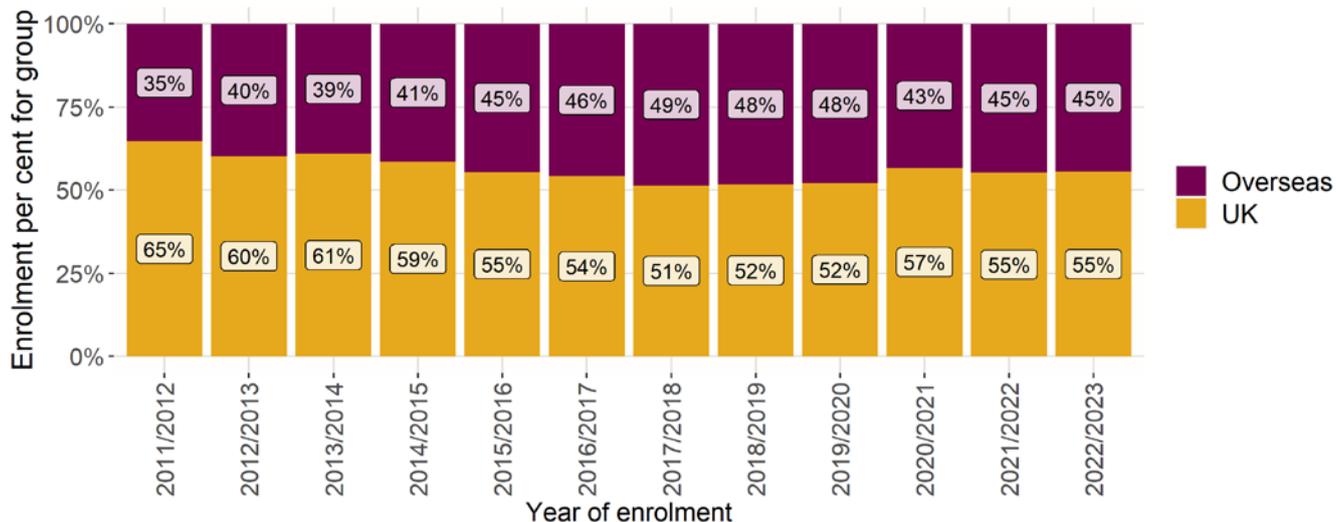
**Chart 9. Enrolment on Bar training over time by disability status (% of cohort)**



## Domicile

Chart 10 below breaks down the proportions of students on vocational Bar training courses by region of domicile prior to enrolment. The proportion of overseas domiciled students undertaking Bar training increased by around 10 percentage points from 2011/12 to 2015/16, and has then fluctuated at around 45-50% of a cohort per year since then.

**Chart 10. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile (% of cohort)**

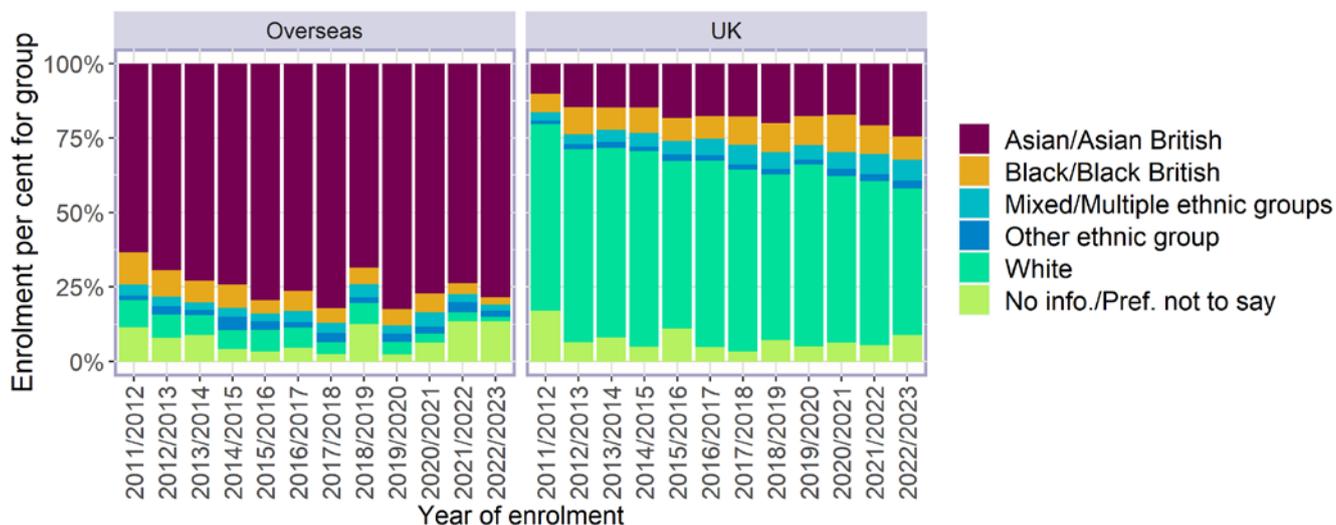


The proportion of UK domiciled students enrolling in 2020/21, and 2021/22 increased slightly compared to the final years of the BPTC. The number of UK domiciled students enrolled in 2021/22 (1187) was greater than for any year for which we have a good record for this category, and this would suggest that, unless the number of pupillages each year increases, then a smaller proportion of UK domiciled Bar training students will go on to gain pupillage following the course.

## Ethnicity

Chart 11 and Table 3. below give a breakdown of the ethnicity of those enrolling on vocational Bar training courses by domicile and academic year of enrolment. They are disaggregated by domicile as overseas domiciled students have a different ethnic profile compared to UK domiciled students.

**Chart 11. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile and ethnicity (% of cohort)**



**Table 3. Enrolment on Bar training over time by domicile and ethnicity (% of cohort – excluding non-responses) – every other year is included**

Acad. year of Enrolment	Overseas					UK				
	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Mixed/mult. eth. group	Other ethnic group	White	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Mixed/mult. eth. group	Other ethnic group	White
11/12	72%	12%	4%	2%	10%	12%	8%	3%	1%	76%
13/14	80%	8%	3%	2%	7%	16%	8%	5%	2%	69%
15/16	82%	5%	3%	3%	8%	21%	9%	5%	3%	63%
17/18	84%	5%	4%	3%	4%	18%	10%	7%	2%	63%
19/20	85%	5%	3%	3%	4%	19%	10%	5%	2%	64%
21/22	85%	4%	3%	4%	4%	22%	10%	7%	3%	58%

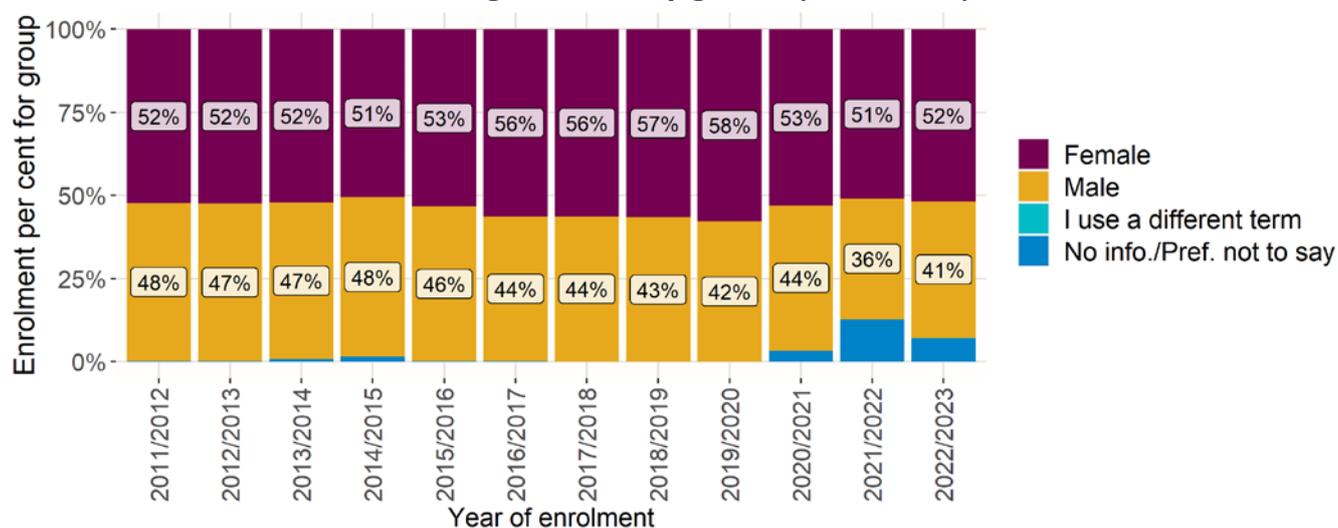
Each year, around three quarters of overseas domiciled students are from an Asian/Asian British background when including those for whom we do not have information on ethnicity (around 80 per cent are from such backgrounds excluding non-responses).

The proportion of UK domiciled students from White ethnic backgrounds has decreased over time, from 70 per cent for such students enrolled from 2011/12-2013/14, to 56 per cent for 2021/22-2022/23 (excluding non-responses for both). There has been a corresponding increase in the proportion of UK domiciled students from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (15% to 24% for 11/12-13/14 to 21/22-22/23), and Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups (4% to 7% for 11/12-13/14 to 21/22-22/23). The growth in the proportion of UK domiciled students from Black/Black British backgrounds has not been as large (8.5% to 9.5% for 11/12-13/14 to 21/22-22/23).

## Gender

Chart 12 below gives a breakdown of gender on vocational Bar training courses over time. When excluding non-responses, there has been a greater proportion of females enrolling in recent years compared to the first five years of the BPTC (2011-2015).

**Chart 12. Enrolment on Bar training over time by gender (% of cohort)**



When further disaggregating by domicile, the proportion of female overseas students, and the proportion of UK domiciled female students by gender were quite similar on each year of the BPTC. From 2020/21, there is more of a difference between UK and overseas domiciled students in this regard, with there being an increasing proportion of UK domiciled female students compared to overseas domiciled female students in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

**Table 4. Enrolment on Bar training courses by gender and domicile**

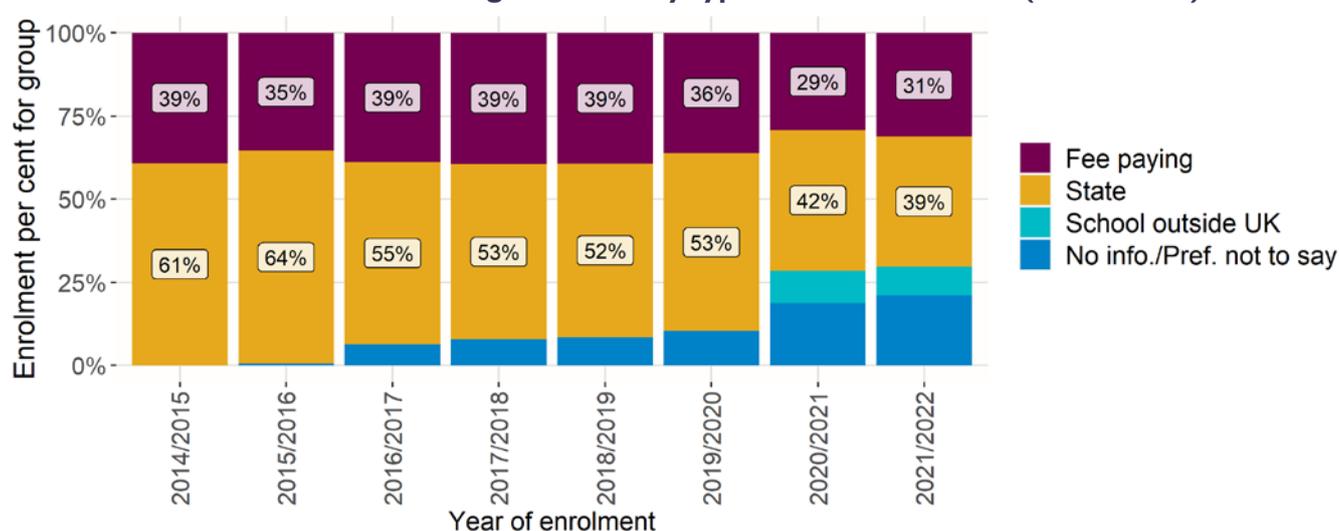
Grouped year of enrolment	Overseas			UK		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2011/12-2015/16	52%	48%	100%	53%	47%	100%
2016/17-2019/20	56%	44%	100%	57%	43%	100%
2020/21-2022/23	50%	50%	100%	61%	39%	100%

## School Attended

Chart 13 below breaks down the type of school mainly attended between the ages of 11-18 for those enrolling on vocational Bar training. Data are not shown for 2011/12-2013/14 as data on school attended were collected through the BCAT, and the BCAT was not in existence for much of this time.

When excluding non-responses, and those who attended school outside of the UK, the proportion of students who attended a fee-paying school has fluctuated around 40 per cent over time. The proportion who attended a fee-paying school on Bar training courses is high compared to the proportion of the UK population who attended fee-paying schools (this stands at around 7%, and 10% of university entrants<sup>12</sup>).

**Chart 13. Enrolment on Bar training over time by type of school attended (% of cohort)<sup>13</sup>**



12 See ISC: Research. <https://www.isc.co.uk/research/> and HESA: Widening participation summary: UK Performance Indicators. <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators/widening-participation-summary> (both accessed 13 December 2022).

13 Since 2020/21, data on school attended has been collected via MyBar in addition to data collected via the Bar Course Aptitude Test. MyBar includes an 'outside the UK' option for school attended, which is why this category first appears in 2020/21.

# Student results

This section of the report presents statistics on student results over time. The statistics are calculated from the BSB’s record of student results as of January 2023. Please note that our record of BPTC results for 2019/20 is not complete.<sup>14</sup> In addition, lower pass rates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 are partly due to an incomplete record, and partly due to students having had less time in which to complete the course. This makes comparing between years difficult, as we would need to compare with relevant snapshots taken at set points in time to understand how students enrolled in recent years are performing in comparison to those enrolled in years prior.

In this report “Not yet complete” means the student has not yet passed all of the assessments on the course, whether this is due to not yet having taken all assessments, or not passing one or more assessments if they have taken them all.

Some years of enrolment on the BPTC have been grouped together in order to make it easier to display trends over a greater period of time. Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

## Overall

**Chart 14. Results on Bar training over time by first degree classification (% of cohort)**

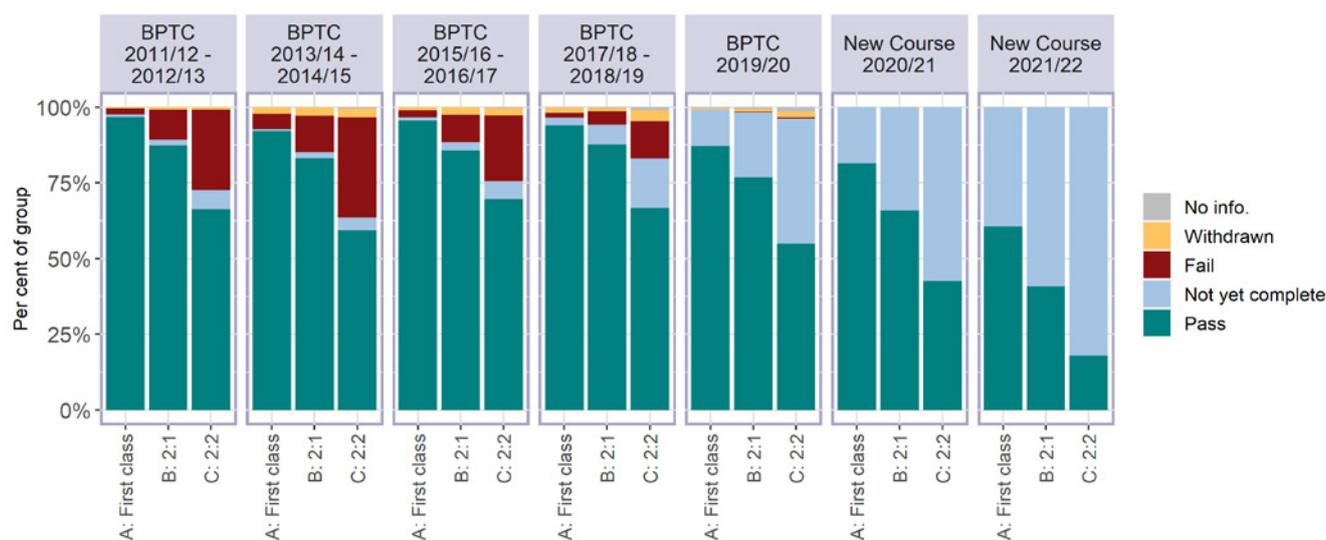


Chart 14 above shows results by degree classification on Bar training courses over time. Differences between those with different degree classifications in terms of the proportion who failed or who are not yet complete on a Bar training course can clearly be seen.<sup>15</sup>

Overall, those with a lower second class degree are less likely to have passed the course than those with an upper second class degree, who are in turn less likely to have passed the course than those with a first class degree.

Based on trends seen on the BPTC, it would appear that well over half of those with any degree classification will go on to pass the course overall – for those enrolled from 2011/12-2019/20, the BSB has a

<sup>14</sup> Due to not having received the most up to date data on student results for 2019/20 from course providers at the time of writing.

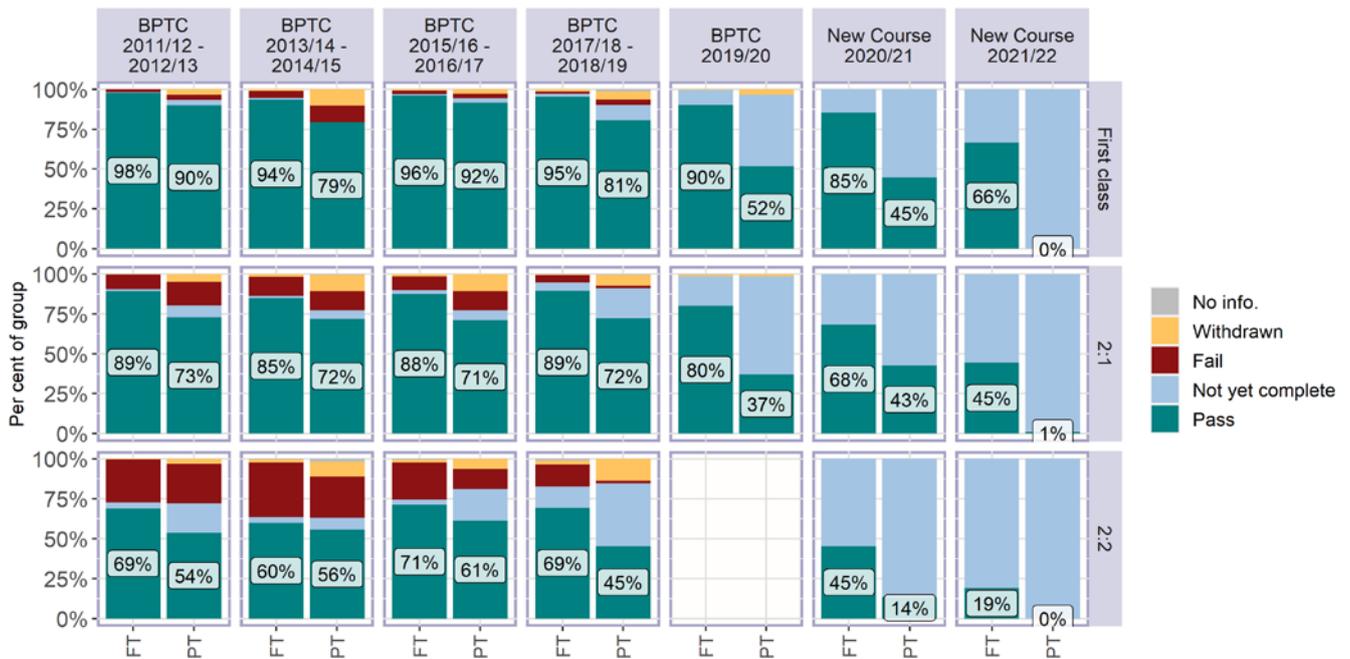
<sup>15</sup> Many of those in our records who are not yet complete on a course and who enrolled during the first half of the 2010s will be likely to have withdrawn from the course.

record of around 93 per cent of those with a first-class degree, 85 per cent of those with a 2:1, and 64 per cent of those with a 2:2 having passed the course as of January 2023.

## Study Mode

CChart 15 below shows results on Bar training courses by mode of study. As would be expected, part time students enrolled in more recent years have lower pass rates on the course, as they would have had less opportunity to sit all modules and undertake resits.

**Chart 15. Results on Bar training by degree class and study mode (% of cohort)**

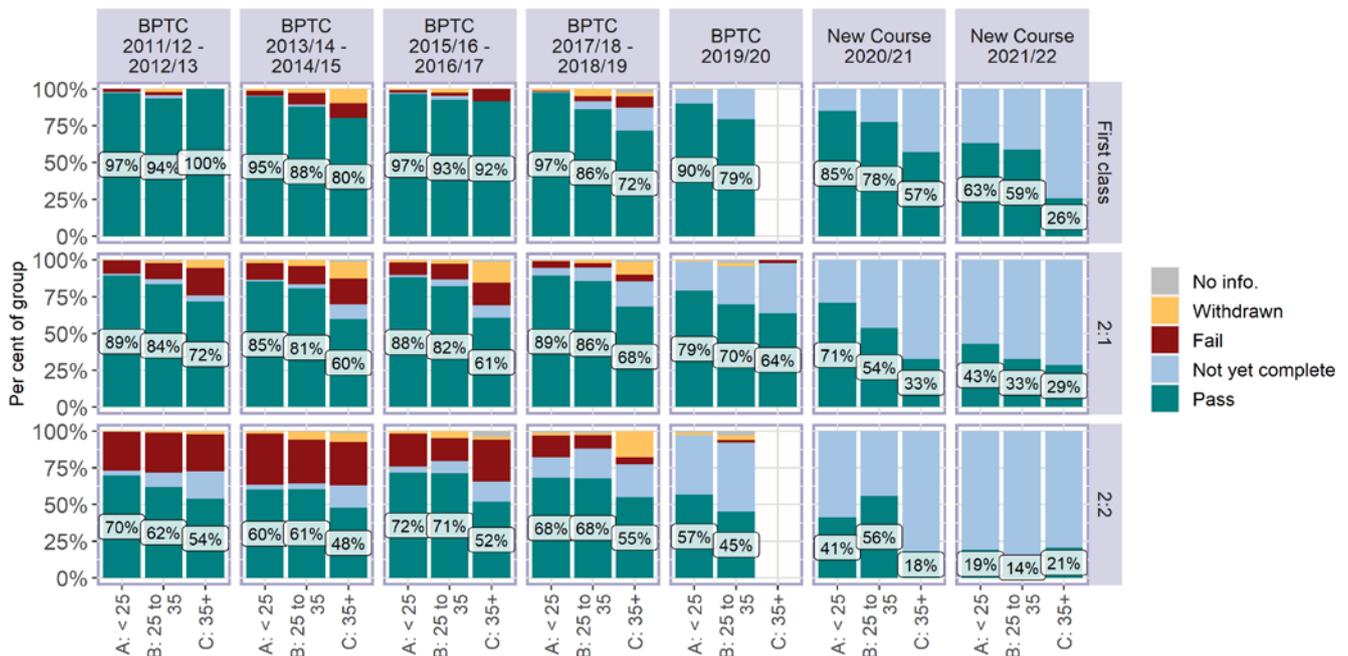


For BPTC students enrolled between 2011/12-2018/19 (a period which may represent the long run trend better than more recent years), part-time students are slightly less likely to have completed the course, and more likely to have withdrawn from the course in comparison to full time students. This may be partly related to age, as part time students are more likely to be aged 35+, and such students also appear to be slightly more likely to withdraw/not complete a Bar training course they enrol on, as seen below.

## Age

Chart 16 below shows results by age and degree classification on Bar training courses over time.

**Chart 16. Results on Bar training by degree class and age (% of cohort)**

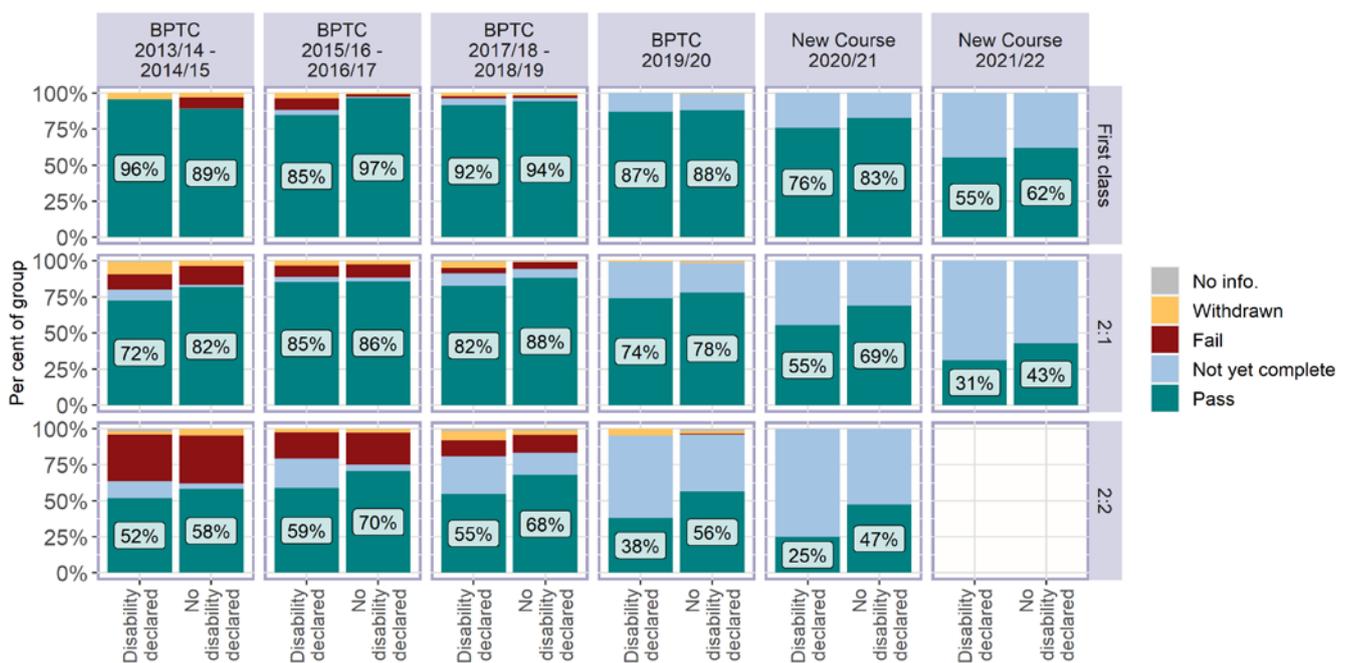


There appears to be some relationship between age and results on Bar training, with older students being slightly more likely to withdraw from training, to take slightly longer to complete the course, and to be at slightly greater risk of not completing the course.

## Disability

Chart 17 below shows results by disability status and degree classification on Bar training courses over time.

**Chart 17. Results on Bar training by degree class and disability status (% of cohort)**



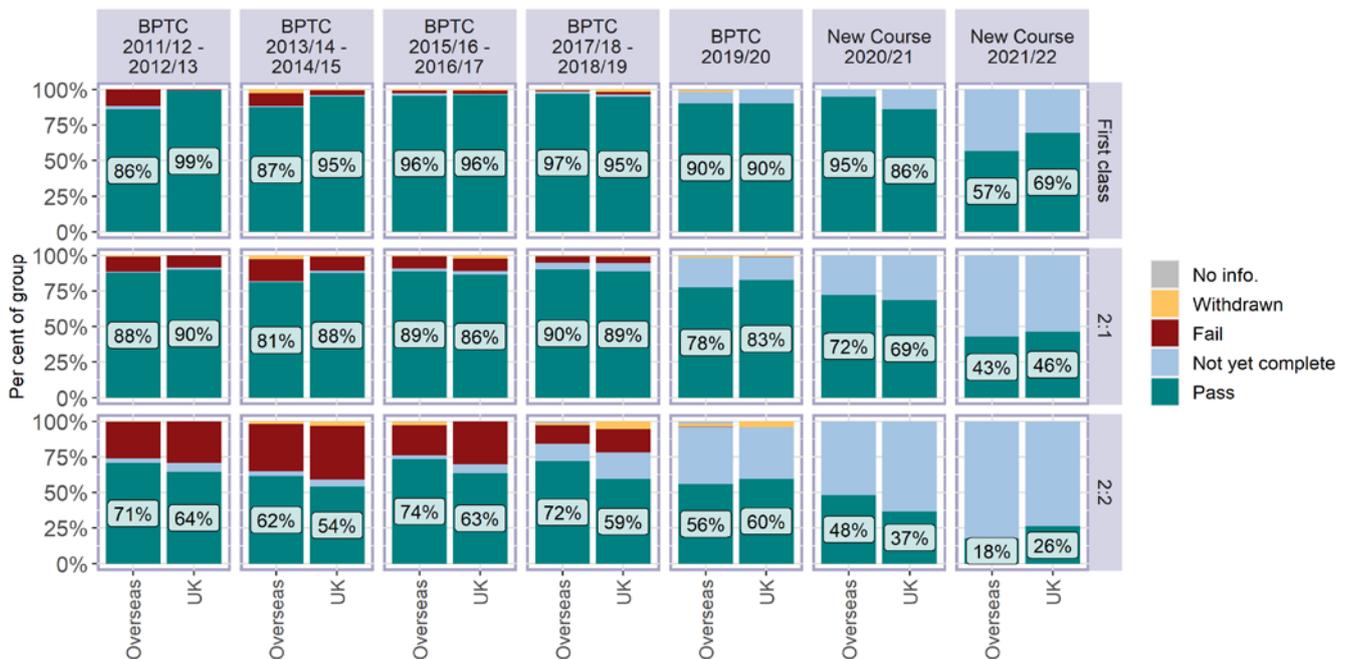
Overall, there appears to be some relationship between disability and results on Bar training, with those with a declared disability slightly more likely than those with no disability declared to have not yet completed Bar training when controlling for first degree classification. As with all statistics on Bar training presented in this section, the trend seen may not be present if a greater number of variables were controlled for.

## Domicile

The chart below shows overall results on Bar training courses by domicile prior to enrolment on the course. Overall, results across degree classification are quite similar for those domiciled in the UK and those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment.

There is one trend that stands out for the BPTC, which is that a slightly higher proportion of those domiciled in the UK with a lower second class degree are yet to complete the course. The same trend is seen for 2020/21 across degree class, although this may be more related to study mode than other factors, as UK domiciled students are more likely to undertake Bar training on a part time basis, and we are yet to receive the most up to date results for part-time students enrolled in 2020/21.

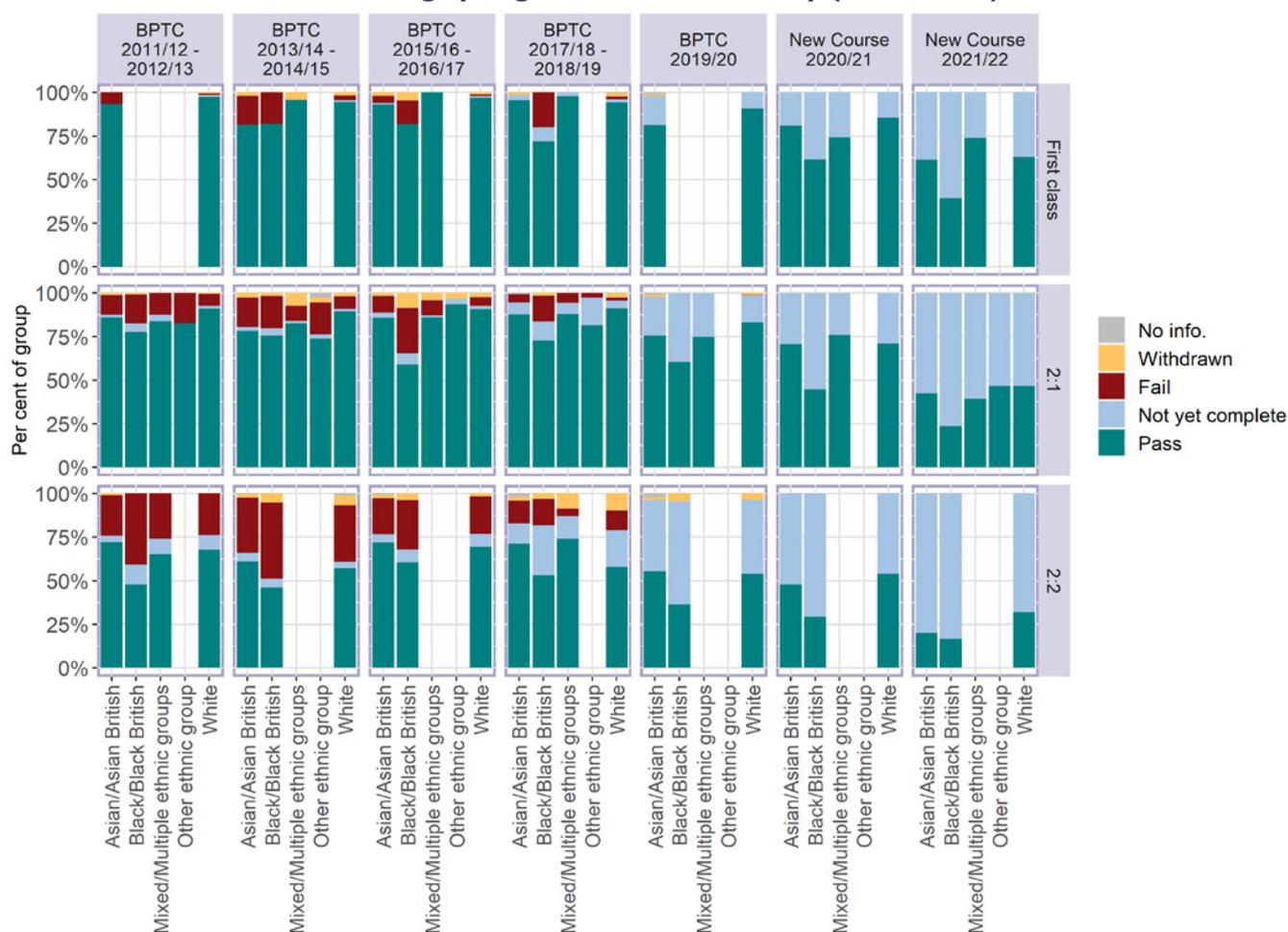
**Chart 18. Results on Bar training by degree class and domicile (% of cohort)**



## Ethnicity

Chart 19 below shows overall results on Bar training over time by degree class and ethnicity. Results are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a relevant grouping. The below is for all domiciles, as results by domicile appear to be relatively similar overall. There is a further chart in the appendices, giving the figures only for UK domiciled students with a 2:1 degree (the most numerous degree class for those enrolling).

**Chart 19. Results on Bar training by degree class and ethnicity (% of cohort)**



Overall, results suggest that at least for those with an upper second class degree, there are some differences between those from different ethnic backgrounds in terms of the proportion passing the course. The difference seen is more pronounced for those from Black/Black British backgrounds, with those from such backgrounds less likely to pass the course in comparison to those from other ethnic groups for several cohorts.

## Gender

Chart 20 below shows overall results on Bar training over time by degree class and gender. There does not appear to be any clear trend seen across all years and degree classifications. Differences in pass rates by gender are generally quite small across years and degree classifications.

**Chart 20. Results on Bar training by degree class and gender (% of cohort)**



# Student Progression

Following completion of Bar training and Call to the Bar in England and Wales, prospective barristers are eligible for the next component of training, pupillage. This section provides information on progression onto pupillage following Bar training.<sup>16</sup>

The statistics presented have been calculated based upon the BSB's record of student results and progression as of January 2023.

Those seeking to undertake pupillage in England and Wales are allowed up to five years following completion of the vocational part of an approved Bar training course in which they can gain pupillage – after this point, a waiver from the BSB would be needed. This makes comparing between years difficult - we would need to compare with relevant snapshots taken at set points in time to understand how students enrolled in recent years are progressing in comparison to those enrolled in years prior.

It is also the case that, along with all of the statistics presented in this report, there may be other variables more strongly linked to the outcomes seen which are not controlled for.

In cases where charts relate to students' domicile, this refers to the region in which the student was domiciled prior to enrolment on Bar training.

Most of those domiciled in other countries prior to undertaking a vocational Bar training course do not appear to seek to gain pupillage in England and Wales following completion of the course. For this reason, **most charts in this section relate to data on those domiciled in the UK prior to enrolment on a Bar training course only.**

Some years of enrolment on the BPTC have been grouped together in order to make it easier to display trends over a greater period of time. Statistics are only presented where there are 20 or more students in a group.

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<sup>16</sup> In addition to this section of the report, some useful information on pupillage can be found on the BSB website at <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/becoming-a-barrister/pupillage-component.html>.

We have also published two research reports focusing on pupillage – one is on pupillage selection criteria, and can be found [here](#), and one in differential outcomes in gaining pupillage, which can be found [here](#).

The Bar Council also provides some useful information on pupillage on their website at <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/pupil-barristers.html>, as well as a yearly report which presents lots of useful statistics on applications received through the Pupillage Gateway platform. The latest version of this at the time of writing can be found here - <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/resource/pupillage-gateway-report-2022.html>

## Progression onto pupillage – of entire cohort

Chart 21 shows the total number of those gaining pupillage or being granted Full Qualification Confirmation (FQC) in the case of being granted a waiver for the professional stage of training by legal year. It includes those that have undertaken a full vocational Bar training course, and those that have been granted a waiver for at least some of this stage (for example, some transferring solicitors).<sup>17</sup>

**Chart 21. Number of those gaining pupillage or being granted a waiver and FQC overall by legal year**

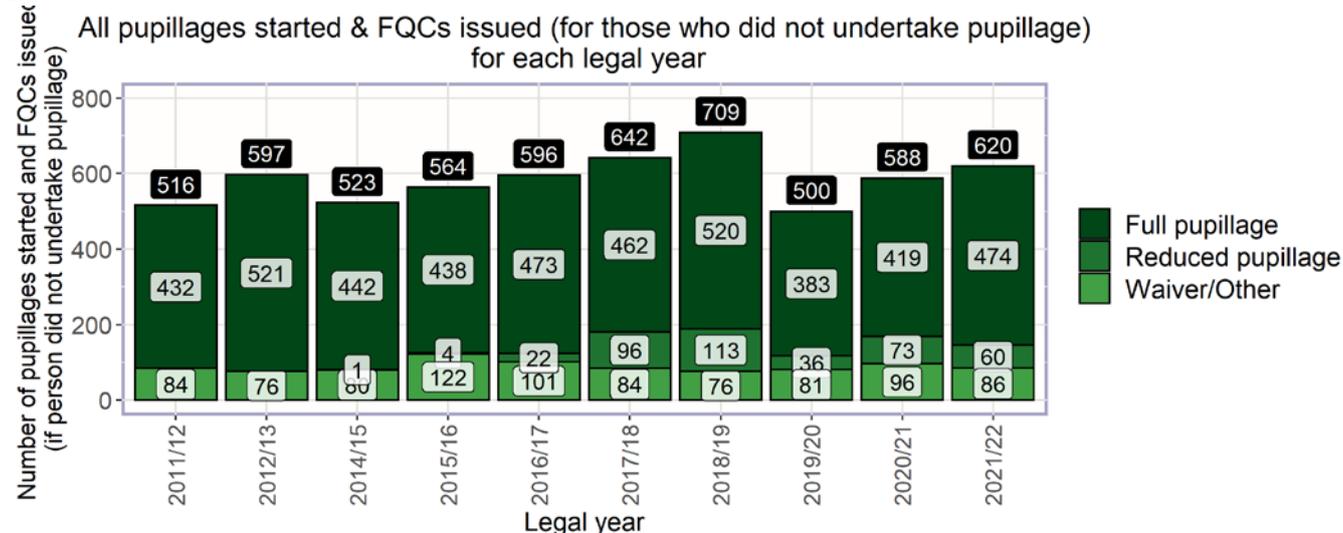
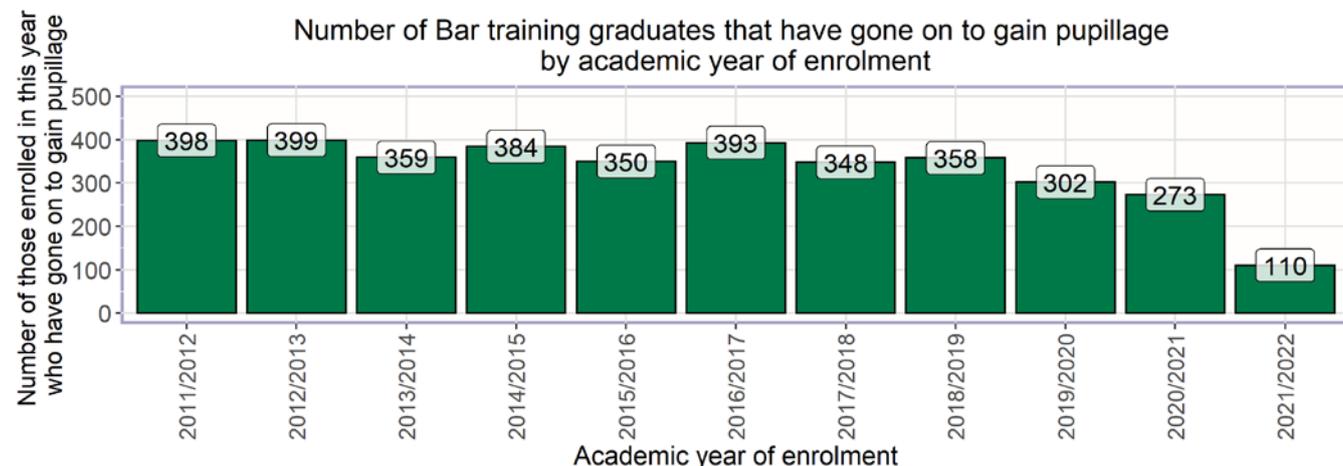


Chart 22 below shows the total number of Bar training graduates who have gone on to gain pupillage in England and Wales. Bar training graduates will make up the majority of those undertaking a full pupillage (see chart 21) each year. For the earlier cohorts shown in Chart 22, the number who obtained pupillage may be higher than the numbers shown, as accurate numbers for this are dependent on student records being linked to those of practising barristers in the BSB database, and this was formerly not as reliable a process as it is currently.

**Chart 22. Total number of Bar training graduates that have gone on to gain pupillage by academic year of enrolment – 2011/12-2021/22**

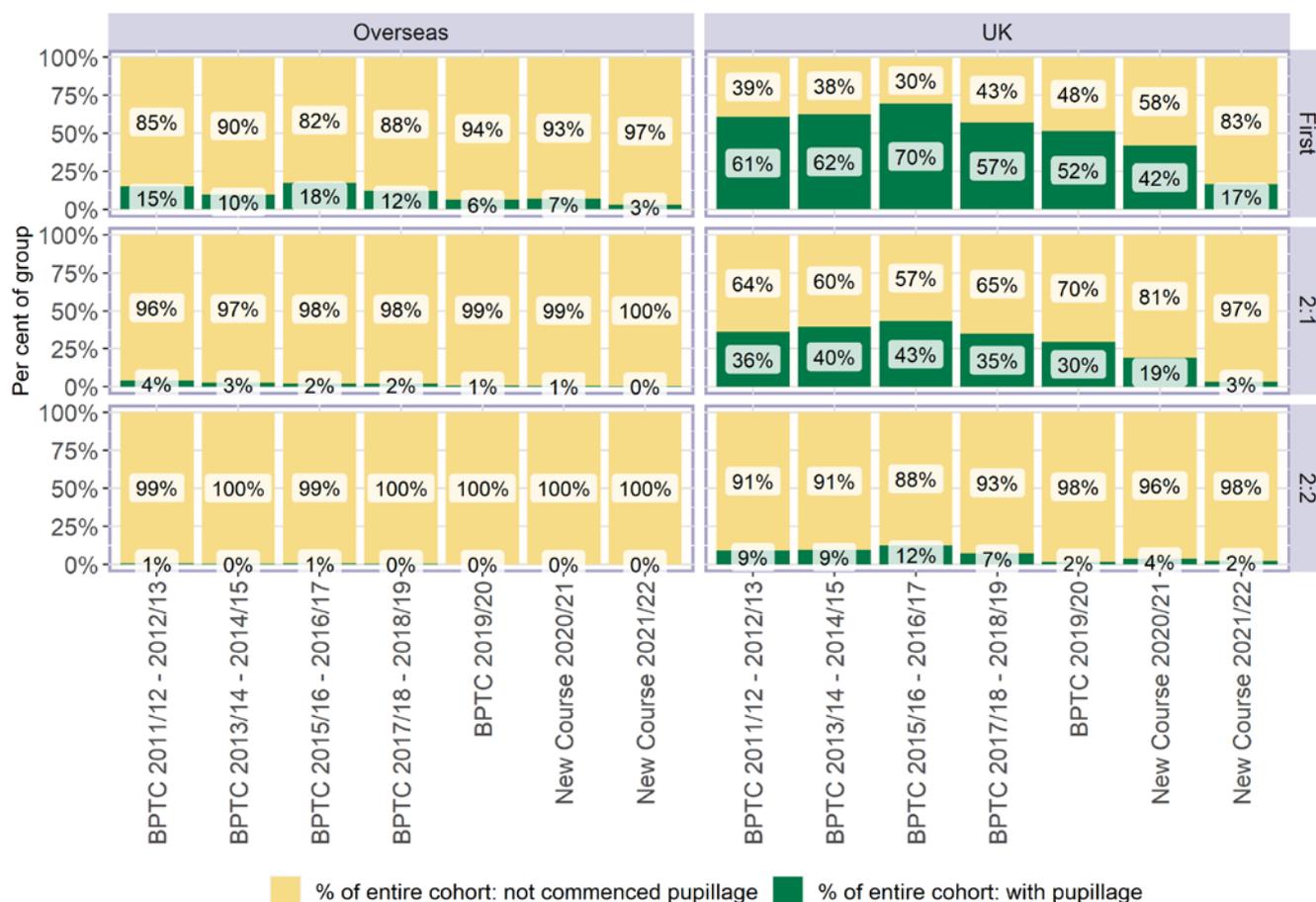


<sup>17</sup> See <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/barrister-training-waivers-and-exemptions.html> for more information on waivers for those seeking to enter into a career at the Bar in England and Wales.

There is a clear relationship between the number of students gaining pupillage and years since enrolment. As graduates have five years in which to gain pupillage following completion of the course, this is understandable.<sup>18</sup>

The chart below shows the proportion of an entire cohort (including those that have not passed the course) who have gone on to gain pupillage by domicile and first-degree classification.

**Chart 23. Progression of entire cohort onto pupillage – By degree class and domicile**



The majority of overseas domiciled students do not go on to pupillage in England and Wales. In the past, there has been evidence that a relatively low proportion of applicants for pupillage in England and Wales have a non-UK nationality,<sup>19</sup> and that only around 16 per cent of overseas domiciled students surveyed on the BPTC had practising at the Bar in England and Wales as their main motivation for studying the course. Altogether, this would suggest that most of those domiciled overseas prior to enrolment will seek a legal career outside of this jurisdiction.<sup>20</sup>

Chart 24 below shows the proportion of UK domiciled students (also covering the entire cohort, including those who have not passed the course) who have gone on to gain pupillage. The difference between those of different degree classifications can clearly be seen in terms of student progression.

Of all UK domiciled students, when controlling for degree class only, it is only those with a first class

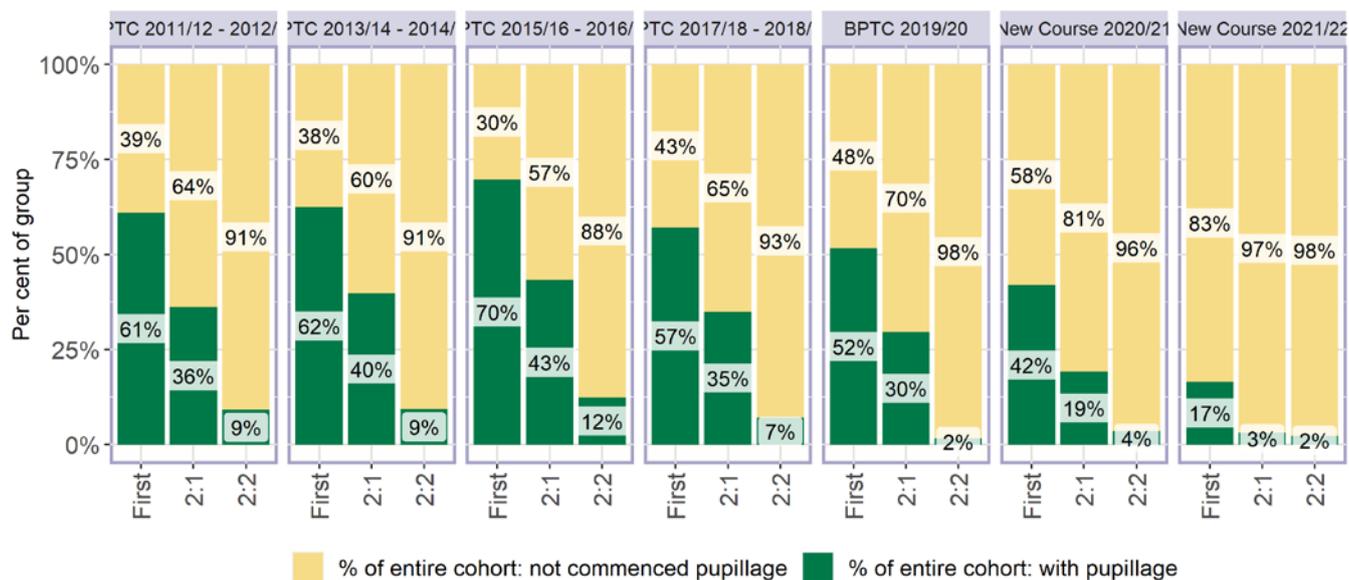
18 Can be accessed via <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

19 See General Council of the Bar (2010). An analysis of the backgrounds of pupil portal applicants in 2010 – page 13 – found [here](#).

20 Calculated from BPTC perceptions survey undertaken by the BSB for 2013-14.

degree for whom a majority in a cohort would be expected to go on to pupillage.

**Chart 24. Progression of entire cohort of UK domiciled students onto pupillage**

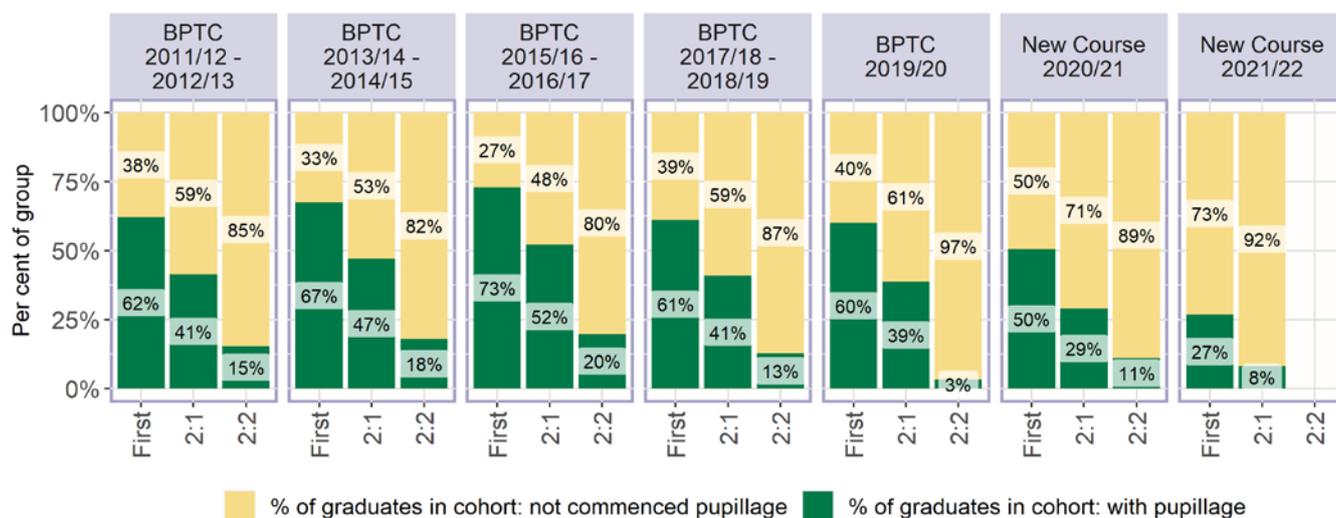


## Progression onto pupillage - course graduates only

The charts in this section present statistics on UK domiciled Bar training graduates (those that have passed vocational Bar training) by pupillage status as of January 2023.

Chart 25 below displays statistics on pupillage status of UK domiciled Bar training graduates by first degree classification.

**Chart 25. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class**



Overall, out of those who pass the course, those who have a first-class degree go onto gain pupillage in the greatest proportions, with around 60 per cent and more of such course graduates gaining pupillage in the long run. Those with a lower-second class degree do not gain pupillage in such proportions, with typically less than one in five UK domiciled course graduates with this degree class going onto pupillage. It is likely that some of the difference in the proportion of a cohort gaining pupillage by degree class is also due to differences seen in results on vocational training, which do co-vary alongside first

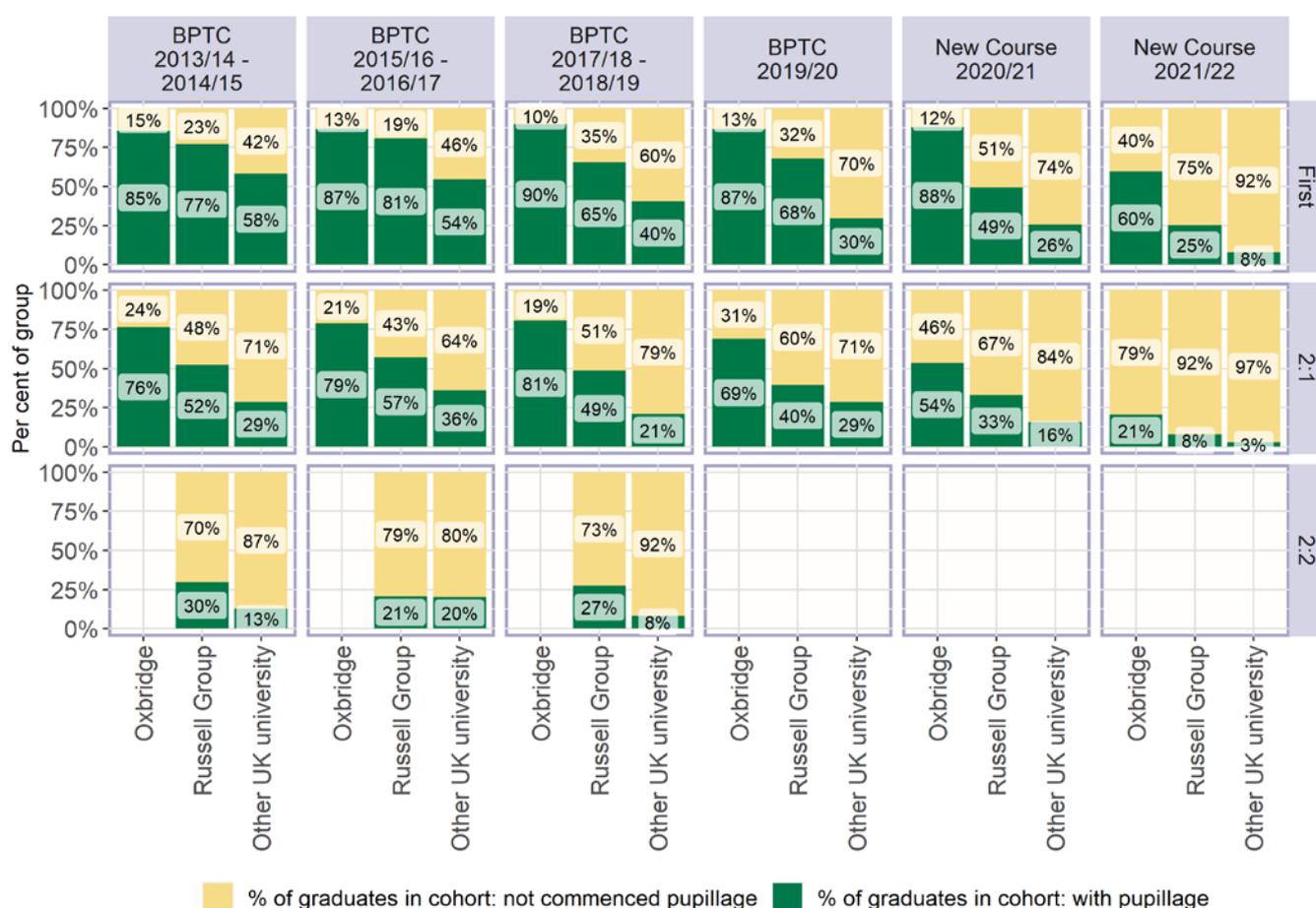
degree classification.

Part 4 of the BPTC key statistics report monitored the relationship between grades awarded on the BPTC and the proportion gaining pupillage.<sup>21</sup> Understandably, there was a clear link between the two, and it is likely that this is also the case on the Bar training courses run from 2020/21 onwards. The lack of standardisation in grades awarded across vocational training providers makes this harder to monitor than on the BPTC, however.

## University attended

Chart 26 below shows the proportion of UK domiciled Bar training graduates that have gained pupillage by year of enrolment, degree classification and university attended for their first degree.

**Chart 26. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and university attended for undergraduate degree**



There is a clear difference in the proportion gaining pupillage when comparing different groupings for university. Those who attended Oxbridge gain pupillage in greater proportions than those who attended another Russell Group university, who in turn gain pupillage in greater proportions than those attending other UK universities - some part of this trend may be due to results on the Bar training course correlating with degree institution, but it is unlikely that all of it can be explained by this given results from previous research into the area in 2017<sup>22</sup>, and the statistics presented in Part 4 of the BPTC Key Statistics

21 These can be found at <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

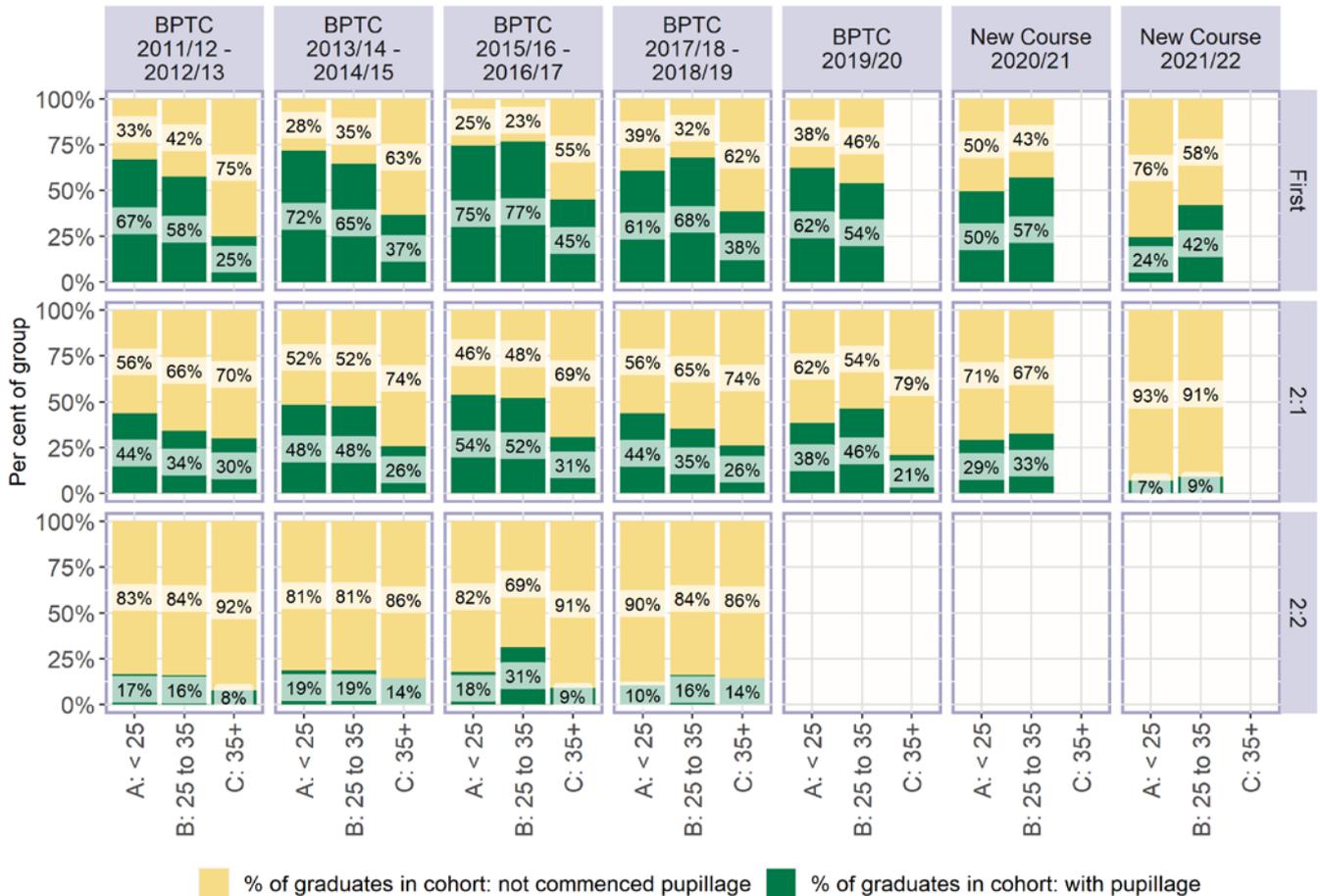
22 University attended was found to be a strong predictor of the likelihood of gaining pupillage in this re-

Reports, which did control for BPTC grade.<sup>23</sup>

## Age

Chart 27 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by age range upon enrolment. Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group, which means that in some cases, those age 35+ are not included due to low numbers of students in this age range.

**Chart 27. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and age range**



When controlling for degree class, similar proportions of those aged under 25 and those aged 25-34 go on to gain pupillage after passing Bar training. It appears that a lower proportion of those aged 35+ go on to gain pupillage when controlling for degree class, although this may be partly related to studying the course on a part-time basis: Around 45 per cent of UK domiciled students aged 35+ enrolled from 2011/12-2021/22, enrolled on the course on a part-time basis, compared to around 28 per cent of those aged 25-34, and 11 per cent of those aged under 25.

The trends seen above could also generally be said to be present when degree institution is controlled for. This is shown in Chart A1 in the appendices.

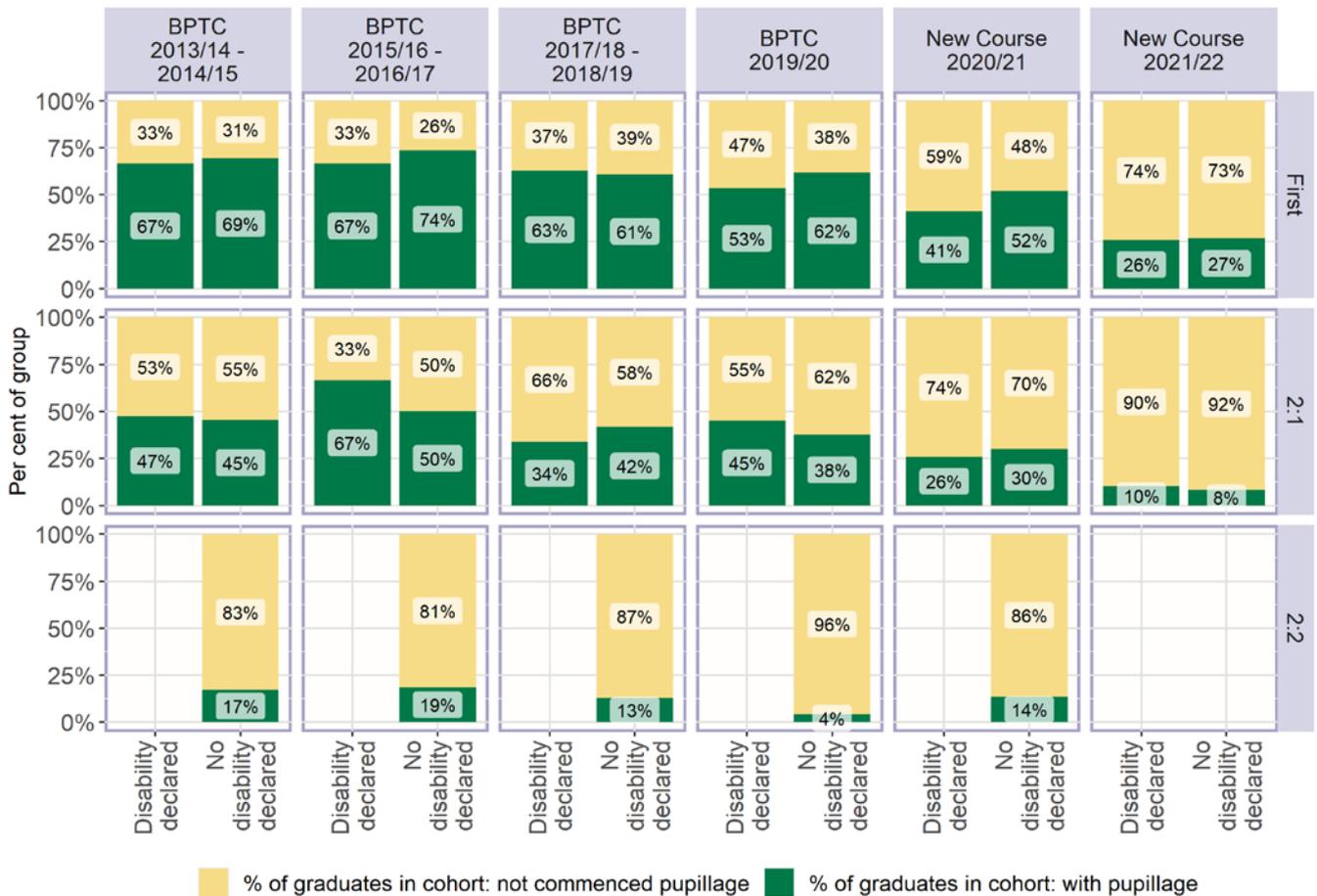
search - Bar Standards Board (2017). Exploring differential attainment at BPTC and Pupillage. Can be found [here](https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html) 23 See Chart 4.A.10 of the 2021 BPTC Key Statistics Report for reference. <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

## Disability

Chart 28 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by disability status (as defined under the Equality Act 2010). Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group (there were not enough students who had a declared disability with a 2:2 degree to provide a valid comparative group).

Overall, no clear trend emerges from the data. In some instances, those with a declared disability have gained pupillage in greater proportions for those with a specific degree class, and in some instances, the opposite is seen.

**Chart 28. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and disability status**



No clear trends emerge either for the relationship between disability status and the proportion of UK domiciled Bar training graduates gaining pupillage when degree institution is controlled for. This is shown in Chart A2 in the appendices.

## Ethnicity

Chart 29 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by ethnic background. Data are only presented where there are 20 or more in a group.

Overall, UK domiciled Bar training graduates from White ethnic backgrounds appear to gain pupillage in greater proportions than UK domiciled Bar training graduates from Minority Ethnic backgrounds when disaggregating by degree classification.

**Chart 29. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and ethnic background**

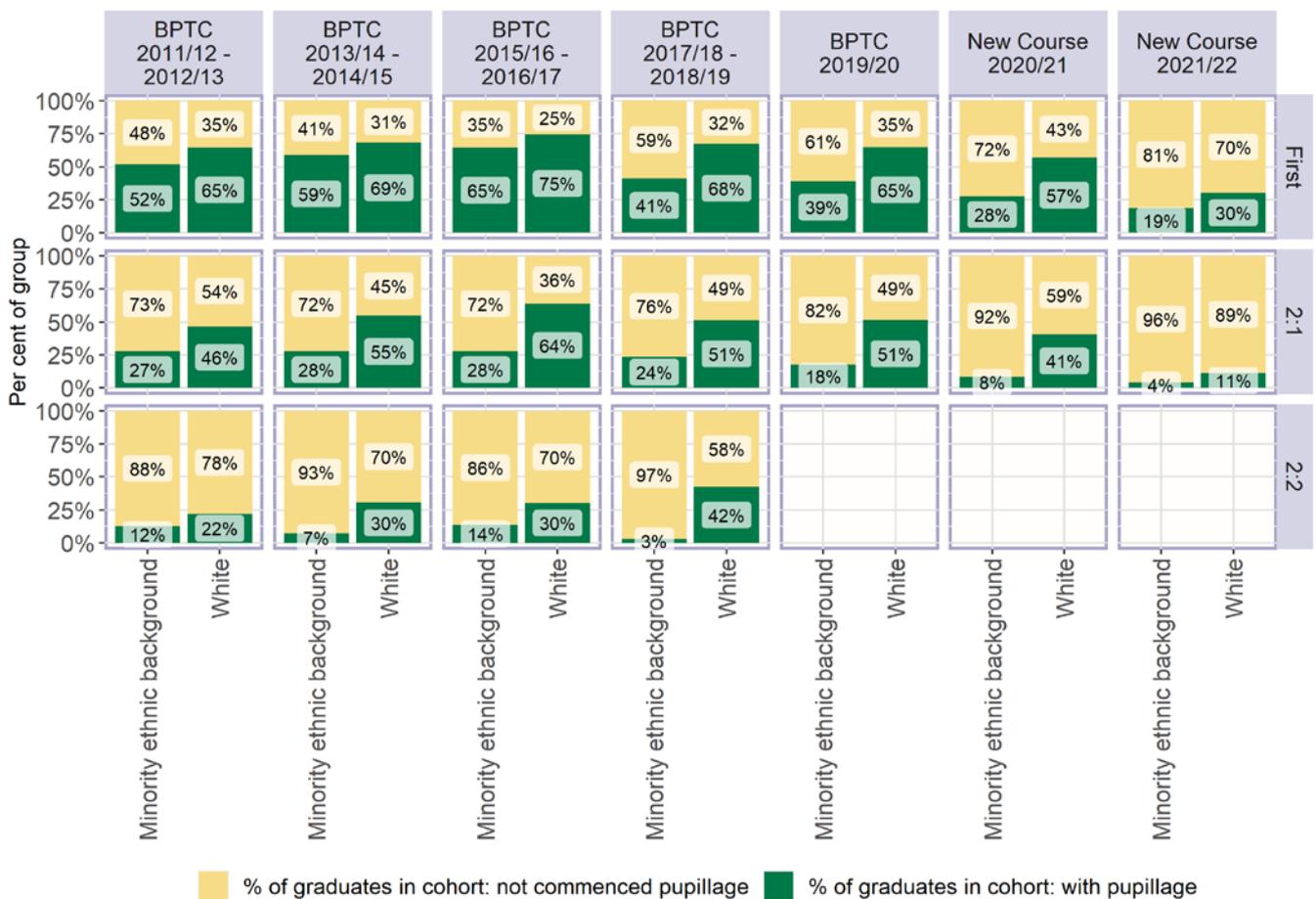


Chart 30 below shows the progression UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by degree class and ethnicity, for more disaggregated ethnic groups. The only degree class presented is those with a 2:1, as this was the only degree class with 20 or more students in most groupings. The biggest differences seen are between Asian/Asian British and White Bar training graduates, and between Black/Black British and White Bar training graduates. This has previously been documented by the BSB, including in research published in 2017<sup>24</sup>, and in previous BPTC Key Statistics Reports.<sup>25</sup> The differences seen on the BPTC remained present when controlling for BPTC grade and university attended.<sup>26</sup>

24 Bar Standards Board (2017). Exploring differential attainment at BPTC and Pupillage. Can be found [here](#)

25 These can be found here: <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/bsb-research-reports/regular-research-publications.html>

26 As highlighted in chart 4.A.7.2 in the most recent report, found [here](#)

**Chart 30. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and more disaggregated ethnic background – those with a 2:1 degree only**

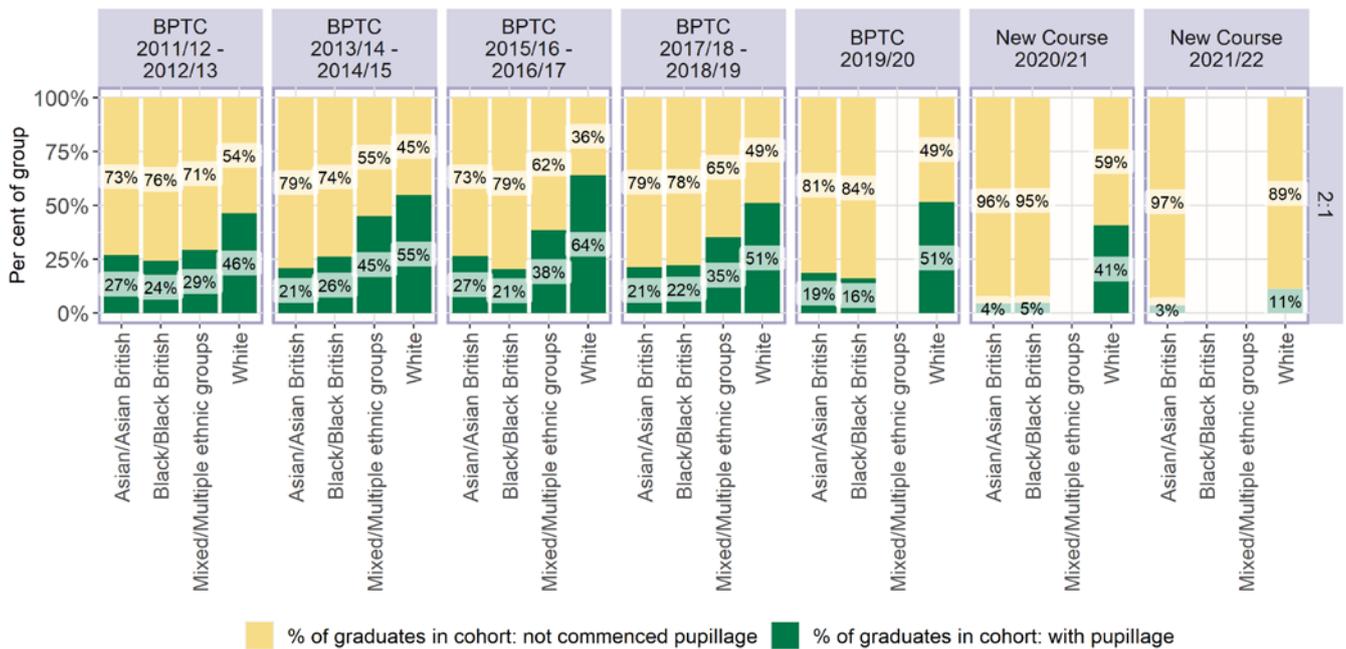
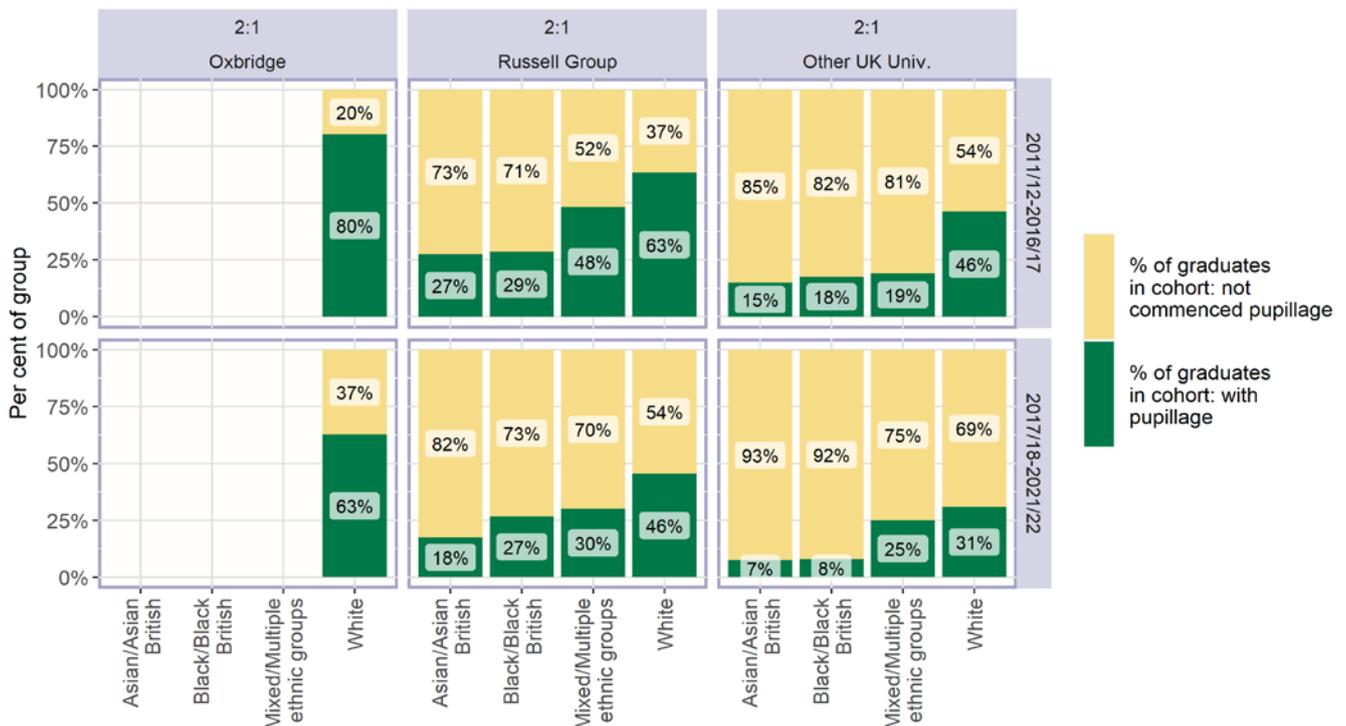


Chart 31 below shows the progression of UK domiciled graduates onto pupillage by ethnicity when controlling for degree institution for those with a 2:1 degree (the only degree for which there were sufficient numbers of students for this chart). Differences in the percentage gaining pupillage are present when controlling for degree institution attended.

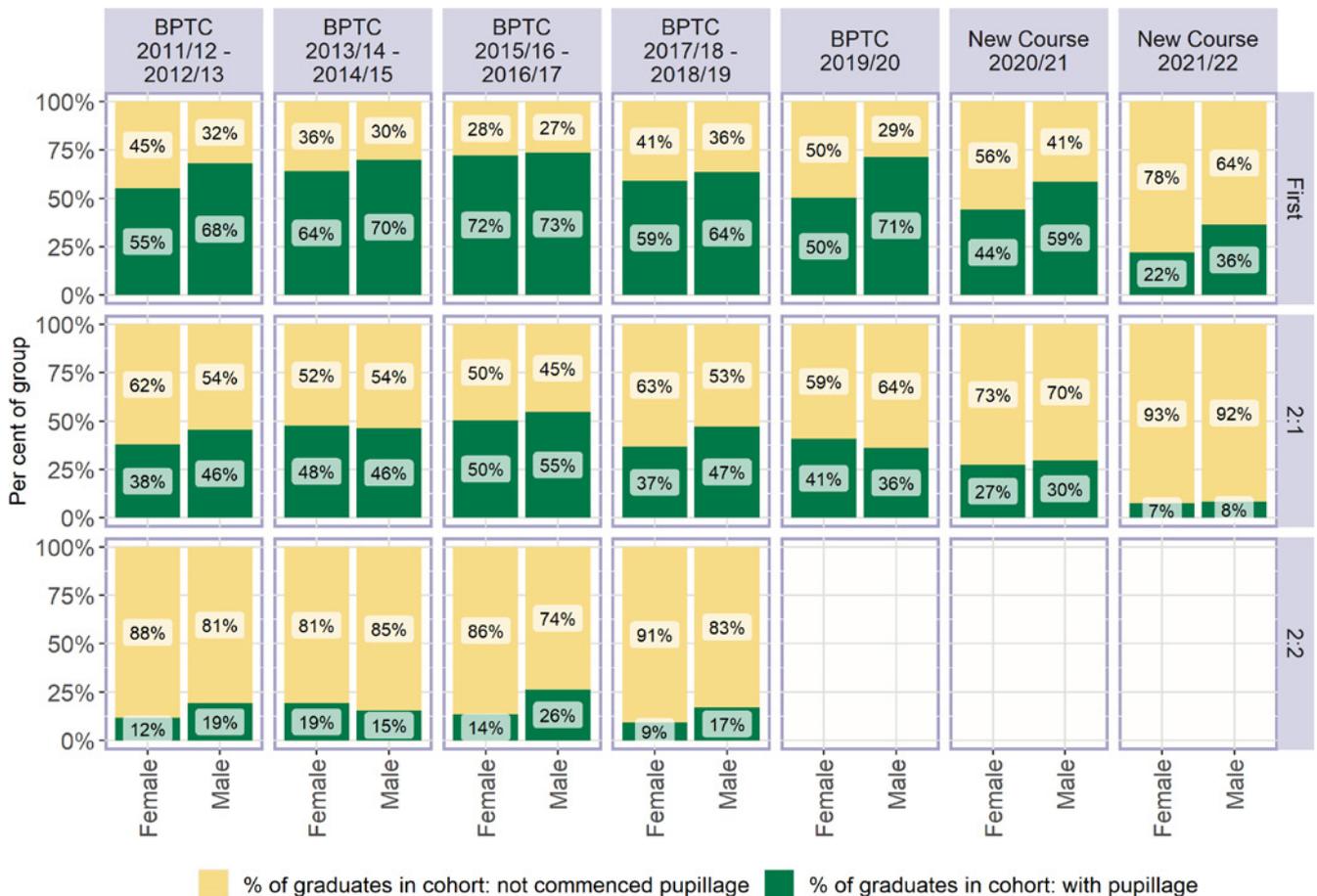
**Chart 31. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, ethnic background and first degree institution**



## Gender

Chart 32 below shows the progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage following the course by gender. Data is only presented where there are 20 or more in a group.

**Chart 32. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class and gender**

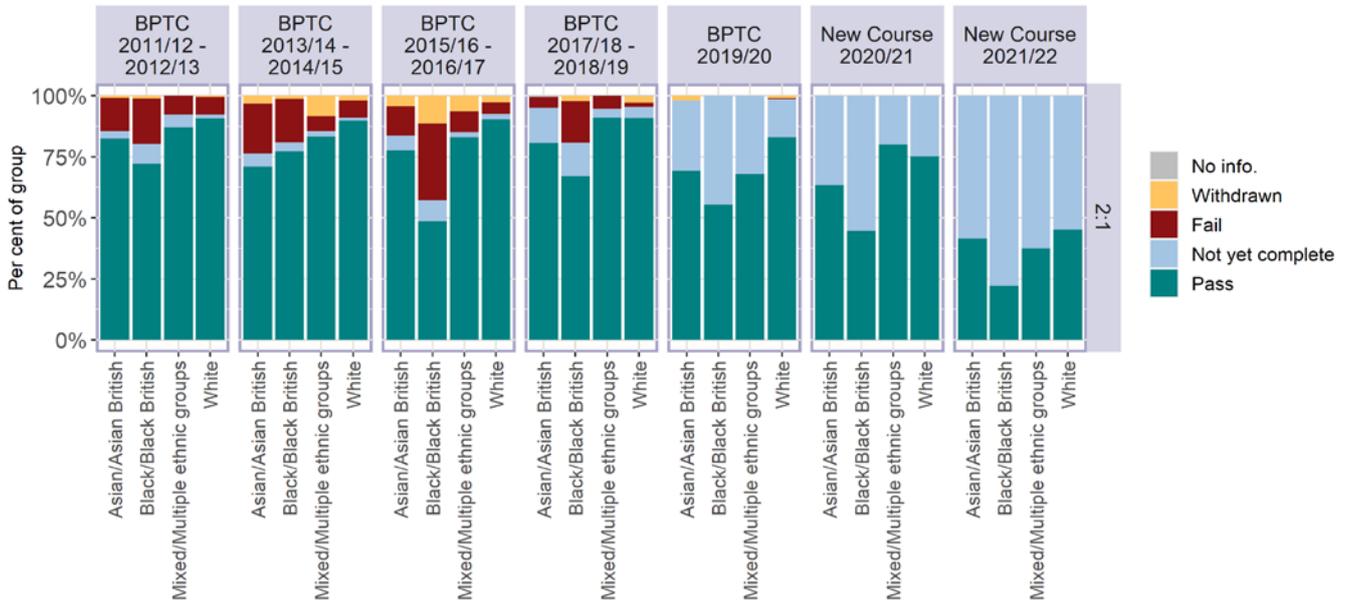


The proportion of male and female UK domiciled Bar training graduates who have gained pupillage is quite similar across many degree class and year of enrolment groupings, although there is a trend of males with a first-class degree gaining pupillage in greater proportions than females with the same degree class. When controlling for degree institution attended, differences in the proportion of female and male UK domiciled Bar training graduates who have gained pupillage are overall, even smaller than that seen above. This can be seen in Chart A3 in the appendices.

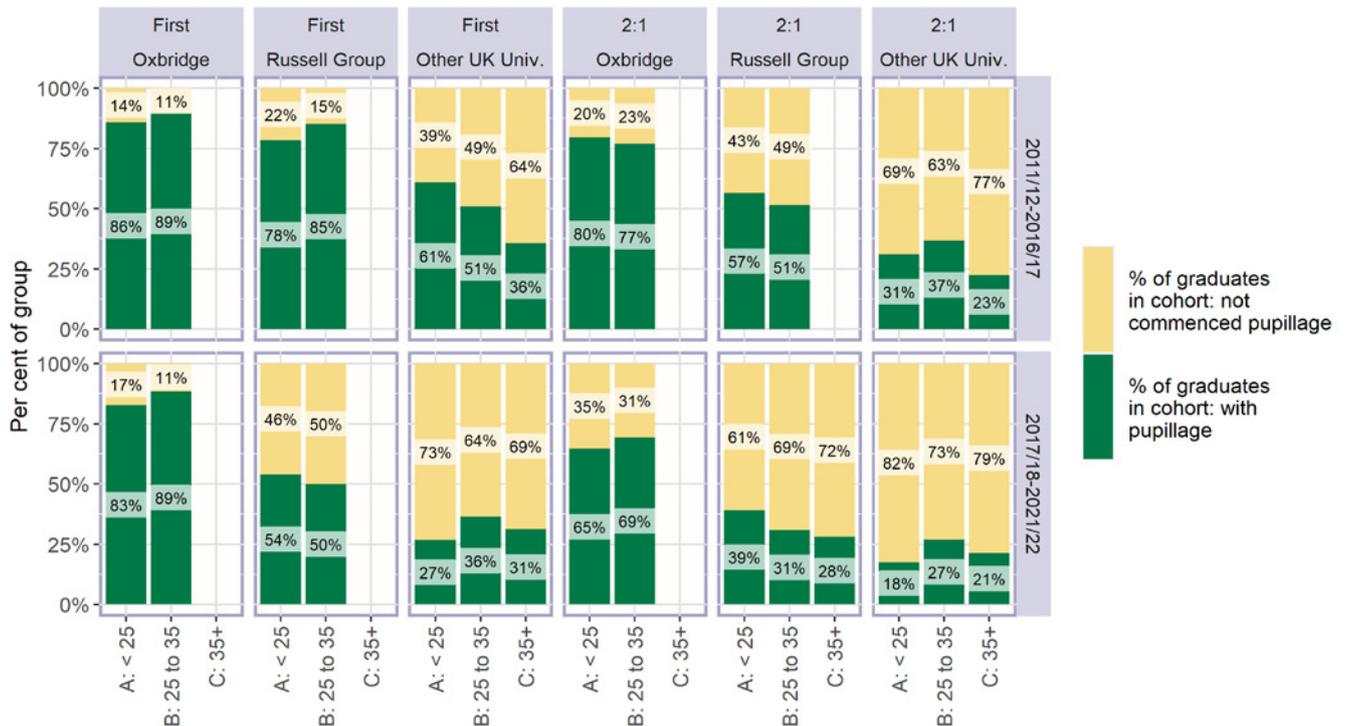
Overall, across the period of analysis, we have a record of around 5,000 females and 4,000 males completing Bar training. We also have a record of 1,641 females gaining pupillage, and 1,593 males. So, the total number of female pupils does outnumber that of males, but not to the same extent as may be expected based upon the extent to which female Bar training graduates outnumber male Bar training graduates.

# Appendices

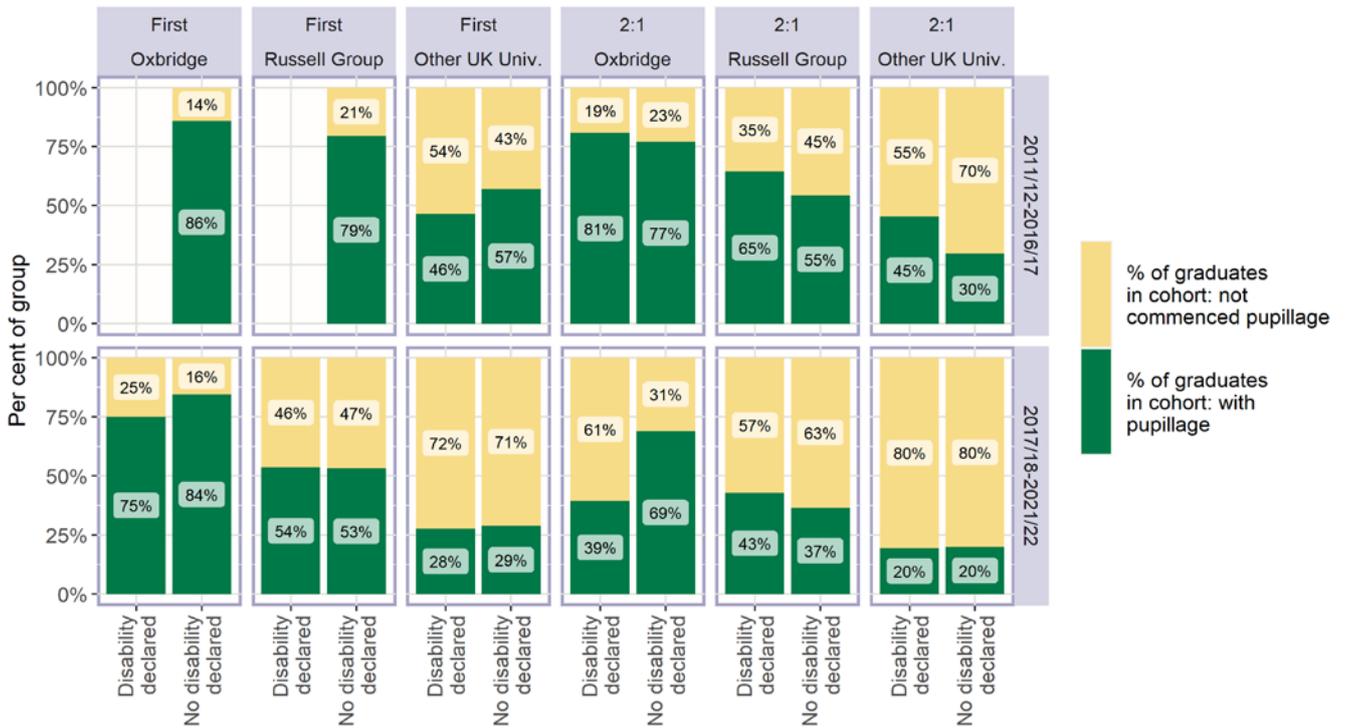
**Chart A1. Results on Bar training by degree class and ethnicity (% of cohort) – UK domiciled students with a 2:1 degree only**



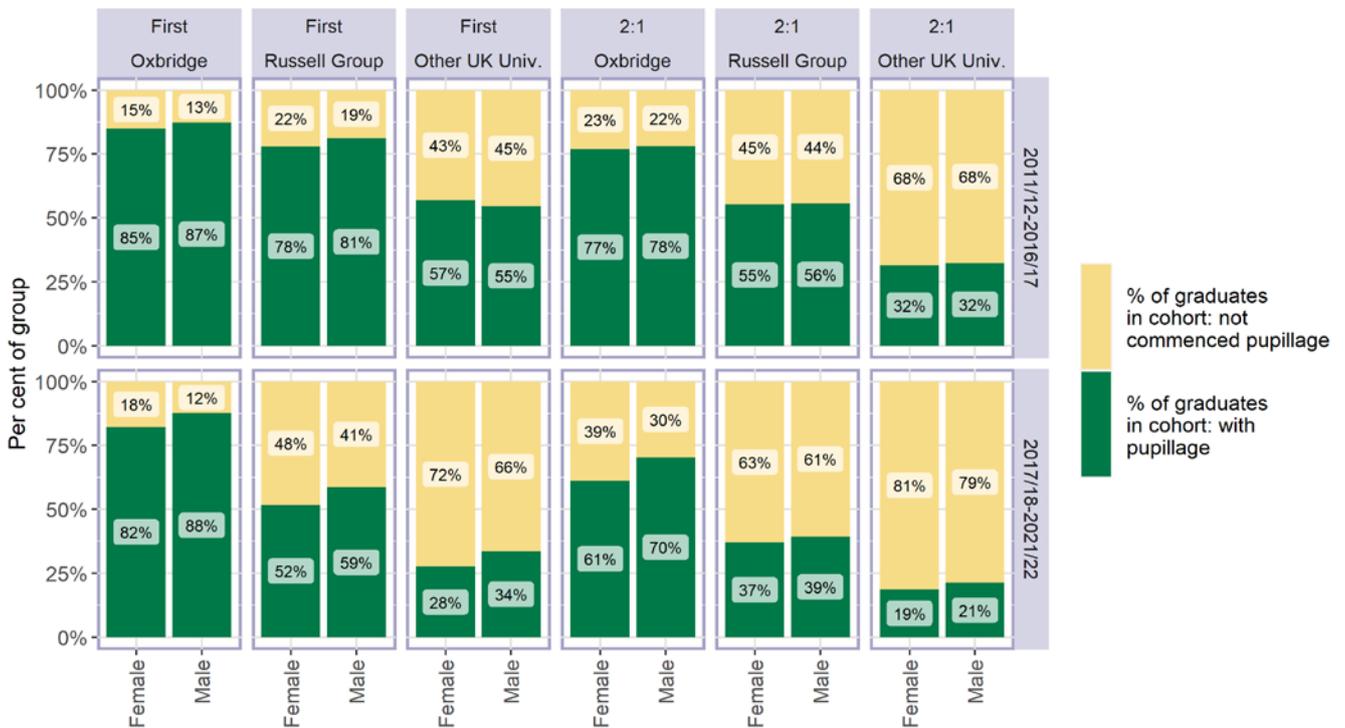
**Chart A2. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, age range and first degree institution**



**Chart A3. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, disability status and first degree institution**



**Chart A4. Progression of UK domiciled course graduates onto pupillage – by degree class, gender and first degree institution**



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## Contacting us

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