

Civic University Board – Mapping Greater Manchester

# An Exploration of the Five Higher Education Institutions in Greater Manchester

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## Overview of the Data Fellowship

The data fellowship project was in partnership with the Civic University Board, bringing together the five Higher Education Institutions in Greater Manchester: The Royal Northern College of Music, University of Manchester, University of Bolton, University of Salford and Manchester Metropolitan University. Mapping GM is a 5 year project aiming to understand the impact and opportunities for the HEIs within the city region to work together. In this data fellowship, I focused on 'Education and Skills' which was identified as one of the priority areas by the Civic University Board.

## Data Analysis

Drawing data mainly from Heidi Plus and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), I predominantly used Microsoft Excel to perform data analysis; thereafter used Power BI for data visualization. Focusing on 'Education and Skills', I analysed each university's undergraduate student data, considering the demography and aspects of diversity and inclusion of their student cohort. The data fellowship project was all about researching the outreach the universities have around the city region, and breaking this down by student characteristics such as ethnicity, disability, gender and more. This analysed each university specifically then considered the undergraduate student population in the city region as a whole.

## Findings

- There are more female undergraduate students than male undergraduate students enrolled in four of five of GM's HEIs. This trend aligns with what is observed nationally where female students dominate the undergraduate student cohort.

- The most common outcome for Greater Manchester graduates is starting employment 15 months after completing studies. This attributes to an average of 65% of the graduates from both 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years, (HESA, 2022).

## Key Skills Learnt

During my data fellowship I have learned and improved on my analytical and research skills, as well as my professional skills. The project itself helped me grow as a data fellow by developing my qualitative and quantitative research skills, and being in an office environment made me learn professional skills - that I believe to be useful in the long-run.

**Analytical and research skills:** Having multiple data sets on Heidi Plus, I learnt to manipulate and filter out relevant data useful to the research project. Furthermore, I learnt how to draw insightful conclusions from the data analysed as well as find reliable qualitative sources to back up the data.

**Professional skills:** Throughout the data fellowship, I had to work alongside another data fellow and we had the support of a steering group during the project. This improved my collaboration and teamwork skills, especially when we had to compile our research findings into a report at the end.

The skills that stand out the most from this experience are communication and presentation skills. Having meetings with the steering group was an essential part of the journey, and this made me more accustomed to presenting, both in person and online.



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