

Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee

Date of Meeting	24 February 2026
Paper No.	LTSEC3-J
Agenda Item	5.4
Subject of Paper	Student Recruitment 2025/26 (Full Time January Start Programmes)
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Brian Deeley Head of Student Recruitment and Funding
Date of production	22 January 2026
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

The BoM Students, Staff and Equalities Committee is asked to note progress with Student Recruitment 2025/26 (Full Time January Start Programmes).

2. Purpose of Report

To provide a high-level summary of student recruitment activity for the full time January 2026 intake.

3. Consultation

Not Applicable

4. Key Insights

4.1 Achievement of student recruitment and enrolments targets supports the College **Strategic Priority 7 - To maintain our long-term financial stability while** demand for course provision is also a valuable measure of the reputation and popularity of the College, and its courses.

4.2 In terms of widening access, January start programmes provide a valuable opportunity for winter School Leavers and others, who may have missed the main intake in August, to obtain a place at College, and this is an important factor in meeting our Student Experience Strategy objectives and Regional Outcome Agreement objectives related to widening access.

4.3 Enrolment targets for January 2026 are lower than last year with a 50% decrease in student numbers 194 compared to 386 and 10 cohorts being offered in 2026 compared to 18 in 2025. 5 courses planned to commence in January were cancelled due to staffing resource and adjustments made to credit and fee projections.

4.4 Table 1 below provides January 2026 recruitment activity and shows an average ratio of 5.5:1 first choice applications received against places available. This is an increase compared to last years 3.7:1 ratio.

Pre-enrolment activity is the same as last year with 107% pre-enrolled. Pre-enrolment activity varies across courses with all but 2 courses at 100%.

Attention will now focus on monitoring attendances to ensure that enrolled students are physically attending on their course.

January start courses 1st choice ratio is higher than for August courses, with 1st choice applications in August ratio at 2.8, reflecting the limited offer at college

and across the sector in comparison to the August intake. The pre-enrolment levels for August were 108% v target and shows a consistent trend for pre-enrolled students over last few intakes.

So far for 2026/27 1st choice applications are up 9% on the latest Student Recruitment report and we will continue to monitor application and offers throughout the admissions cycle.

Table 1 – Student Recruitment January 2025/26 Statistics

Course Name	Faculty	Curriculum Team	No_of_Groups	Maximum_Number_of_Students	First_choice_Applications	Total_Offers	Pre_Enrolled	% offers	% enrolled	Ratio
HNC Media And Communications/HNC Podcasting	Creative Industries	CN: Broadcasting & Multimedia -	1	20	47	20	17	100%	85%	2.4
NQ Content Creation For Broadcasting & Media (Jan) (SCQF Level 5)	Creative Industries	CP: Broadcasting & Multimedia - Marketing	1	20	101	36	26	180%	130%	5.1
NQ Professional Cookery (Jan) (Fast Track) (SCQF Level 6)	Hospitality and Leisure	HL: Hospitality, Culinary, Events &	1	18	71	21	21	117%	117%	3.9
National 5 Maritime Skills/Access To Maritime And STEM (January)	Nautical and STEM	NE: Maritime Education - Marine Management	1	24	60	24	20	100%	83%	2.5
NPA Construction Skills (Jan) (SCQF Level 4)	Nautical and STEM	MB: Built Environment - Construction Services	1	16	131	24	22	150%	138%	8.2
NPA Painting And Decorating (Jan) (SCQF Level 5)	Nautical and STEM	MF: Built Environment - Construction Skills	1	20	114	22	20	110%	100%	5.7
NPA Women Into Construction (Jan) (SCQF Level 4)	Nautical and STEM	MB: Built Environment - Construction Services	1	16	58	19	17	119%	106%	3.6
NQ Built Environment/NQ Construction for Industry	Nautical and STEM	MA: Built Environment - Construction	1	24	54	34	26	142%	108%	2.3
NQ Construction Crafts (Jan) (SCQF Level 5)	Nautical and STEM	MB: Built Environment - Construction Services	1	16	162	25	19	156%	119%	10.1
NQ Extended Carpentry And Joinery (Jan) (SCQF Level 6)	Nautical and STEM	MF: Built Environment - Construction Skills	1	20	98	26	20	130%	100%	4.9
COLLEGE TOTAL			10	194	1064	251	208	129%	107%	5.5

5. Impact and Implications

Failure to meet student recruitment and enrolment targets could have a significant impact on the Colleges' financial stability.