



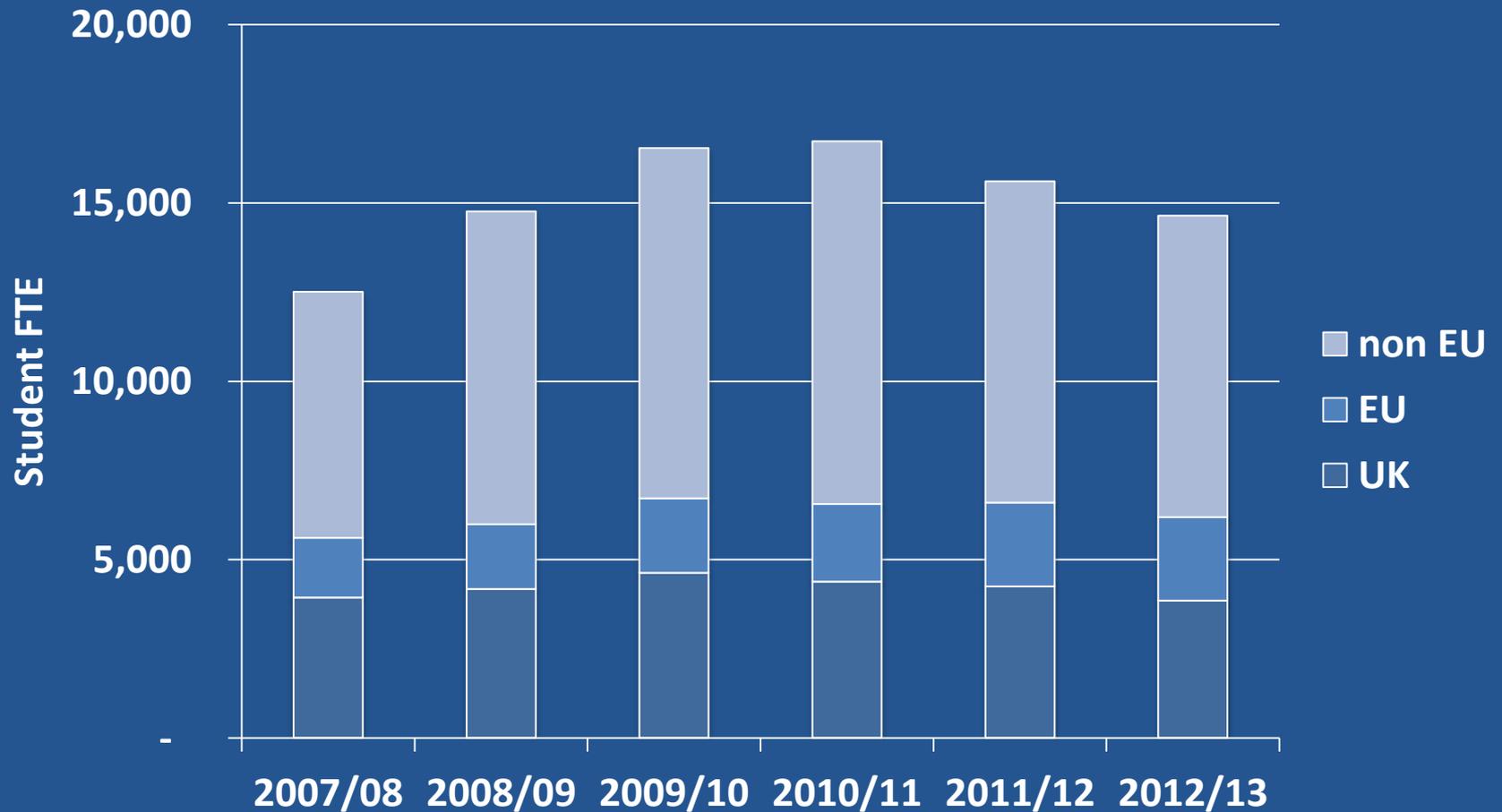
WORKSHOP A

**Specialist Skills: postgraduate engineering education and
funding: the future?**



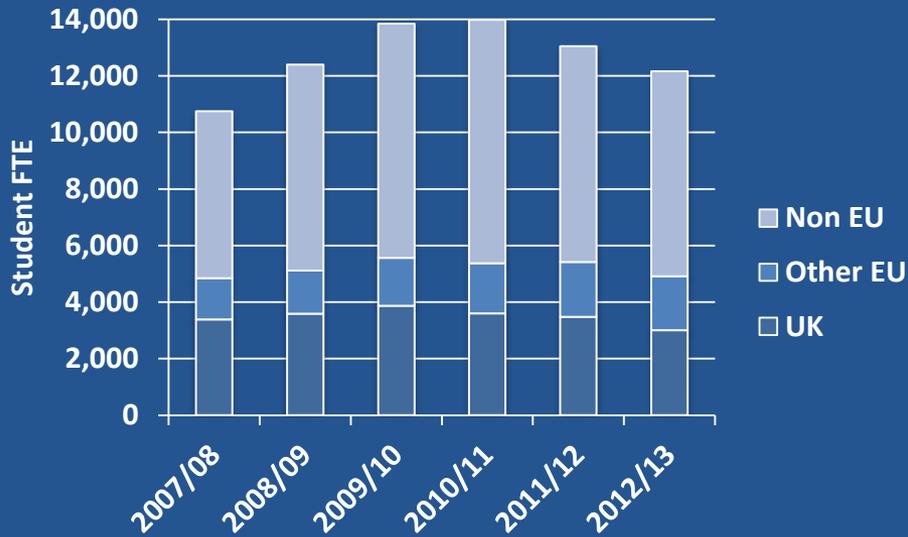
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All postgraduate (MSc) engineering and technology students studying at UK HEIs...

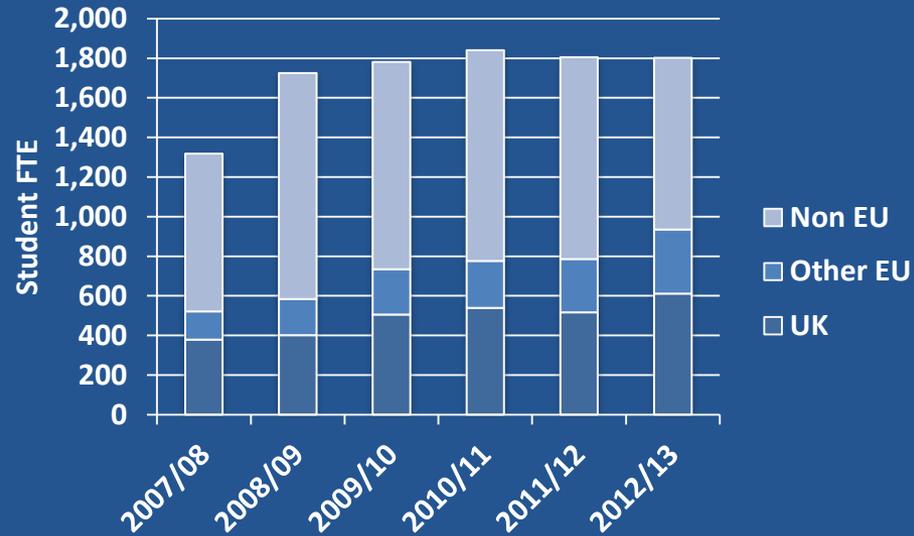


All postgraduate (MSc) engineering and technology students...by nation

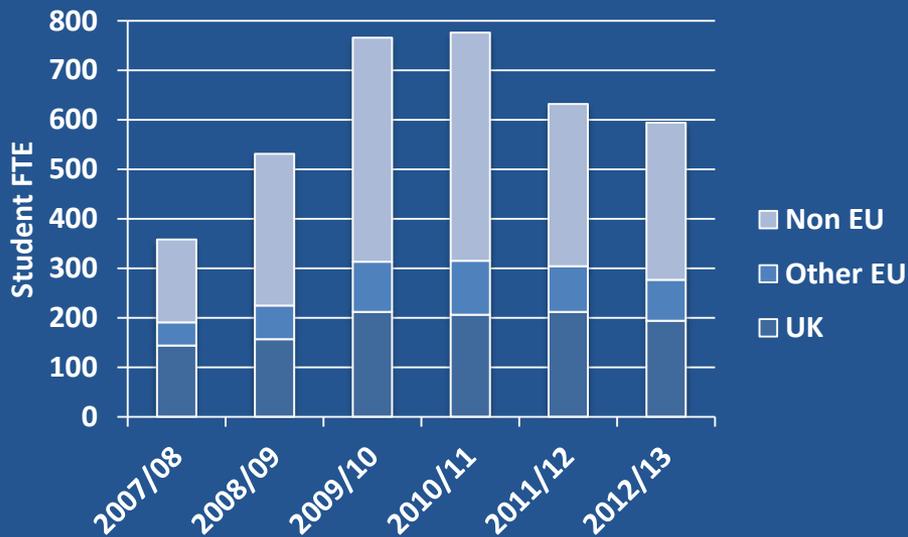
England



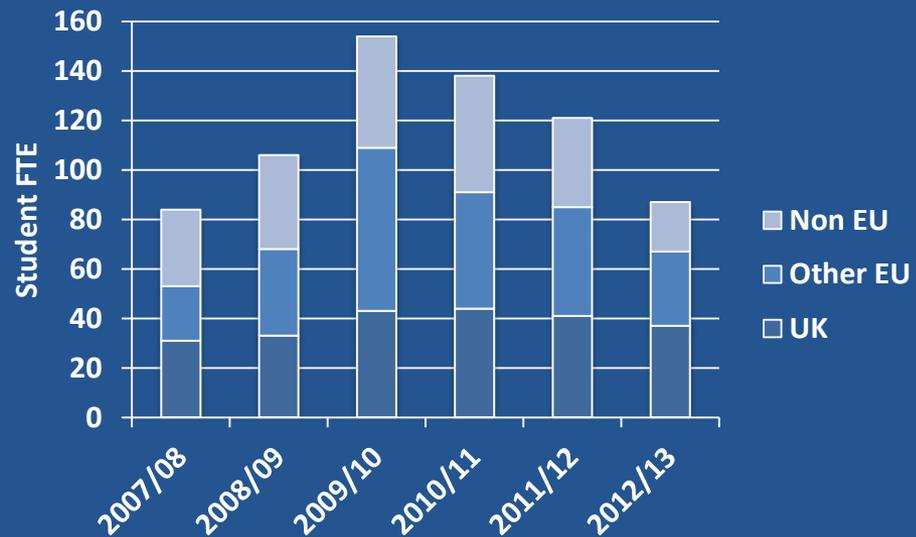
Scotland



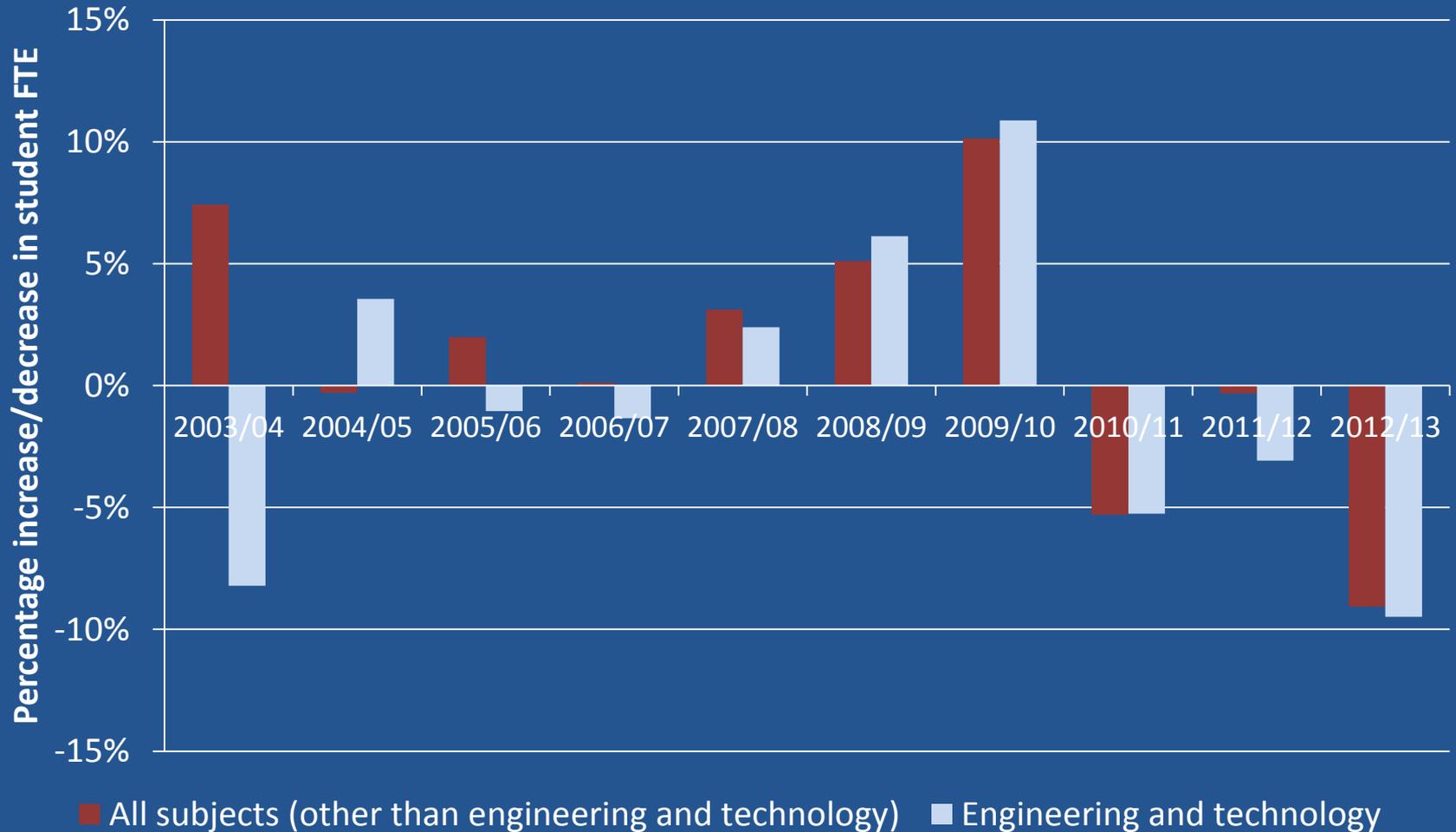
Wales



Northern Ireland



Percentage year-on year increase (decrease) in number of UK-domiciled students studying for an MSc



Some views...

“Uncertainty in funding has had a major effect on Home/EU students wishing to undertake a Masters degree...

...we have taken steps to try and counter this by fostering greater discussion and offering scholarships. A key aspect why this problem has arisen is because of the concentration of research resources in the UK reducing clear progression routes. There is an increased number of students entering doctoral programmes elsewhere with 2(ii) degrees as opposed to undertaking a masters first. This cannot be a healthy situation for UK plc.”

Some views...

"Research councils need to change their view of funding to enable talent to progress within a broader range of institutions. As a result in the down turn, we are in the process of closing a high quality programme with exceptional career statistics, but the programme is not financial sustainable. We have very limited P/T MSc participation"

Some views...

"We do have employer co-funded programmes, through our Engineering Career and Capability Development Framework which allows employers to devise a bespoke MSc via short CPD courses. These are fairly successful but we could do with more time to devote to relationship-building with relevant companies."

"Student admin systems struggle to cope with this type of programme. [They are set up to administer undergraduate full-time courses and cope with the requirements of reporting to HEFCE for funding purposes and to deal directly with students, rather than business-to-business relationships]."

Some views...

"It requires a large organisation with a significant throughput of employees on a particular track to warrant investment in a bespoke programme. Business Schools are able to do this because of the volume. That doesn't appear to be the case for more specialist degrees found in Engineering."

"We're not really making inroads in the SME sector"

Some views...

"We need more co-funded programmes..."

"Should there be an agreed breakdown of costs for co-funded programmes (company/student/HEFCE)? The ambiguity around sponsorships really can put off potential sponsors..."

"We need to continue to grow PT option for home students, funded by employers"

"I think there is a strong argument for the funding arrangements for UK undergraduates who are admitted to 4-year integrated MEng programmes being extended to home students who undertook 3-year BEng programmes to enable them to "top up" their first degrees with a 1-year Masters"

Some views...

"We need more financial encouragement from Government to business."

"It would be beneficial if the UK Government offered the same student loan support to Masters students as currently exist for undergraduates. Private banks are unlikely to be able to offer attractive deals."

"Is the MSc "right" for engineering? Do employers (and employees) prefer some sort of specialist (Masters-level) modular accredited CPD?"



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