

Uni Connect: Data snapshot 2021-22

Uni Connect is made up of partnerships between universities, colleges and local organisations to help school and college students understand their higher education options.

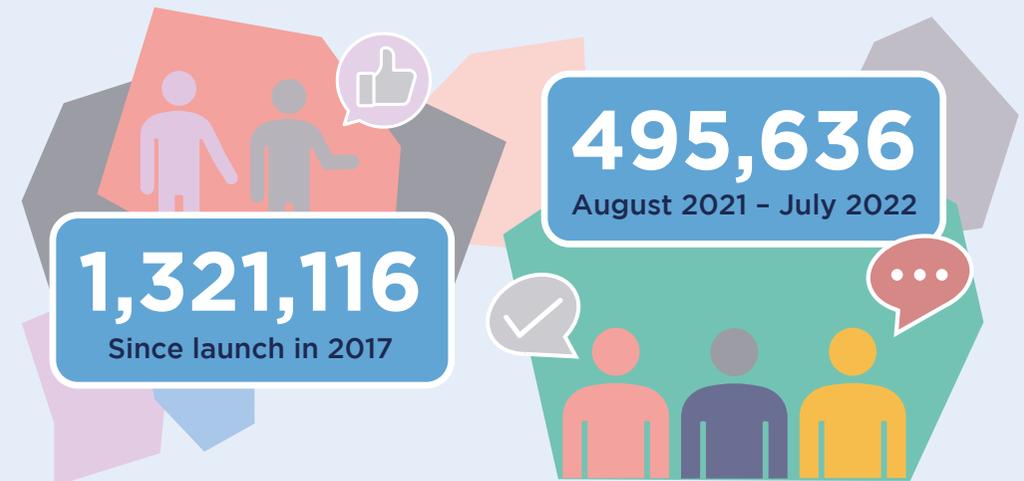
It provides visits to universities and colleges and information on what higher education is like, including what courses there are and explaining the finance system.

The programme aims to ensure that access to higher education is not limited by background and is targeted at areas where learners are less likely to go to higher education.

This snapshot presents Uni Connect data for academic year 2021-22. This was a year when the Covid-19 pandemic was still having a direct impact on schools and universities.

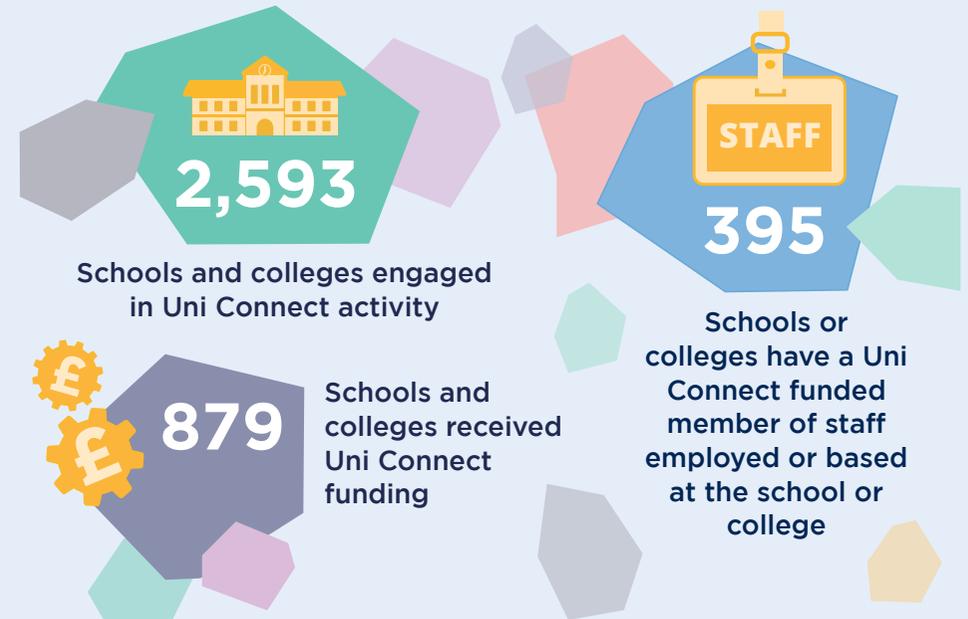
Learner engagement

Uni Connect learner engagement



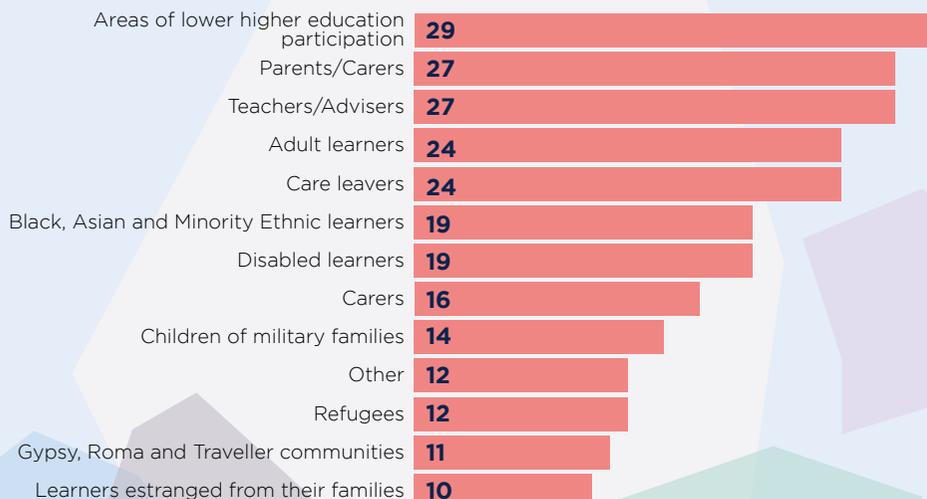
School and college engagement

(August 2021 - July 2022)

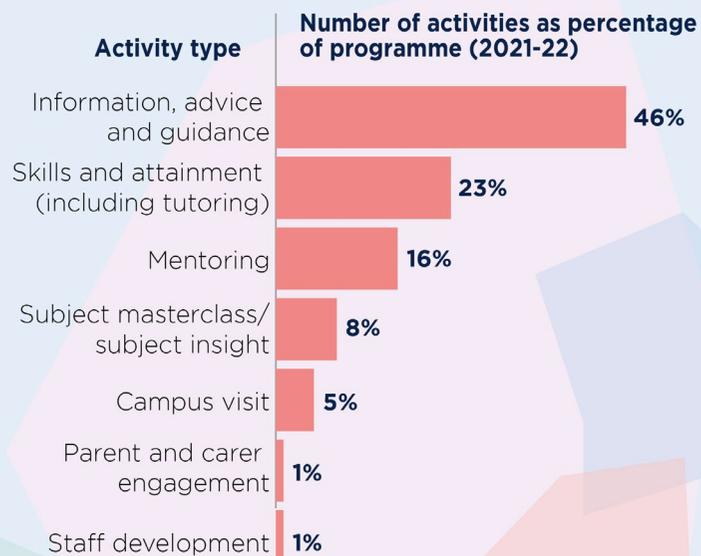


Groups engaged in Uni Connect activities

Number of partnerships engaging with different groups through strategic outreach initiatives



Uni Connect activities delivered



“Every single student has been impacted...they really value it, they really appreciate it and it’s brilliant that it looks after those students who wouldn’t normally have thought about university as a thing, or thought about even going on to anything after Year 11.”

Teacher

The programme “...has really made sure that our students know what is available to them but not only have that knowledge of what’s available, but also the skills that back-up that knowledge too, regardless of their circumstances.”

Assistant school head

“Before this I’d never been to any university events that were specifically only for young carers. I came back to take part in more events because the people were friendly and it was organised and structured. We weren’t just visiting campuses, there was stuff planned for us to do. Also, transport was organised and paid for us which really helped as there have been trips and events that I can’t get to by myself...Going to the events meant I got to see different types of university.”

Uni Connect learner - young carer

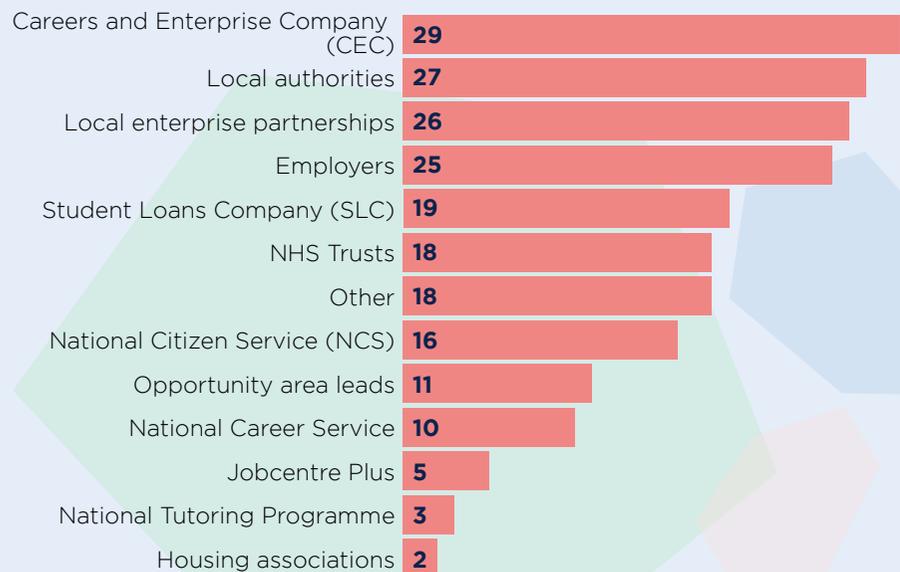
Uni Connect collaborative partnerships

Partners involved in Uni Connect



Working with other partners

Organisations collaborating with Uni Connect partnerships



"I did know about university but I'd never properly been on to a university campus before...Going round all the universities and getting information about the different courses that are available has helped me make a decision about what I want to do next."

Uni Connect learner

"It has enabled our students to be academically and intellectually excited...Now some of our students attend the best universities in the world, whilst coming from some of the most deprived estates in the country. They will be the next generation of socially conscious individuals who move into work, knowing what it is not to have, positioning the ladder for those who come after them, so they can achieve too."

Head of College

Future priorities



A new focus for Uni Connect from 2022-23 is on raising the attainment of school students in Years 7-11. Alongside offering information, guidance and experiences of higher level study in universities and colleges, Uni Connect partnerships will also offer activities like tutoring, support with study skills and preparing for exams, to help increase attainment levels of eligible students. Attainment raising in 2022-23 was focused on planning and trialling this activity, before delivering full programmes in 2023-24.

Uni Connect will also continue to work with schools, colleges and other local partners to coordinate activity in their area to support equal access to higher level study and address gaps in access where they may exist.

"I feel very grateful and blessed as a young carer that we have opportunities like this. It's not very often that we have a group dedicated to those who can't experience life or HE [higher education] as much as others and [for staff] to take us under their wing to places that we can only dream of going. I think young carers...have really benefited in terms of wellbeing and mental health and knowing whether or not HE is an option for them."

Uni Connect learner - young carer

"I love what I do, and being able to help students who potentially don't even know they need support - such as those with mental health conditions or a learning disability like dyslexia. They need to have the confidence to say, 'This is me, this is what's going on - I can still do this really well, if you support me'."

Student ambassador

