

Dublin City University



From a Localised Ballymun Initiative to a National Programme– The Access Service at DCU, 21 years on!

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Twenty-one years on, **1289** students later, it all began in Ballymun with a newly designated University and a local initiative.



BITE - Ballymun Initiative for Third Level Education

- Main objective to increase the participation of students from Ballymun in third-level education

Ballymun

Population = 19,483

	Ballymun	Nationally
Under 14	27.3%	20.4%
Loan-Parent Family	59%	25%
Passed Leaving Cert Exam	26.5%	74%
Progress to 3 rd Level	6%	60%



National Policy

- The White paper: *Charting our Education Future* (1995) - Each University was to develop initiatives to promote participation among students from lower socio-economic groups.

1996 - 2001

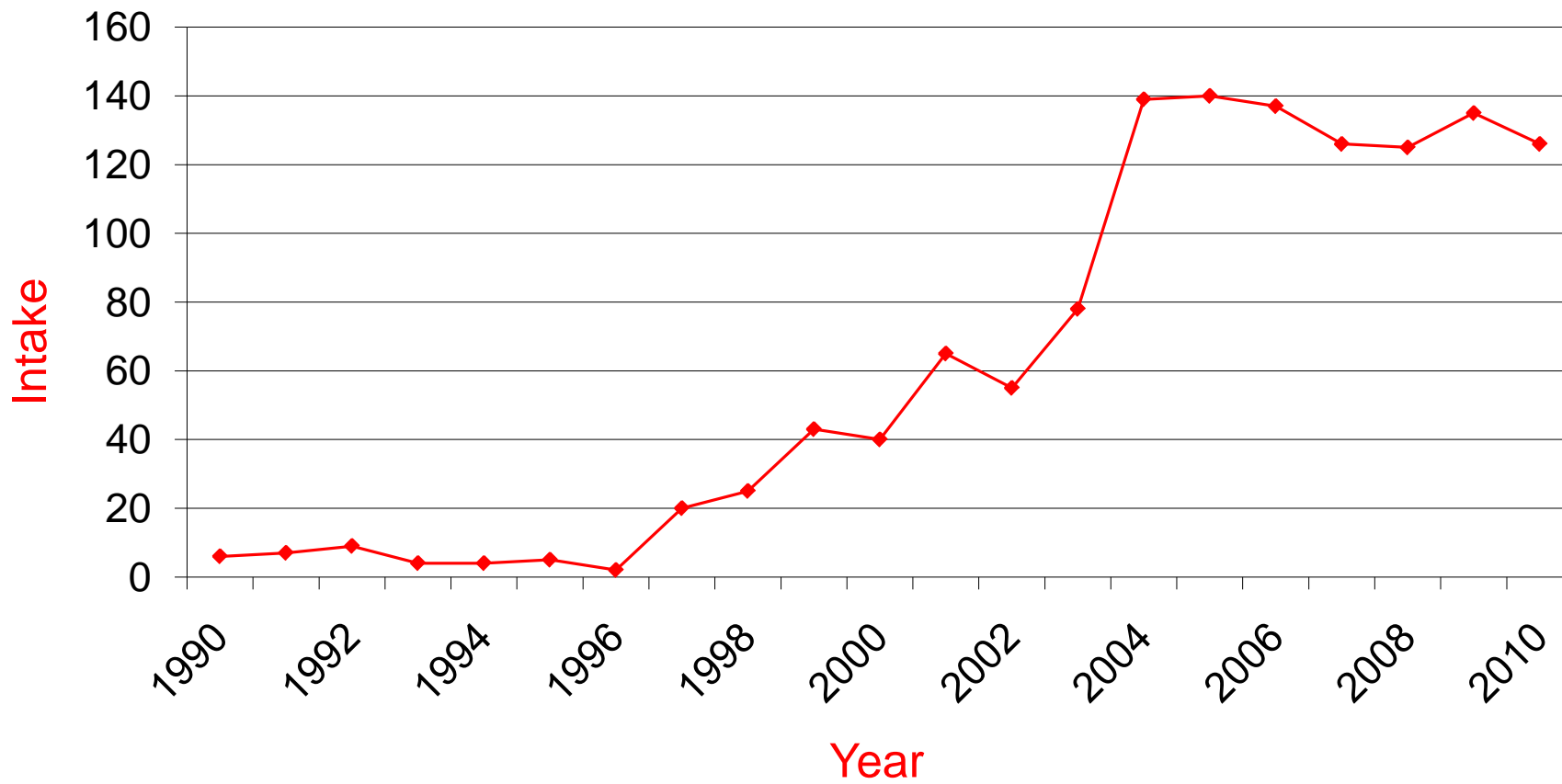
NDA - North Dublin Access programme

- Continue & expand on work began with BITE
- Raise awareness & increase participation into third level from linked schools (16)

2001-2011

- 2001-2003 – CAF: Common Application Form
- 2004-2005 – HEDAS: Higher Education Direct Application Scheme
- 2005-2009 – HEAR: Higher Education Access Route
- 2010-Date - HEAR National

DCU Access Student Intake 1990-2010



Preparation for Research

- All Access scholars identified
- Collated statistics – University ITS system & Access records
- Tagged

Methods

- Letters to former students: Introducing the research
- Semi-formal telephone interview
- Survey posted to small number of students unable to contact by telephone

Main Findings

Graduates

- ❑ Breakdown by Faculty
- ❑ Qualifications Analysis
- ❑ Further Study
- ❑ Employment
- ❑ Graduates 2008
- ❑ **Withdrawals**
- ❑ Reasons
- ❑ Rate



Graduates by Faculty

Faculty	Access 1990-2010	DCU UG 2009/10*
Business	39%	24%
Humanities & Social Sciences	27%	27%
Computing & Engineering	10%	8%
Science & Health	24%	33%

* Excludes Oscail and The Royal Academy of Music (8.0%)

Access Graduates: How do they compare?

	Access 2003-2010	Gen. UG DCU 2003-2010
First	14.1%	17.2%
Second Class Div.1	47.0%	39.5%
Second Class Div.2	28.4%	23.0%
Third	6.6%	4.7%
Pass	3.8%	9.2%
Other(Pass/Dis)	0.2%	6.4%

Access Students 21 year average

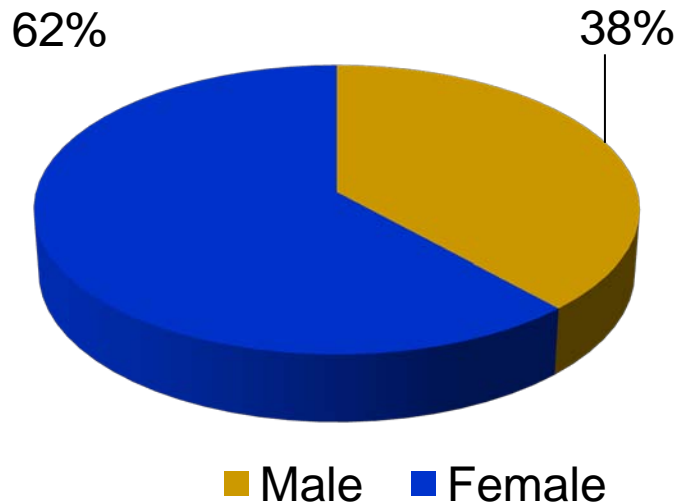
	First	Second Class Div.1	Second Class Div.2	Third	Pass
Business with Intra	18%	62%	17%	1%	1%
Business without Intra	0%	53%	40%	5%	2%

DCU students 2009/2010

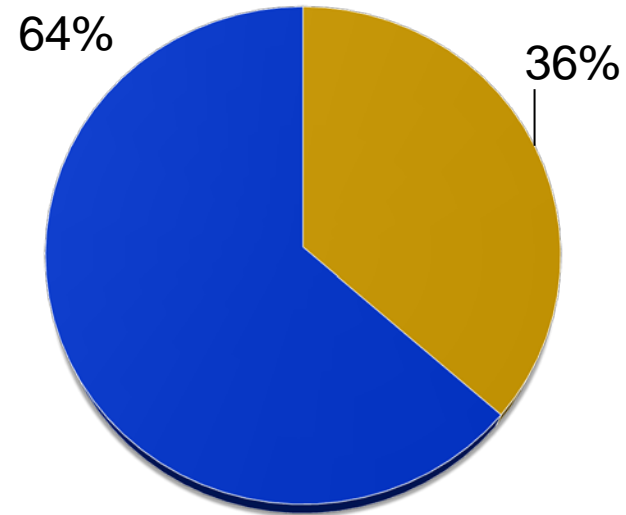
	First	Second Class Div.1	Second Class Div.2	Third	Pass
Business with Intra	17%	71%	7%	5%	0%
Business without Intra	4%	69%	22%	5%	0%

Gender and Nationality DCU

**Total Student
Intake 1990 - 2010**



**Graduates
1990 - 2010**



DCU have had students from 34 nationalities enter the Access programme. To date students from 15 nationalities have graduated, the remainder are current students. This strongly reflects the changing demographics in Ireland.

Access Graduates

Total Graduates

1990-2011	598
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Graduates

Contacted

Un-Contactable

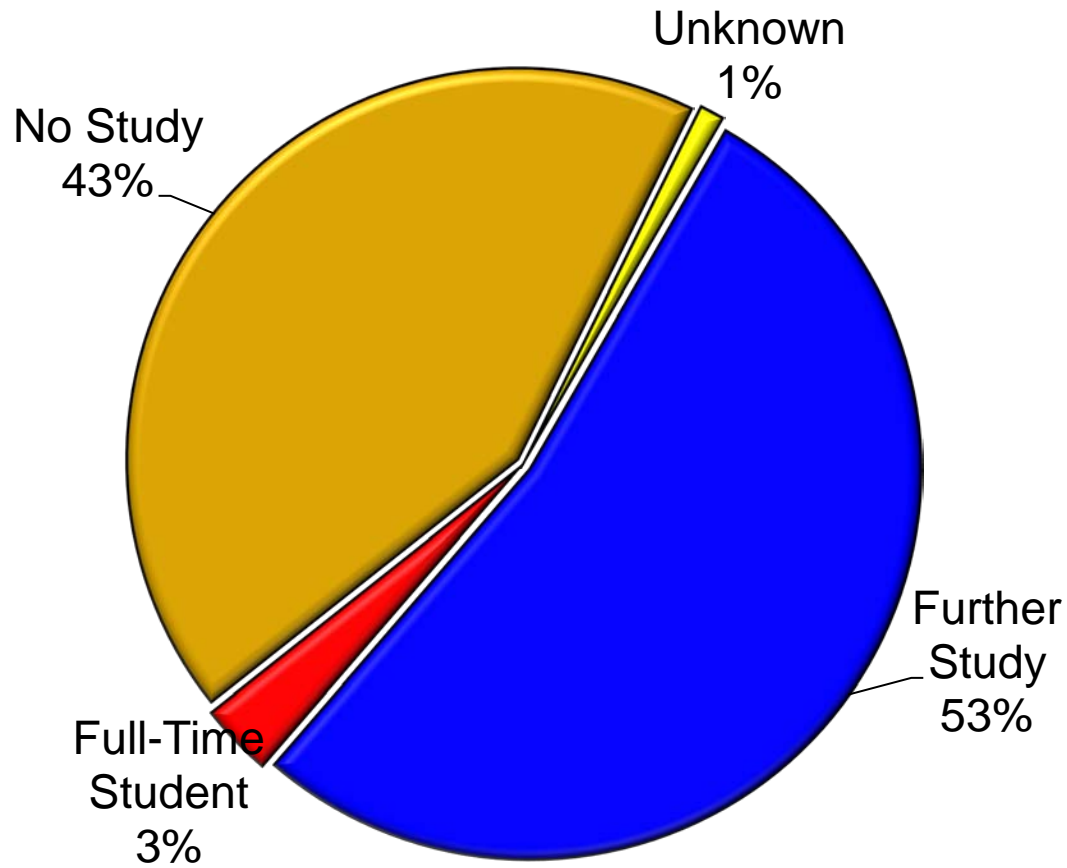
1990-2008		
370	69%	31%

SNAPSHOT OF 2008 GRADUATES

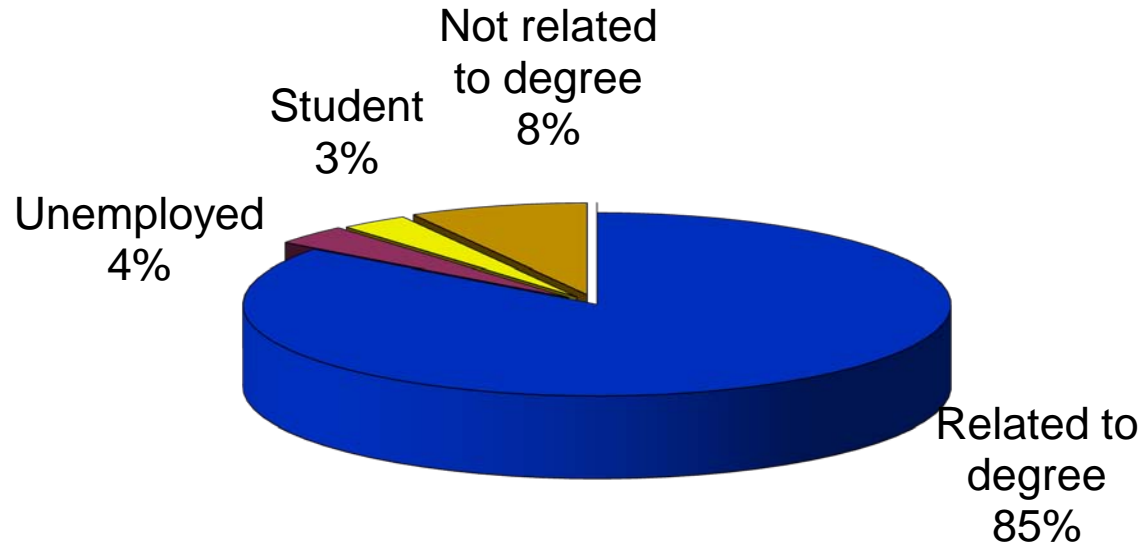
- 88 Graduates
- 92% - contacted
- 42% - undertaken further study
- 94% - currently in employment of which 80% are in employment specifically related to their degrees
- 13 - working outside Ireland

Further Study

1990-2008



Areas of Employment



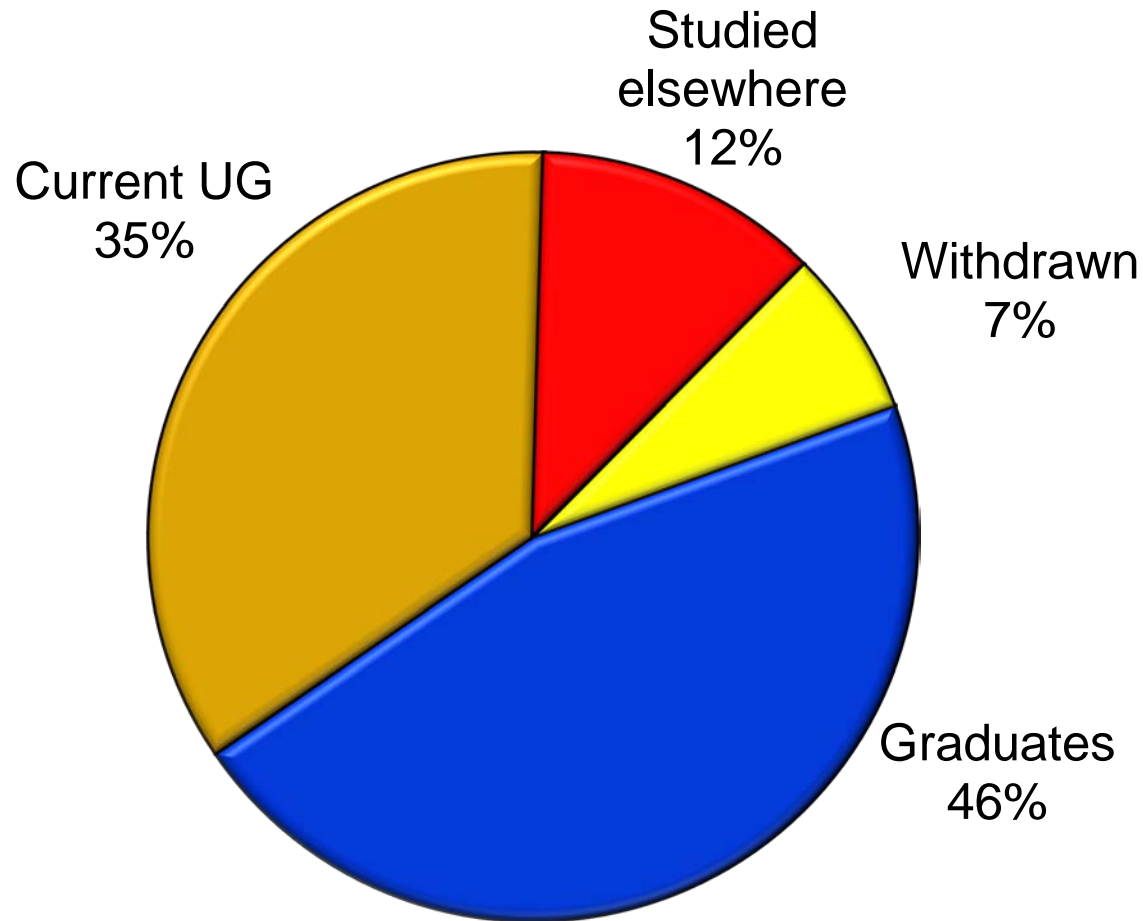
Types of Occupations

- Most frequent – Accountants
- Financial Sector
- Sales/Marketing
- Sports Reporter/Broadcaster
- IT Consultant, Software Engineer
- HR Specialist
- Web Design/Developer
- Teaching
- Communications
- Telecommunications Engineer

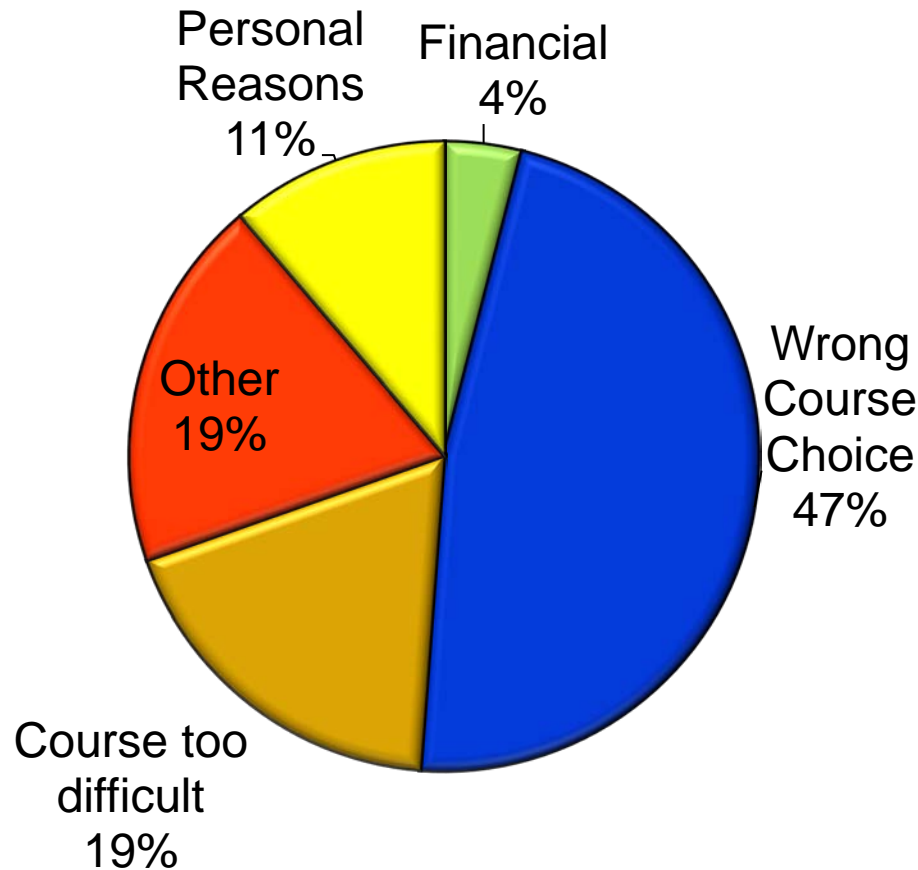
Completion of Course

93% of Access students who enter DCU complete third-level.

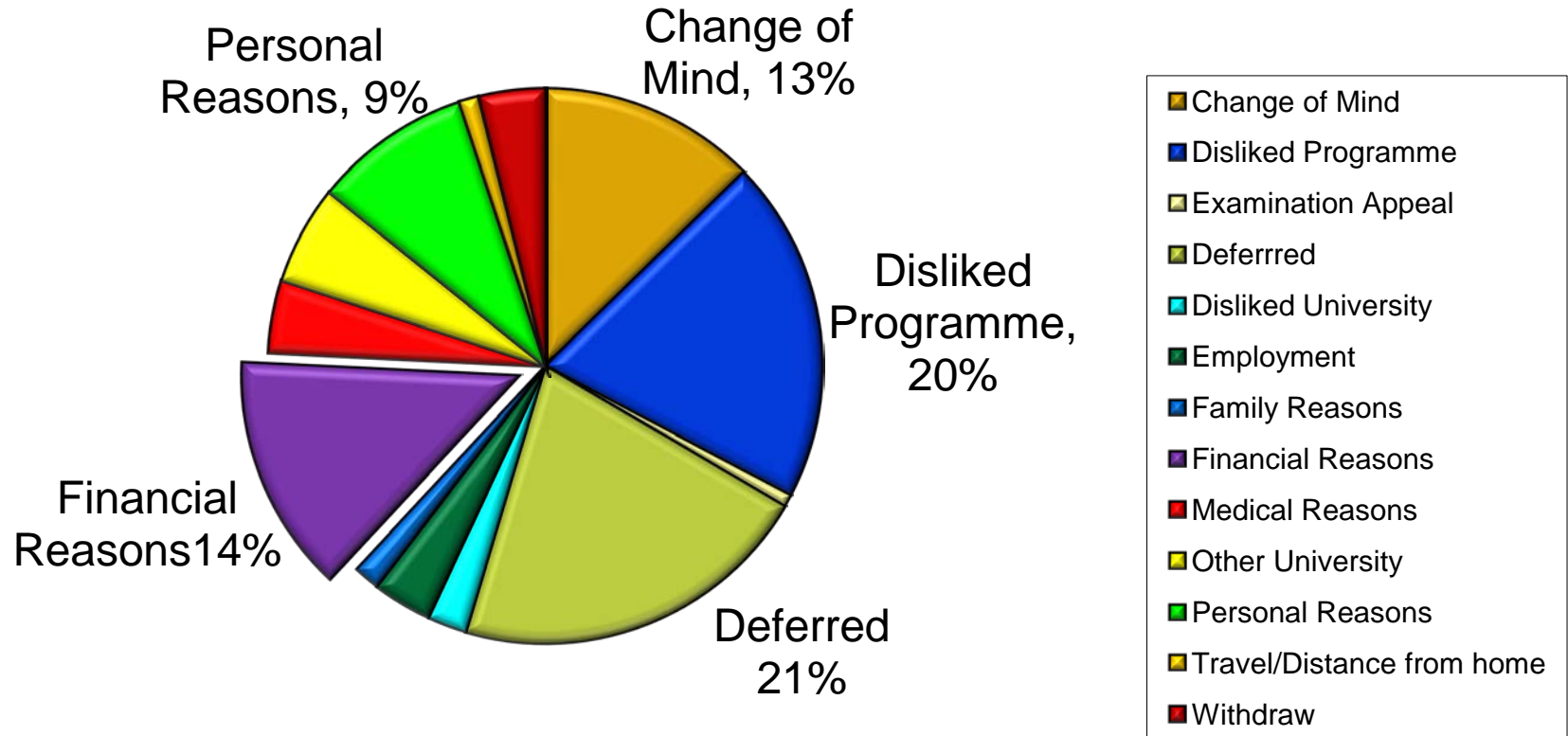
Total Breakdown



Reasons given for withdrawing



UG withdrawal from DCU 2009/10



Students who did not enter DCU through the Access route are 3.5 times as likely to withdraw due to financial reasons as an Access student

Post-Entry Supports

- Scholarships – Private funding only
- Orientation
- One-one meetings within 1 month of entry
- Learning Agreements
- Designated first year post entry Officer
- Tuition Workshops
- Peer Mentoring
- Subsidised Accommodation
- Educational Trust - networking opportunities
- Volunteering Opportunities

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