

# Student Outcomes Report

Summary of analysis by Sagacity Research





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## 1 Overview

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Delivering value to learners is central to the work of TechSkills. We have worked in partnership with employers and educators for many years to create and promote programmes which deliver the skills students need to thrive in digital careers. Accredited as Tech Industry Gold, these programmes have consistently delivered outstanding student outcomes against the key measures of professional employment, academic achievement and student diversity.

In a world of ever-increasing change, it is important that we continue to review performance against these measures. It is for this reason that this research was commissioned, providing insight and analysis to inform our work in the future.

The primary focus of Tech Industry Gold accreditation is employability or 'career-readiness'. This latest research shows performance against this key measure continues to be exceptionally strong, offering students and employers confidence in both the quality and relevance of accredited programmes.

It is also encouraging to see continued academic excellence. This suggests that the high level of employer participation, focus on real-world application of technology, and commitment to developing holistic skillsets which are central to Tech Industry Gold accreditation are paying off in terms of students' motivation and academic engagement.

The analysis around diversity reflects challenges facing the tech industry. Whilst the data around ethnicity provides evidence of widening participation there is still significant room for improvement in addressing the gender gap.

I hope you find this analysis interesting and thought provoking. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us on [info@techskills.org](mailto:info@techskills.org).

## 2 Methodology

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This paper summarises the results of an independent data analysis of Tech Industry Gold outcomes undertaken by Sagacity Research in September 2021.

This analysis considers the latest available data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA / JISC), comprising:

- **'Qualifiers 2019-20'**: academic results and inclusion statistics for those qualifying in 2019-20. Data for degrees and degree apprenticeships is included.
- **'Leavers 2017-18'**: employment outcomes and salaries for those who qualified in 2017-18, surveyed 18 months after qualification. Data for degrees is included only, as degree apprenticeship datasets were too small for release.



Results for programmes accredited as Tech Industry Gold were compared to those for computing overall excluding Tech Industry Gold programmes, and to all subjects overall.

## 3 Employment outcomes

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**Tech Industry Gold degree graduates continued to significantly outperform other computing graduates in terms of employment and salaries.**

At 86%, the percentage of graduates of Tech Industry Gold degrees in paid employment 18 months after graduation was bettered only by veterinary sciences and medicine & dentistry. This compares to 76% for computing overall and 73% for all degrees. (Graph A).

Unemployment amongst graduates of Tech Industry Gold degrees 18 months after graduation was 4.9%. This was bettered by only six of the 23 subject areas. Computing overall was 7.4%, the second lowest of all subject areas. (Graph B).

In terms of salaries, the median salary of graduates of Tech Industry Gold degrees 18 months after graduation was £27,000 p.a., bettered only by medicine & dentistry, veterinary sciences and engineering & technology. This compares to £26,000 for computing overall and £24,000 for all degrees. (Graph C).

## 4 Academic results

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**Tech Industry Gold graduates continued to outperform computing graduates overall and all graduates overall in terms of academic results.**

84% of qualifiers from Tech Industry Gold degrees achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1. This compares to 79% for computing overall, and 79% for all subjects. (Graph D).

92% of qualifiers from Tech Industry Gold degree apprenticeships achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1. This compared to 83% for computing overall, and 87% for all subjects. (Graph E).

## 5 Inclusion

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### 5.1 Gender

**Tech Industry Gold degrees and degree apprenticeships continue to have a greater proportion of females than computing overall, but gender balance continues to be a major issue.**



Only 16% of Tech Industry Gold qualifiers and 14% of computing qualifiers overall were female. (Graph F).

22% of Tech Industry Gold degree apprentices were female, compared to 12% for computing degree apprentices overall. (Graph G).

## 5.2 Ethnicity

**Tech Industry Gold degree and degree apprenticeship graduates continue to represent a significantly greater diverse ethnic mix than non-accredited programmes.**

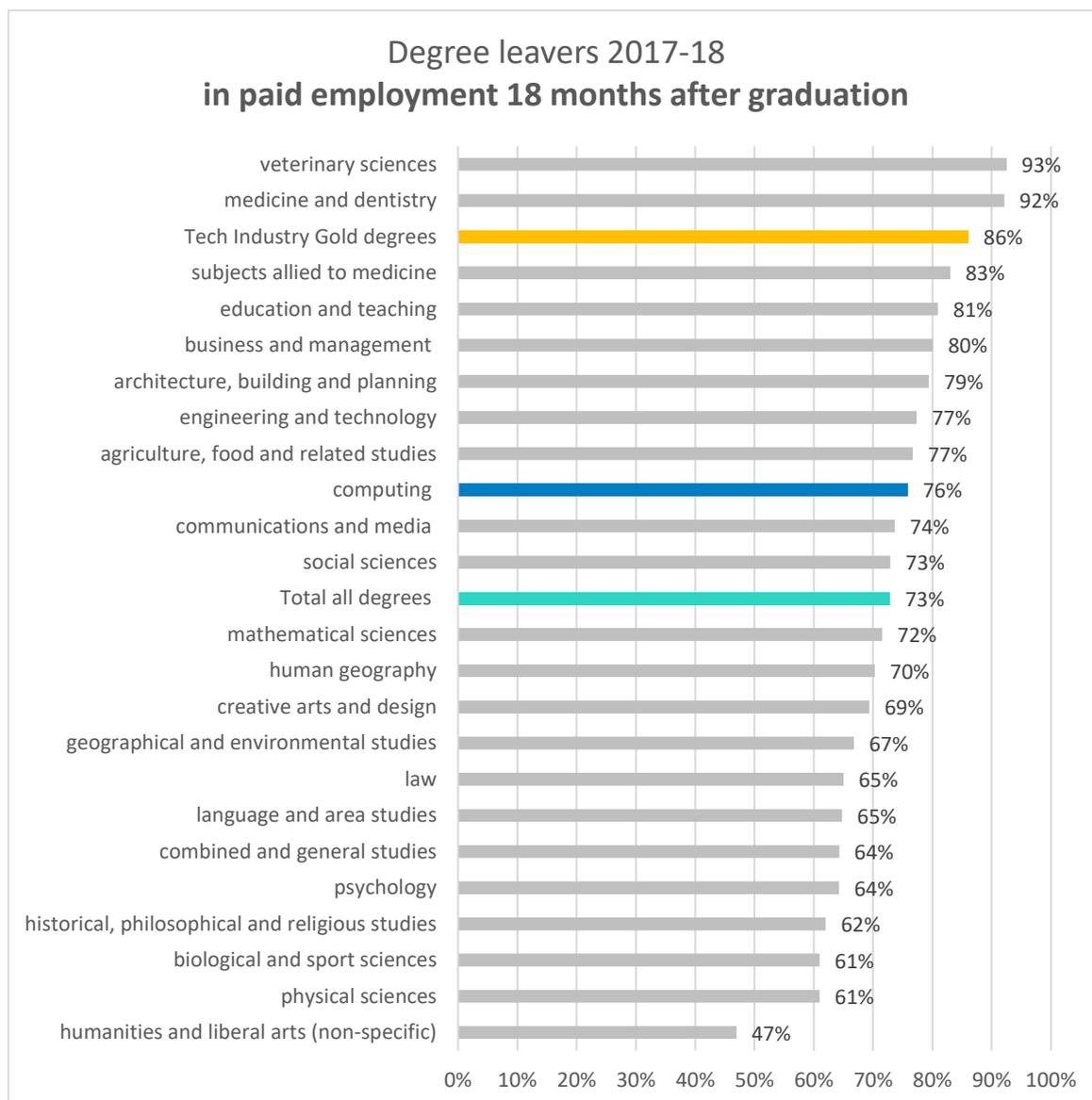
For degrees, 35% of graduates identified as BAME, second only to medicine & dentistry at 36%. For computing degrees overall, the figure is 27% and all subjects 24%. (Graph H).

For degree apprenticeships, 19% of graduates identified as BAME, compared to 10% for computing overall and 8% for all subjects (Graph I).



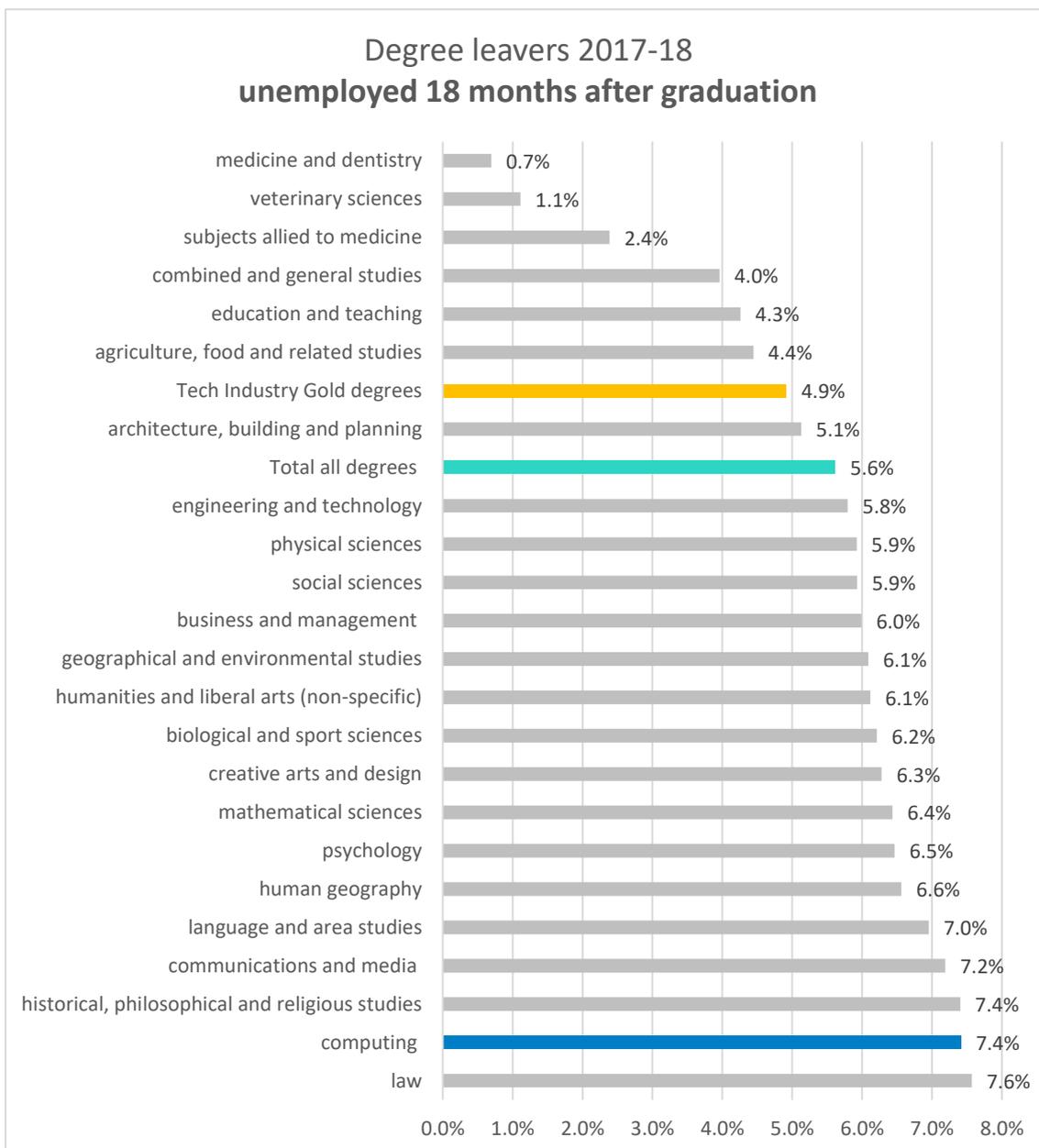
## Annex: Graphs

### A Employment – degree leavers



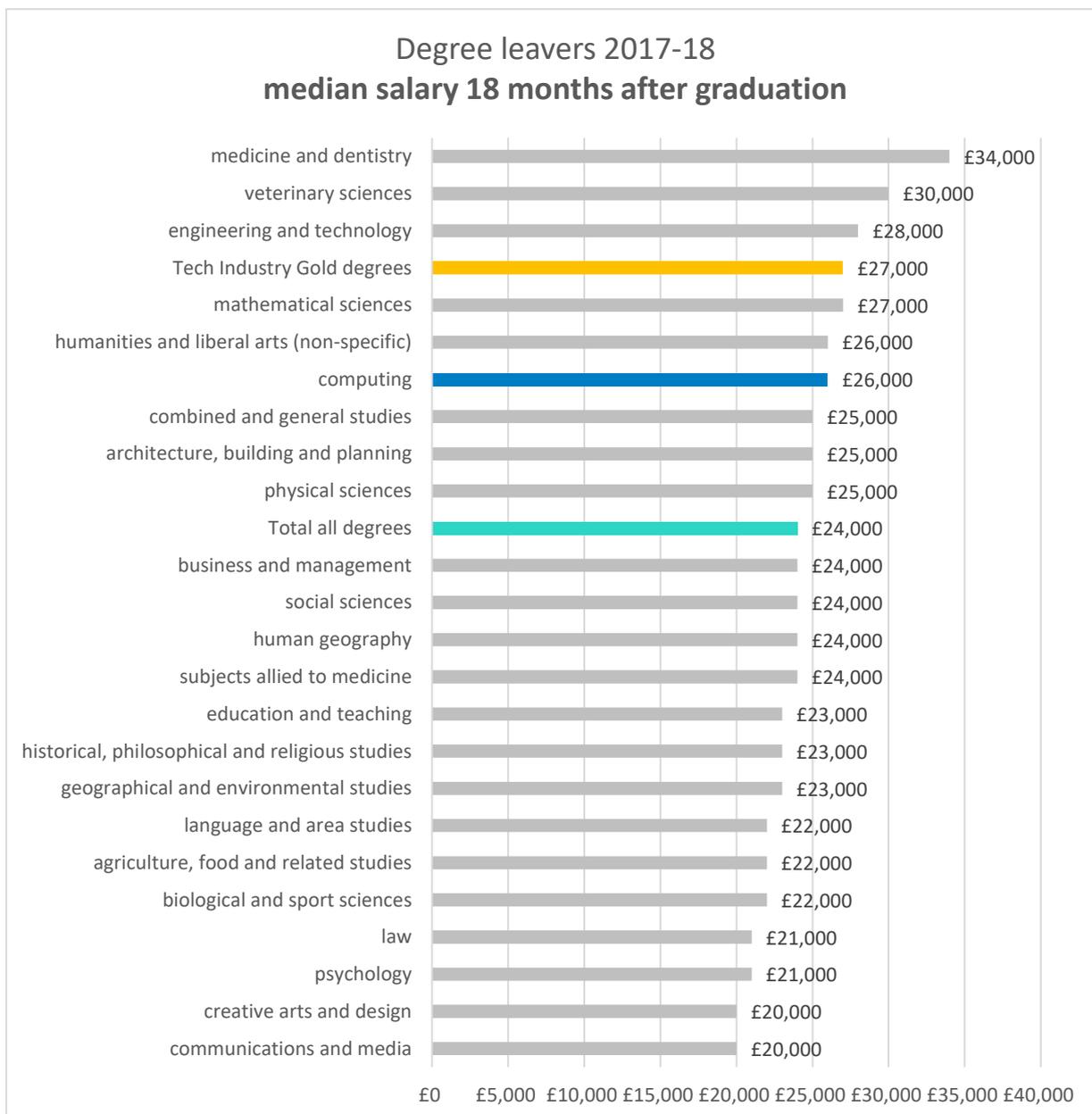


## B Unemployment – degree leavers



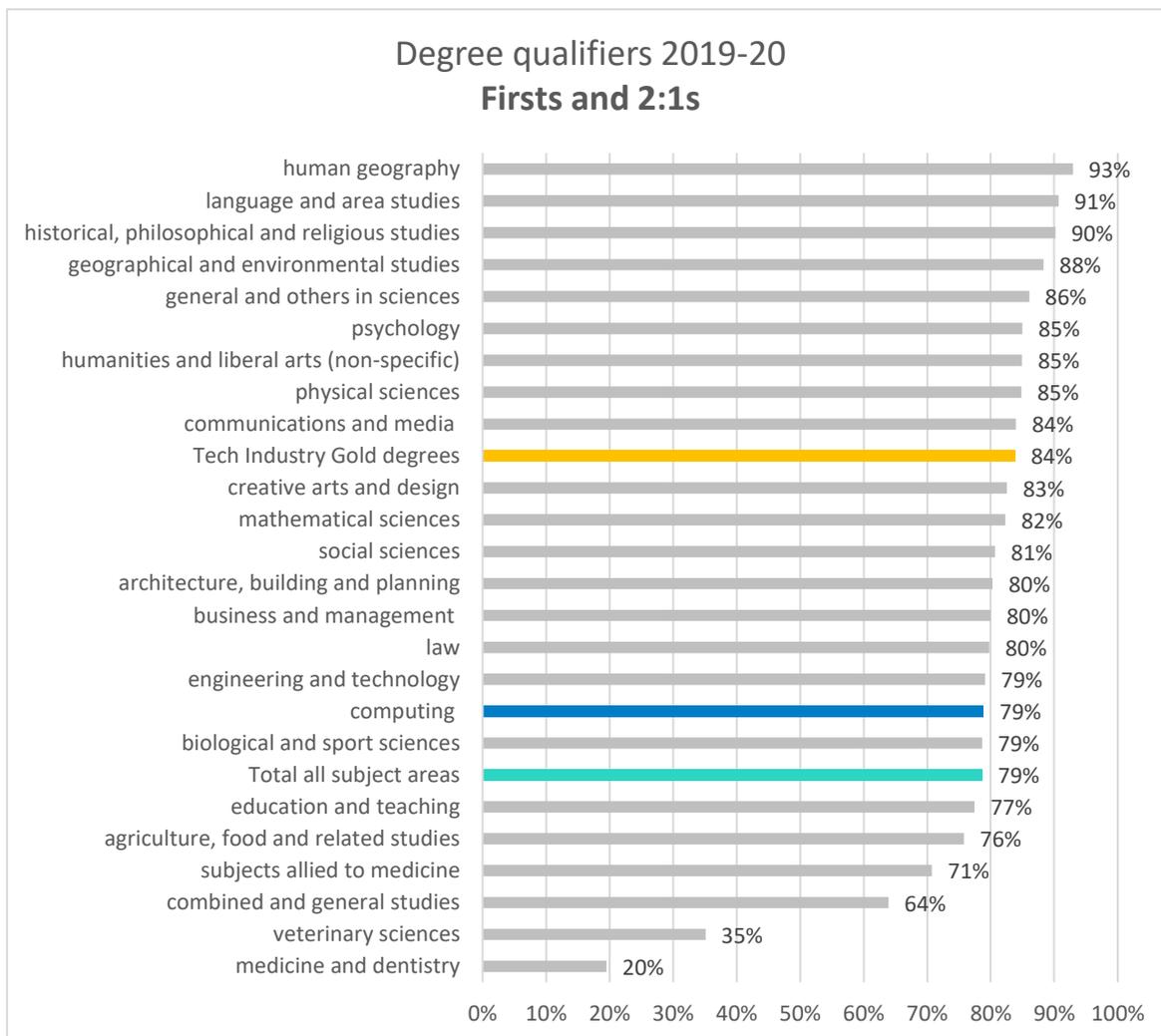


## C Salary – degree leavers

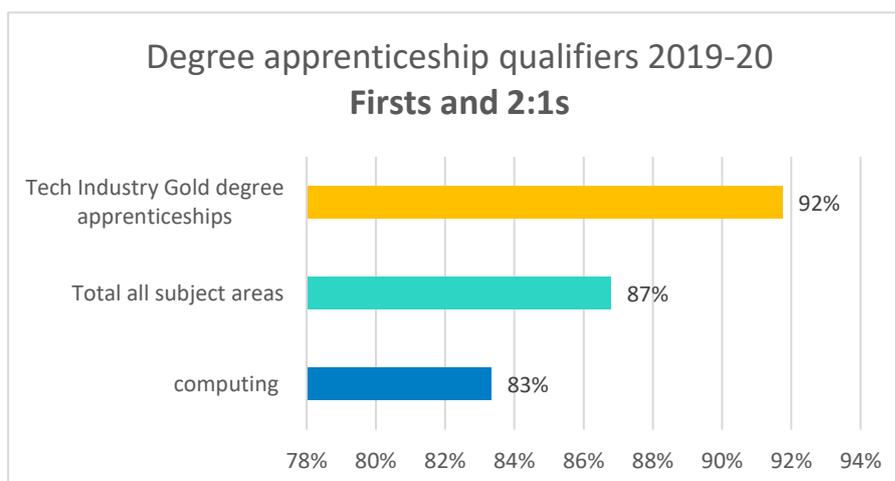




## D Academic results – degree qualifiers

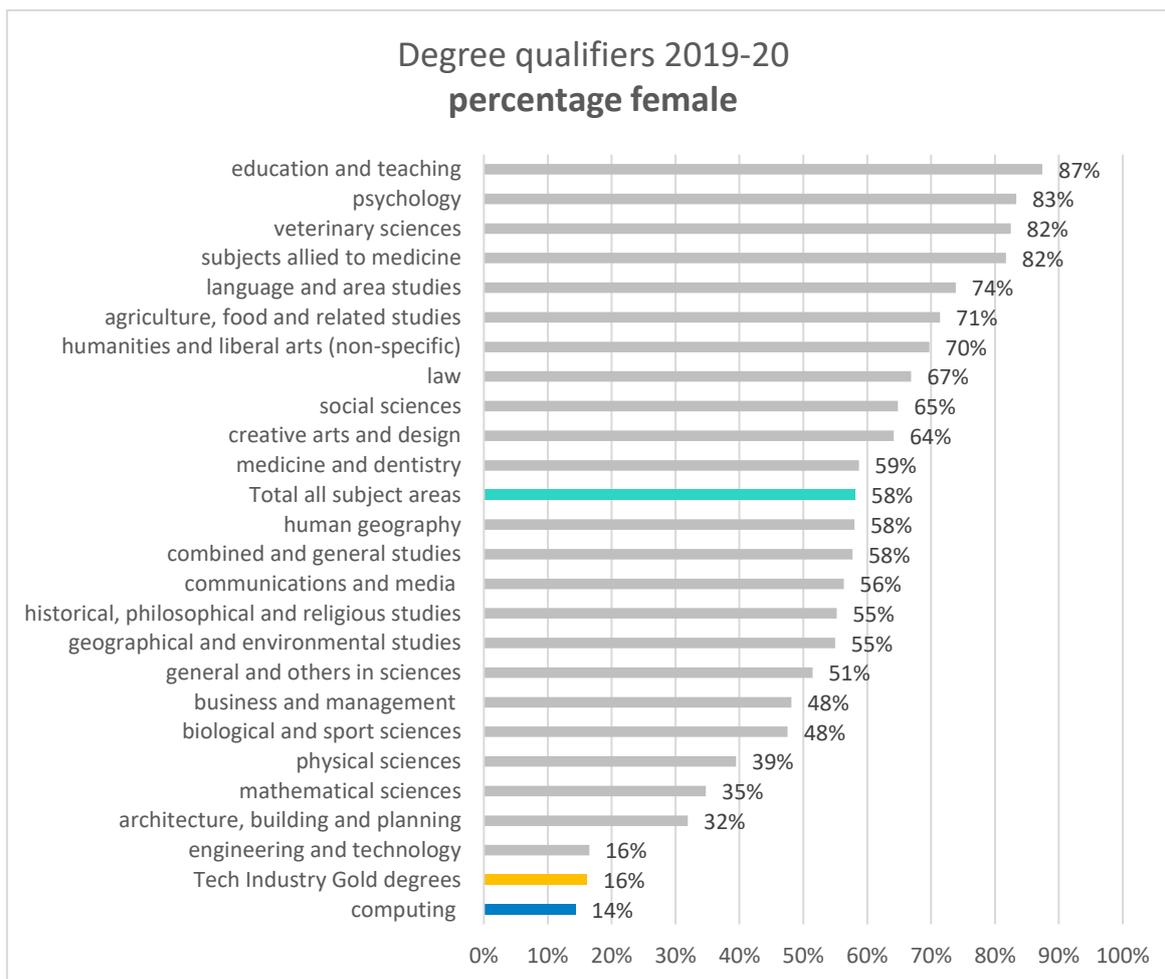


## E Academic results – degree apprenticeship qualifiers

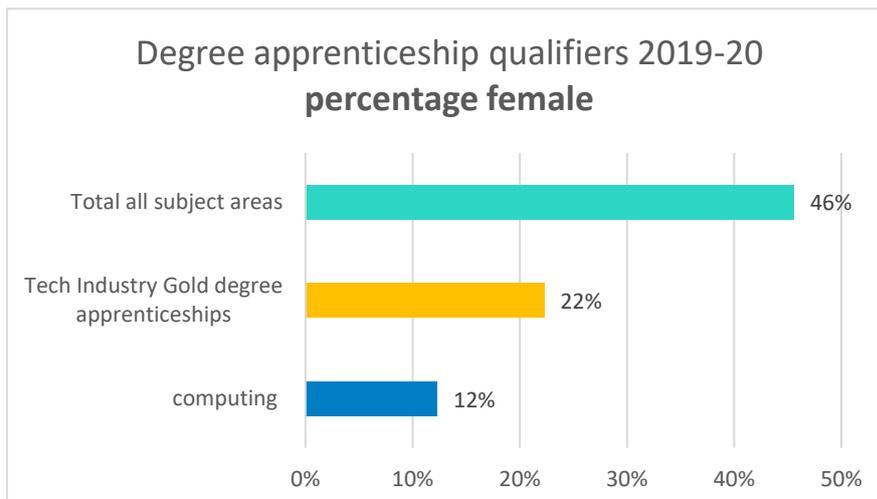




## F Gender – degree qualifiers

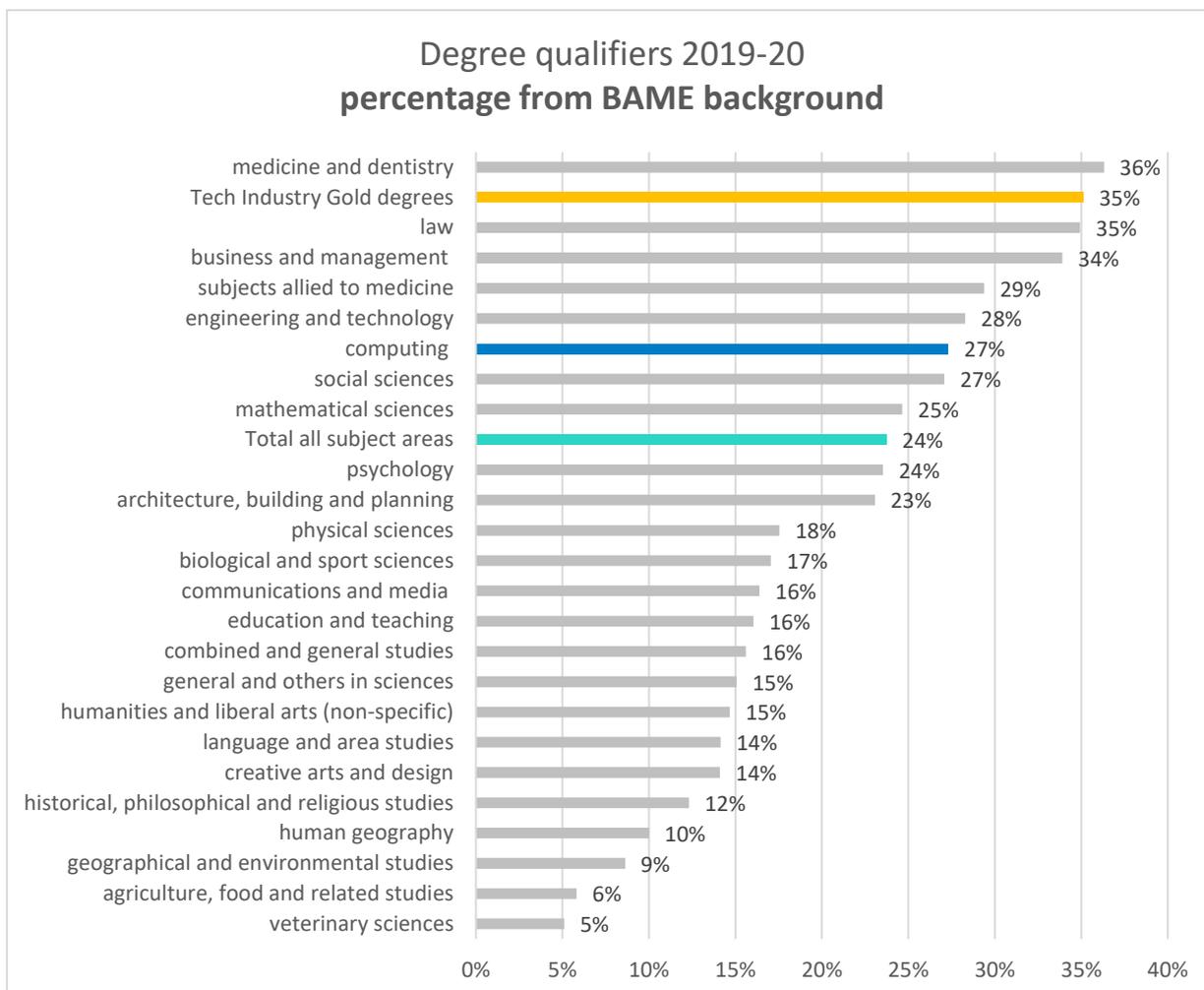


## G Gender – degree apprenticeship qualifiers

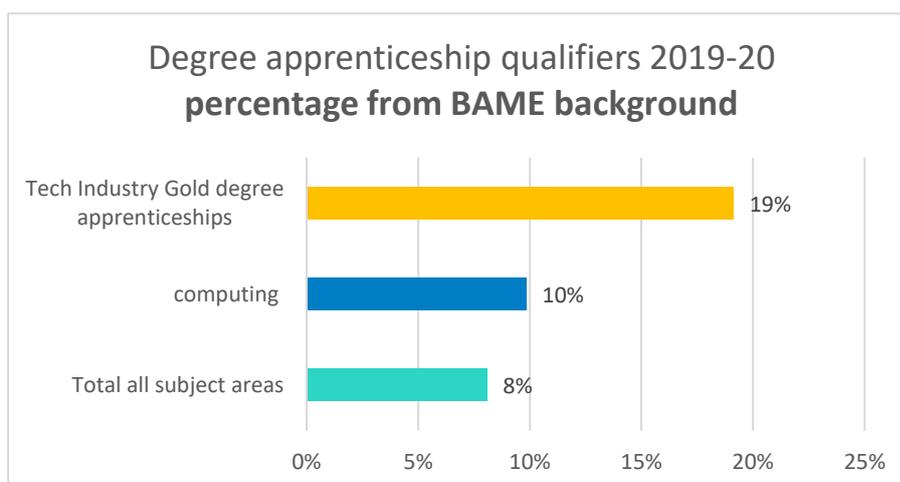




## H Ethnicity – degree qualifiers



## I Ethnicity – degree apprenticeship qualifiers





## Background

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### About TechSkills

TechSkills brings together employers and educators in partnership to develop the digital talent industry needs. Our mission is to create and promote industry-valued pathways into digital careers.

We want to realise a future where people across all areas of society can thrive in tech, whether starting out, upskilling or changing careers. We promote diversity in the tech workforce and enable people from all walks of life to achieve their full potential.

We are not-for-profit, employer-led and recognised as a Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) for the accreditation of degrees. We are responsible for Tech Industry Gold, the industry accreditation for education and training relevant to digital and tech careers.

TechSkills, formally known as Tech Partnership Degrees, is a techUK company. techUK is the trade association which brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

### About Tech Industry Gold

Tech Industry Gold is the industry accreditation for tech and digital skills. Employers from all sectors collaborate to define industry standards for job readiness. They help universities, colleges and training provider create programmes that meet them, and actively support their delivery.

All Tech Industry Gold programmes deliver a holistic blend of technical, business, project and professional skills, are rooted in the real-world application of technology, and incorporate substantive employer engagement.

### About techUK

With over 800 members across the UK, the majority of which are SMEs, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet. By providing expertise and insight, the organisation supports members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.

TechSkills (a techUK company)

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