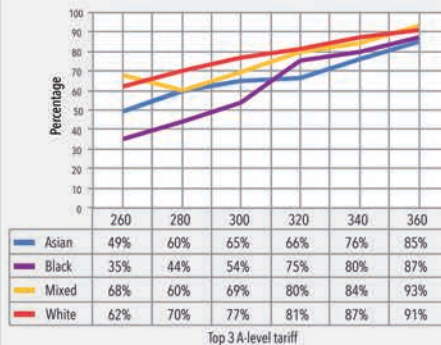


Office for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Investigating attainment differentials between social groups

Abigail Thomas, BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Introduction

I spent my Q-step placement working with the office for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Manchester, focussing on degree level attainment gaps within different social groups. After initial research I focussed my project on ethnicity and living at home with the aim of getting a more nuanced look at the trends surrounding these factors with regards to attainment at university. The intended outcome of my research was to show that over-simplified generalisations when it comes to ethnicity can sometimes be misleading and that we should try to avoid homogenising whole groups of people.



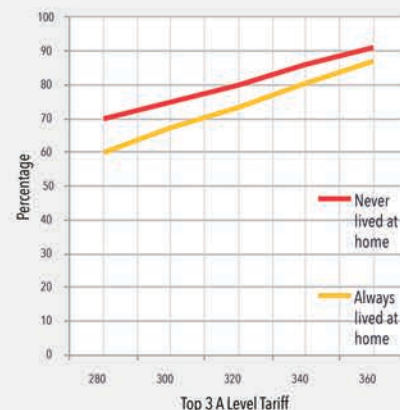
Percentage of students getting a good degree

Findings

- Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students are around 30% less likely to achieve a First class degree or a good degree than White students.
- Black students are the last likely of all groups to achieve a First class or good degree. But there is a 10% differential in achievement of good degrees between Black African and Black Caribbean students.
- There is also variation among the Asian group. Bangladeshi and Pakistani students are both around 50% less likely than White students to get a First class degree, whilst being Chinese has no statistically significant impact.
- 31% of BAME students live at home for some or all of their degree, compared to 10% of White students. Bangladeshi and Pakistani students are both over 10 times more likely to live at home than White students.
- Students who live at home are around 20% less likely to get a good degree than students who move away for university, when controlling for other factors.
- This effect doesn't apply to all ethnicities equally. For Asian students, living at home for some or all of their degree actually increases their likelihood of getting a good degree by 40% relative to White students who also live at home.

Objectives

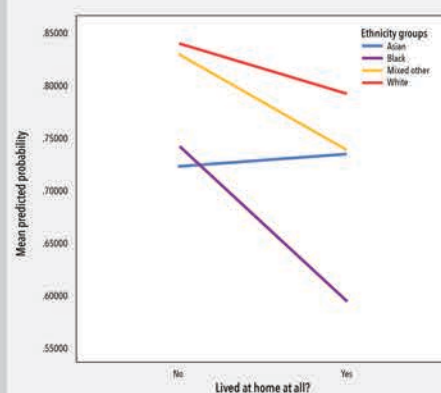
- To analyse data on recent graduates at the University of Manchester to see if I could uncover any interesting findings about attainment among different groups.
- To take a more nuanced look at the impact of ethnicity on university attainment
- To discover what types of students live at home whilst studying and to explore the effect of this on attainment
- To examine the interactions between ethnicity and living at home and their impact on attainment



Percentage of students achieving a good degree

Methodology

I conducted analysis on data provided by the University of all graduates between 2010/11 and 2015/16. For my research, I focussed only on UK domiciled, young undergraduate students with classified degrees. This resulted in a final sample of 23,818 entries. Descriptive statistics were done using Excel and then I conducted binary logistic regressions for likelihood of achieving a 'Good degree' (First class/upper second class degree) using SPSS.



Predicted probability of attaining a good degree

Skills developed

- IT skills - Excel and SPSS
- Quantitative skills - How to conduct binary logistic regressions
- Research and analysis skills - Doing a literature review, analysing data, writing up findings in a report
- Presenting skills - Presented findings as part of a masterclass to around 35 university teaching and learning staff