

EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Explainer: This section looks at the number of publicly funded education providers in Ireland from pre-school through to higher education.

1 Compared to 2014/15, the number of centres participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme is **down 138**. The number of primary schools in the country is **down 46** and the number of publicly funded third-level institutions (Institutes of Technology / Colleges) is **down 5**. However, the number of post-primary / secondary schools is **up 14** and universities by **1***.

	ECCE centres (playschools and daycare service)	Primary schools	Post-primary schools	Further Education and Training (FET) providers	Institutes of Technology + Colleges (publicly funded only)	Universities
2018/19	4,231	3,240	722	365	15*	8*
2014/15	4,369	3,286	708	459	20	7
Change	-138	-46	+14	-94	-5	+1

Source: CSO Department of Education [Statbank](#) and Department of Education and Skills (2019) [Education Indicators for Ireland](#), p.8. *Reflects the establishment of the Technological University of Dublin on 1 January 2019. The Royal College of Surgeons was designated as the 9th Irish university in December 2019. Though the RCSI receives some public funding, it is uniquely not a publicly-funded university.

SCHOOL ETHOS

Explainer: This section provides a breakdown of school types by ethos in 2019 compared to 2009.

3 Compared to 2009, the proportion of Catholic-ethos primary schools has fallen from **91%** of all primary schools and **51%** of all post-primary schools to **89%** (primary) and **48%** (post-primary). The number of multi-denominational post-primary schools exceeded the number of Catholic-ethos schools for the first time in 2018.

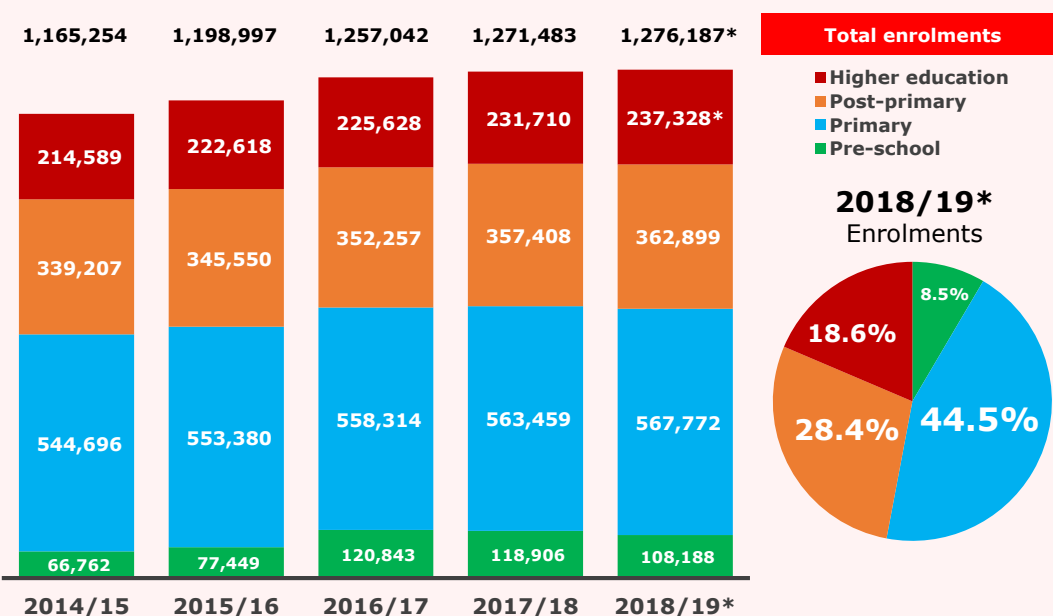
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Multi-den.	Other
Primary	2019	2,760 (88.9%)	172 (5.5%)	150 (4.8%)	24 (0.8%)
	2009	2,878 (90.9%)	178 (5.6%)	73 (2.3%)	36 (1.1%)
Post-primary	2019	344 (47.6%)	22 (3%)	352 (48.7%)	5 (0.7%)
	2009	361 (51%)	22 (3.1%)	321 (45.3%)	4 (0.6%)

Source: Department of Education and Skills (2019) [Statistical Bulletin – Enrolments September 2019](#), Table 1.

ENROLMENTS

Explainer: This section looks at overall enrolment figures at all levels of publicly funded education in Ireland (from pre-school to higher education) for the academic year 2018/19* compared to 2014/15.

5 In 2018/19*, an estimated **1,167,999 people** were in **full-time** education and a further **108,188** were attending pre-school (totalling **1,276,187**). Primary schools accounted for **44.5%** of total enrolments followed by post-primary (**28.4%**), higher education /third-level (**18.6%**) and pre-school (**8.5%**).



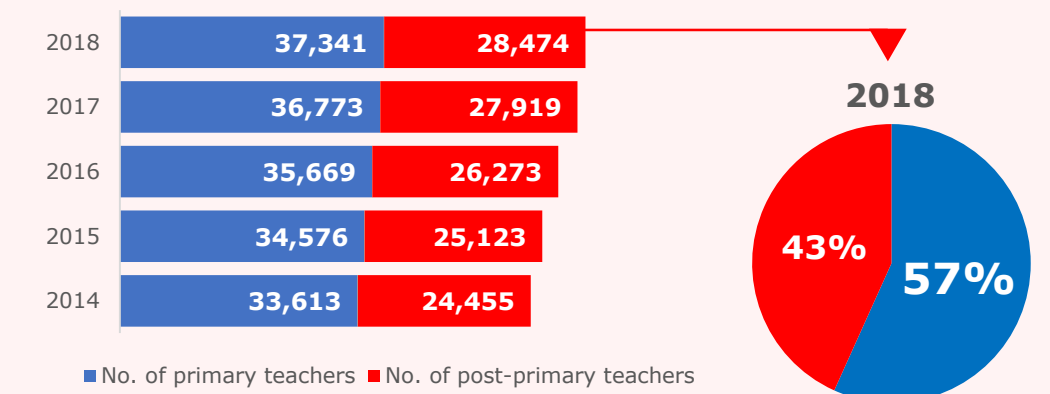
*The 2018/19 enrolments in higher education for Trinity College Dublin were unavailable at the time of publication. For illustrative purposes, the most recent 2017/18 enrolment figures for TCD are included above in the 2018/19 category. All other figures are 2018/19 enrolment figures.

Sources: Department of Education (2019) [Education Indicators](#) and Higher Education Authority (2020) [Statistical Archive](#) and [Data for Download and Visualisation](#).

Explainer: This section looks at the number of teachers employed by the State at primary and post-primary level in 2018 (compared to 2014).

NUMBER OF TEACHERS

2 Since 2014, the number of primary and post-primary teachers is up markedly. The number of primary teachers has increased from 24,455 to 28,474 (+3,728 or +16.4%) and the number of post-primary teachers has increased from 33,613 to 37,341 (+4,019 or +11.1%). Overall, the total number of teachers has increased from 58,068 to 65,815 (+7,747 or +13.3%).

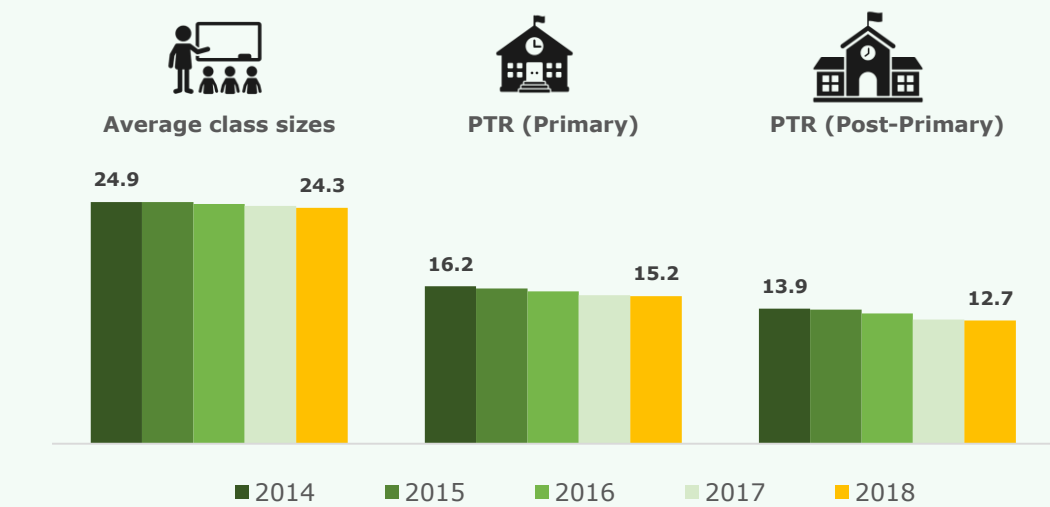


Source: Department of Education and Skills (2019) [Education Indicators for Ireland](#), p.9.

Explainer: This section shows primary school class sizes and the pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) in 2018 compared to 2014.

CLASS SIZES

4 The average primary school class size and the average pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) at primary and post-primary level is down compared to 2014.

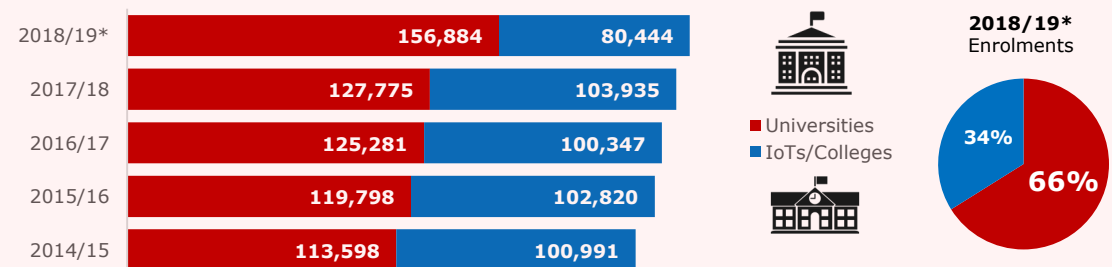


Source: Department of Education and Skills (2019) [Education Indicators for Ireland](#), p.9.

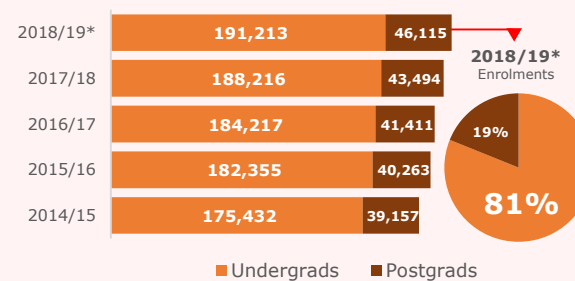
Explainer: This section looks at overall enrolment figures at all levels of publicly funded education in Ireland (from pre-school to higher education) for the academic year 2018/19* compared to 2014/15.

In 2018/19*, there were an estimated **237,328** higher education students in Ireland. Of these, **66%** (**156,884**) attended universities and **34%** (**80,444**) attended Institutes of Technology (IoT) or Colleges of Further Education. In all, **over 80%** of all higher education students (**191,213**) were undergraduates, and **over 80%** attend on a full-time basis (**184,981**).

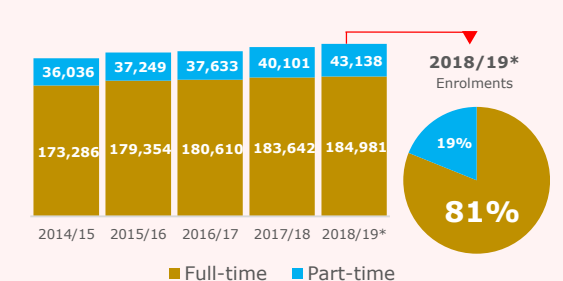
6 The majority of higher education students attend the **eight universities...**



7 Over 80% of students are undergrads...



8 ...and over 80% attend on a full-time basis.



Sources: Department of Education (2019) [Education Indicators](#) and Higher Education Authority (2020) [Statistical Archive](#) and [Data for Download and Visualisation](#).

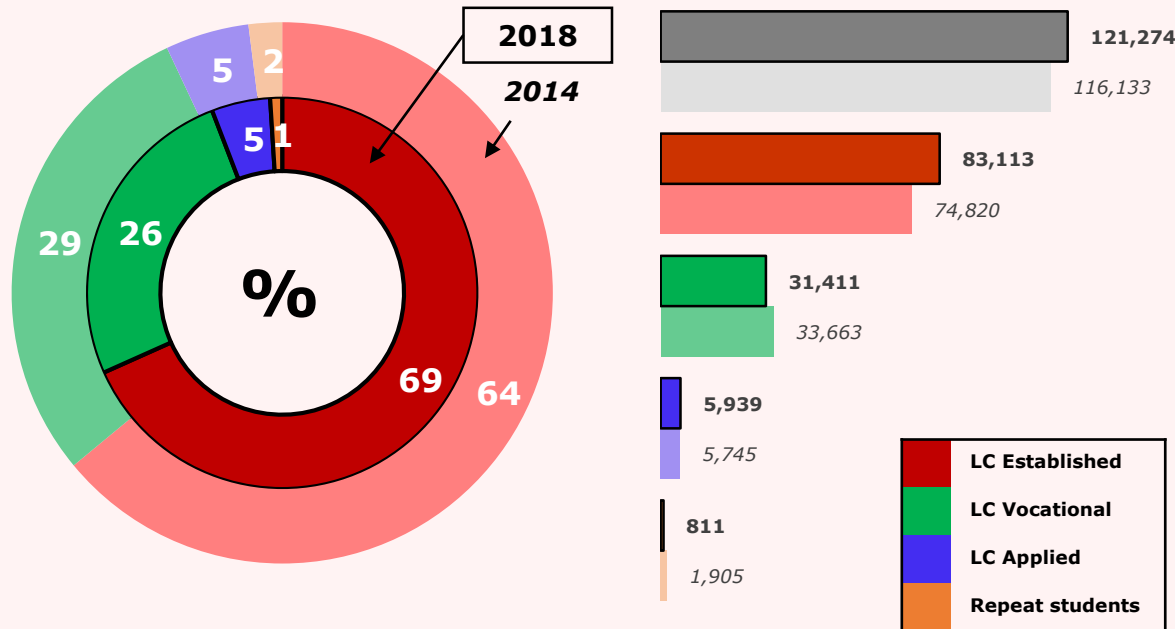
LEAVING CERTIFICATE, FOREIGN LANGUAGES & STEM SUBJECTS

Explainer: This section looks at the number of students undertaking each of the Leaving Certificate programmes, the study of foreign languages at post-primary level and information on STEM.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENTS (ALL PATHWAYS)

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In 2018, **121,274** students undertook, or repeated, one of the Leaving Certificate pathways. Of these, 83,113 (**69%**) undertook the established Leaving Certificate programme, 31,411 (**26%**) undertook the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme and 5,939 (**5%**) undertook the Leaving Certificate Applied programme, and 811 repeated (**<1%**).



FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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The number of Leaving Certificate students undertaking at least one foreign language has fallen marginally since 2014. In 2018, **69%** of 6th Year boys studied at least one foreign language (compared to **72.1%** in 2014) and **86.5%** of 6th Year girls (**88.2%** in 2014). However, the number of Leaving Certificate students studying a foreign language other than French has risen since 2014 (from **34.6%** in 2014 to **42.8%** in 2018). Post-primary schools are also increasingly offering at least 2 foreign languages.

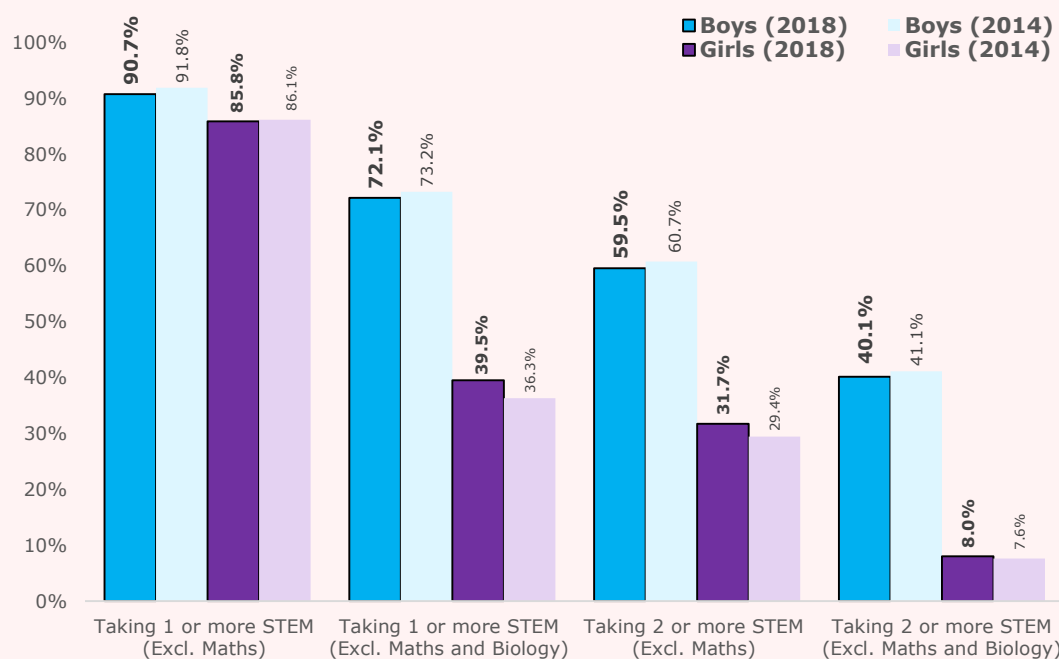
6 th Year students (studying at least one foreign language)		2018	2014	Change
♂	Boys	69.0%	72.1%	-3.1pp
♀	Girls	86.5%	88.2%	-1.7pp

STEM

In the Irish education system, STEM subjects include **Science** (i.e. biology, chemistry, physics, agricultural science), **Technology** (i.e. technology, design and communication graphics), **Engineering** (i.e. engineering, construction studies) and **Mathematics** (i.e. maths and applied maths).

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The number of students undertaking one or more STEM subjects at senior cycle differs by gender. Boys remain more likely to study multiple STEM subjects, a result which is relatively unchanged since 2014. Excluding maths (which is mandatory, with some exceptions), 90.7% of 6th year boys take a STEM subject compared to 85.8% of girls. Excluding maths and biology, the figures drop to 72.1% (boys) and 39.5% (girls).



Source: Department of Education and Skills (2019) [Education Indicators for Ireland](#), pages 14-16.

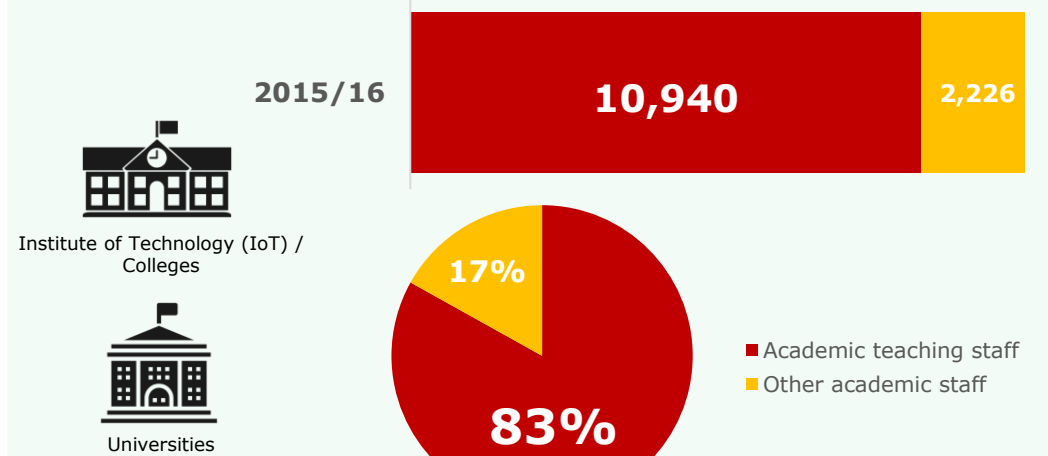
Explainer: This section looks at the number of academic/lecturing staff in higher education in Ireland and the number of students studying foreign languages or STEM subjects.

HIGHER EDUCATION LECTURING STAFF, FOREIGN LANGUAGES & STEM

TEACHING (LECTURING) STAFF – HIGHER EDUCATION

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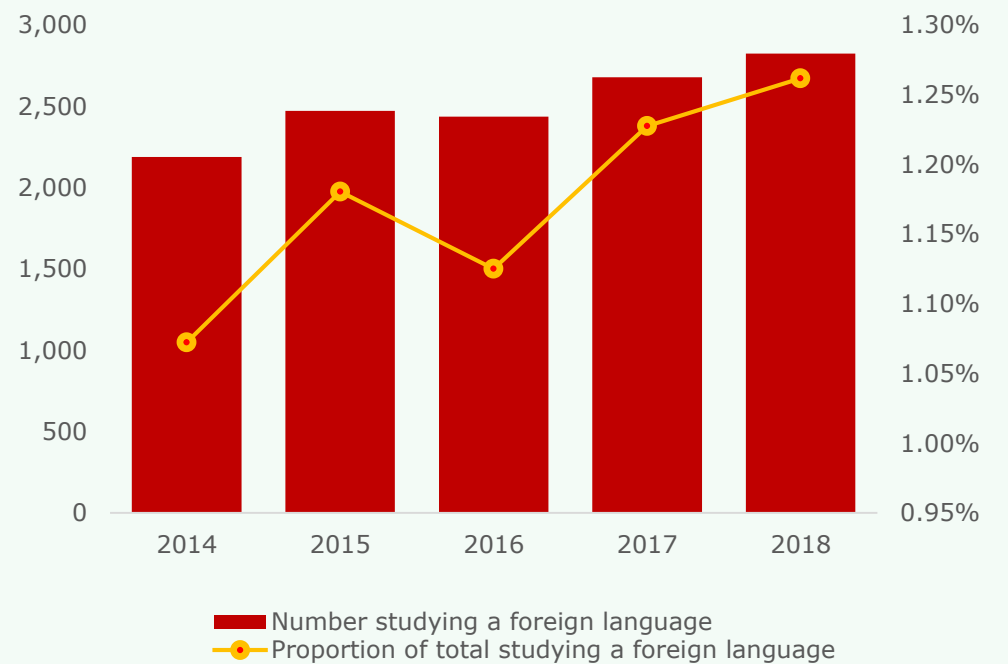
In 2015/16 (the most recent data), the total number of academic staff in HEA funded institutions was **13,166**. Of this total, **10,940** were academic lecturing staff (full-time equivalents).



THIRD LEVEL STUDENTS STUDYING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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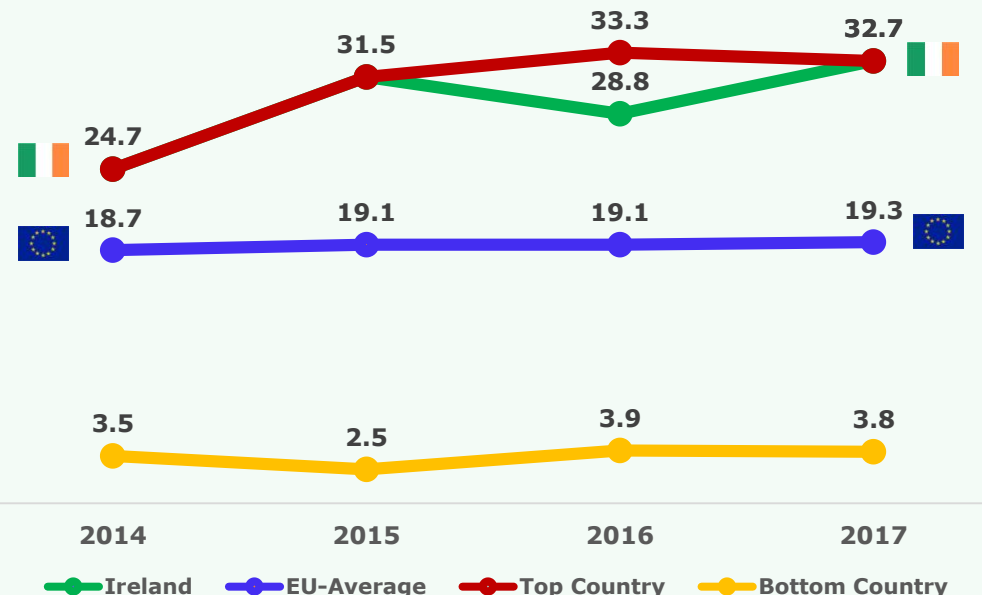
The numbers and proportion of students (full-time and part-time undergraduates and postgraduates) studying languages / language acquisition at third level has remained relatively unchanged since 2014. The proportion has remained remarkably constant (between **1.2%** and **1.3%** of all third level students).



GRADUATES

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Between 2014 and 2017 (most recent data), Ireland produced either the **highest** or **second highest** proportion of STEM graduates (per 1,000 graduates) in the EU, significantly above the EU average.



Sources: Department of Education (2019) Education Indicators (October 2019), HEA statistical archive – [Enrolments by field of study reports](#) and CSO – [Measuring Ireland's Progress 2015-2018](#).