Indicator 5.3.1: Tracking Access Measures

5 GENDER EQUALITY

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1. Executive summary

Does your university as a body systematically measure/track women's application rate and acceptance or entry rate?

The University of Bahrain systematically measures and tracks women's access to higher education at every stage of the admission pipeline: application, admission (offer), entry and enrolment. Every application is recorded in the University's student information system with the applicant's gender, degree level, college and programme, and the admission outcome. The Deanship of Admission and Registration compiles gender-disaggregated results after each admission cycle. These results are presented to the University Council for review. The Council's feedback goes to the Equal Opportunity Committee, which develops an improvement plan where a gap is identified and reports back on its implementation, closing the loop.

In 2024/2025, 9,734 applications were received, of which 5,565 (57.2%) came from women. Women have formed most applicants in each of the last three years (54.9% to 57.5%). Once they apply, women are more likely than men to be admitted: in 2024/2025, 89.6% of female applicants were admitted and 66.2% enrolled, compared with 67.8% and 45.3% of male applicants. Women also make up 68.0% of all enrolled students.

2. The UOB Access Tracking Framework

2.1 Data source and system

All applications are submitted and processed through the University's student information system (SIS) and the governmental portal (Bahrain.bh) managed by the Deanship of Admission and Registration (DAR). For each applicant, the system captures gender, nationality, degree level, college, programme of choice and admission status (applied, admitted, enrolled, rejected or withdrawn). This allows every figure in this report to be broken down by gender at each stage.

2.2 What we measure

For each academic year, and for each degree level, college and broad subject area (STEM; Medicine; Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences), the DAR reports the following:

- **Application rate:** number and share of applicants who are women.
- **Acceptance rate:** number of applicants admitted divided by the number of applicants, reported separately for women and men.
- **Entry rate:** number of admitted applicants who register as new students, as a share of applicants, for women and men.
- **Participation:** female share of total enrolment, to check that access translates into sustained participation.

Comparing these rates for women and men shows whether women are less likely than men to apply, be admitted or take up their place in any programme, even though admission policies are gender neutral.

2.3 Review cycle and governance: closing the loop

Tracking results are not only recorded; they go through a defined review-and-action cycle every year:

1. **Compile:** After each admission cycle closes, DAR extracts gender-disaggregated application, admission, entry and enrolment data and prepares the annual Access Tracking Report.
2. **Review:** The report is submitted to the University Council, which reviews trends, compares women's and men's rates and identifies any degree level, college or subject area where women are under-represented.
3. **Feedback:** The University Council sends its feedback and observations to the Colleges.
4. **Improve:** Where a gap is identified, the Colleges develop an improvement plan with actions, responsible units and timelines, working with the relevant colleges, DAR and student outreach units.
5. **Monitor:** Progress against the plan is measured in the next admission cycle's data and reported back to the University Council, closing the loop.

Review triggers: a degree level, college or subject area is flagged for action when women make up less than 40% of applicants, or women's acceptance rate is more than 5 percentage points below men's.

3. Results for the last three academic years

3.1 Applications by gender

Table 1. Applicants by gender and degree level

Degree level	2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
Bachelor's	4,449	6,076	57.7%	5,550	6,787	55.0%	3,767	5,152	57.8%
Master's	193	263	57.7%	174	206	54.2%	286	305	51.6%
Doctoral	97	72	42.6%	44	27	38.0%	116	108	48.2%
Total	**4,739**	**6,411**	**57.5%**	**5,768**	**7,020**	**54.9%**	**4,169**	**5,565**	**57.2%**

Table 2. Applicants by gender and THE broad subject area

Subject area	2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
STEM	1,845	872	32.1%	1,936	1,824	48.5%	1,274	1,232	49.2%
Medicine	737	1,916	72.2%	1,757	2,017	53.4%	1,154	1,475	56.1%
Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences	1,712	3,036	63.9%	1,739	2,774	61.5%	1,371	2,349	63.1%
Total	**4,294**	**5,824**	**57.6%**	**5,432**	**6,615**	**54.9%**	**3,799**	**5,056**	**57.1%**

3.2 Acceptance and entry rates by gender

Level / Year	Applied Male	Applied Female	Admitted Male	Admitted Female	Entered Male	Entered Female	Accept. rate M	Accept. rate F	Entry rate M	Entry rate F
Bachelor's 2022/2023	4,449	6,076	2985	4765	1945	3645	67%	78%	44%	60%
Master's 2022/2023	193	263	87	148	76	123	45%	56%	39%	47%
Doctoral 2022/2023	97	72	25	17	21	15	26%	24%	22%	21%
Bachelor's 2023/2024	5,550	6,787	2888	4827	1757	3593	52%	71%	32%	53%
Master's 2023/2024	174	206	90	131	77	101	52%	64%	44%	49%

Doctoral 2023/2024	44	27	11	15	8	11	25%	56%	18%	41%
Bachelor's 2024/2025	3,767	5,152	2644	4757	1749	3512	70%	92%	46%	68%
Master's 2024/2025	286	305	124	170	99	126	43%	56%	35%	41%
Doctoral 2024/2025	116	108	57	60	42	47	49%	56%	36%	44%

Table 3: Applicants, admitted applicants and new entrants by gender

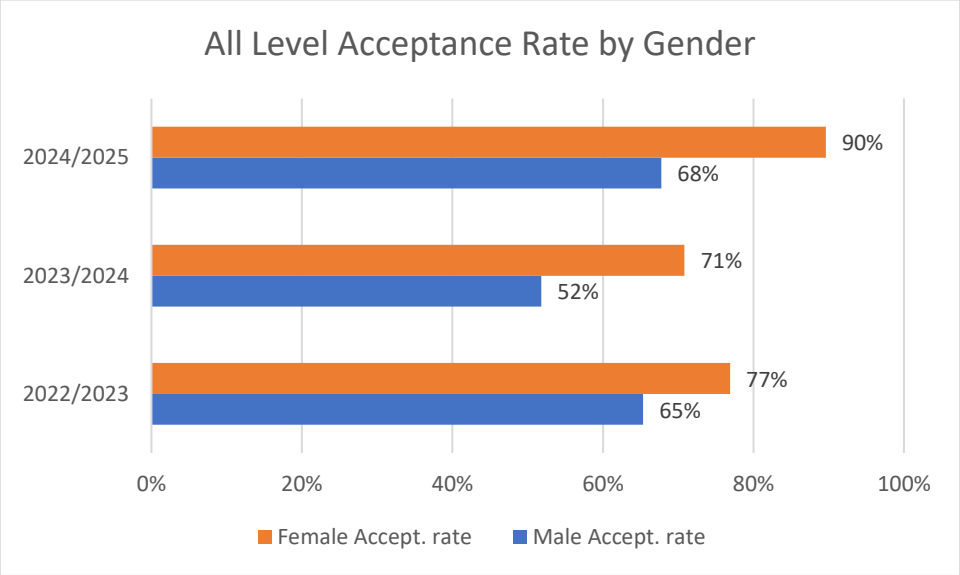


Figure 1. All-level acceptance rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

Across all degree levels, women's acceptance rate was higher than men's in every year: 76.9%, 70.8% and 89.6%, against 65.4%, 51.8% and 67.8% for men. The gap in women's favour was widest in 2024/2025, at 21.9 percentage points.

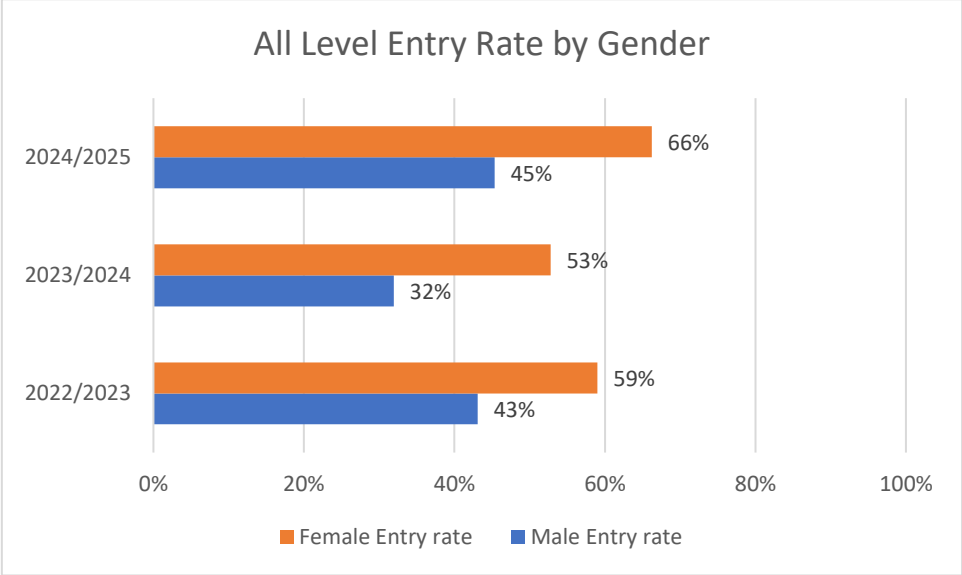


Figure 2. All-level entry rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

Women's entry rate was also higher than men's in every year: 59.0%, 52.8% and 66.2%, against 43.1%, 31.9% and 45.3%. Women who apply are more likely than men both to be admitted and to take up their place.

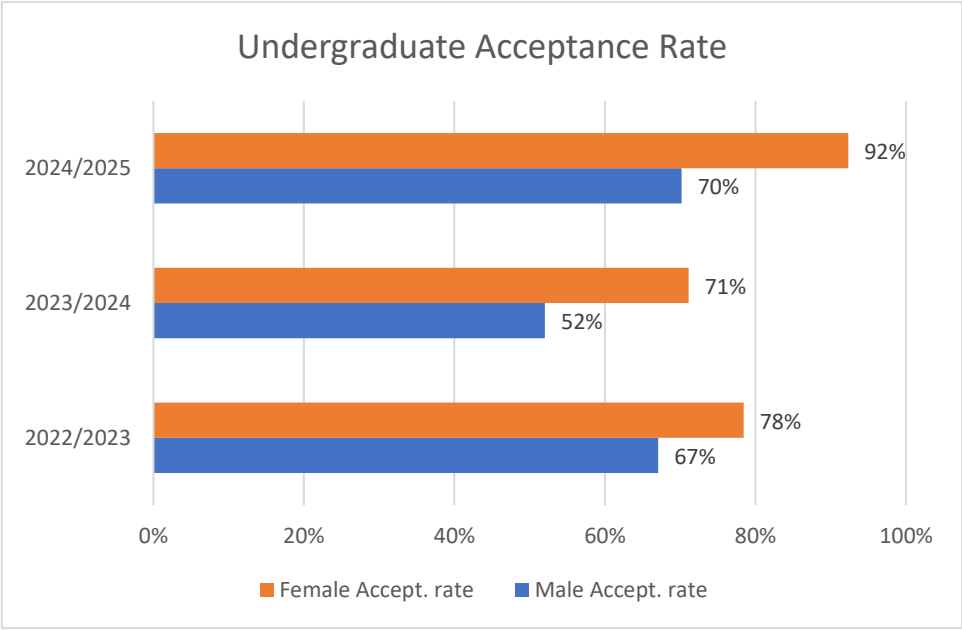


Figure 3. Undergraduate acceptance rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

At bachelor's level, women's acceptance rate rose from 78.4% in 2022/2023 to 92.3% in 2024/2025, compared with 67.1% and 70.2% for men. Women's rate was above men's in all three years.

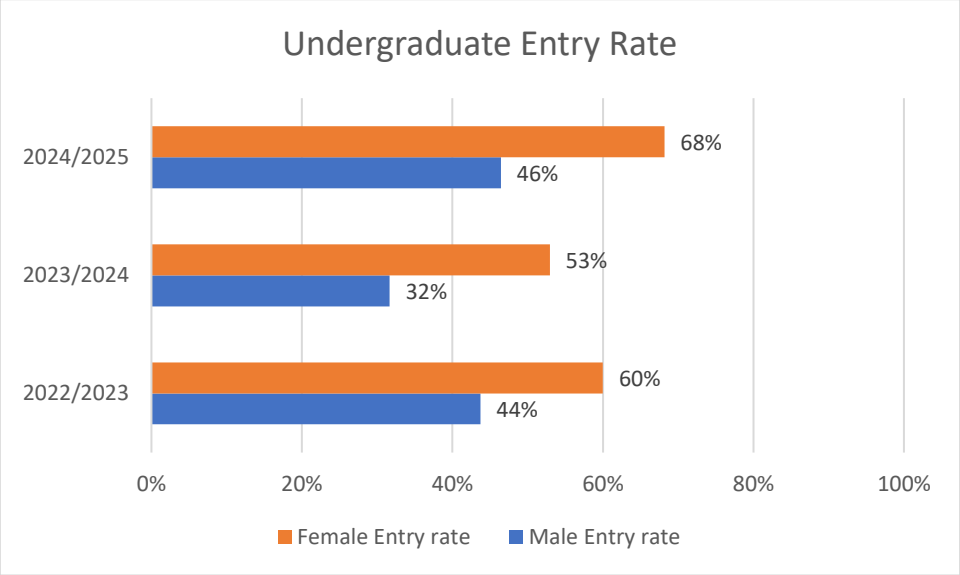


Figure 4. Undergraduate entry rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

At bachelor's level, 68.2% of female applicants enrolled in 2024/2025, compared with 46.4% of male applicants. Women's entry rate was 16 to 22 percentage points higher than men's in each year.

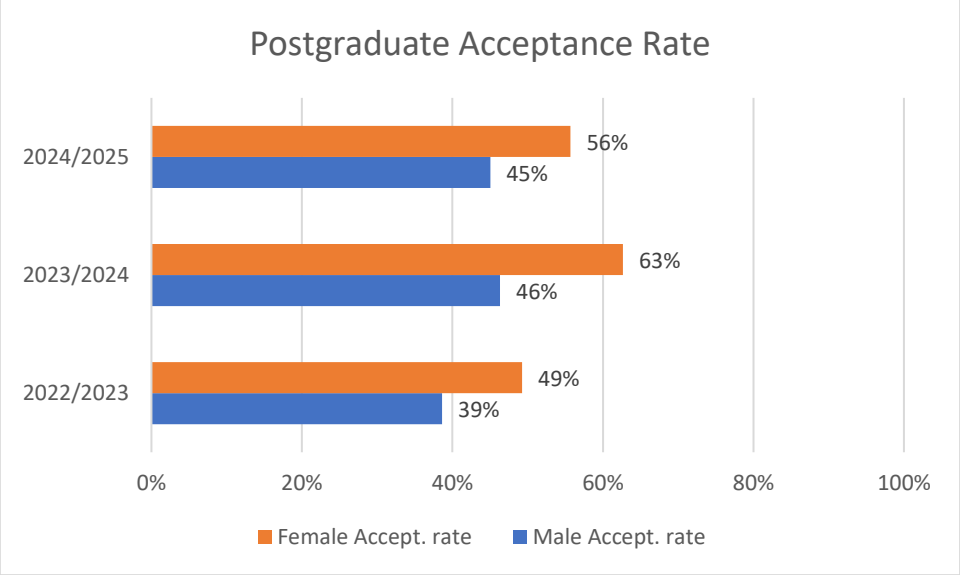


Figure 5. Postgraduate acceptance rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

For master's and doctoral programmes combined, women's acceptance rate was 49.3%, 62.7% and 55.7%, against 38.6%, 46.3% and 45.0% for men. Postgraduate admission decisions therefore do not disadvantage women.

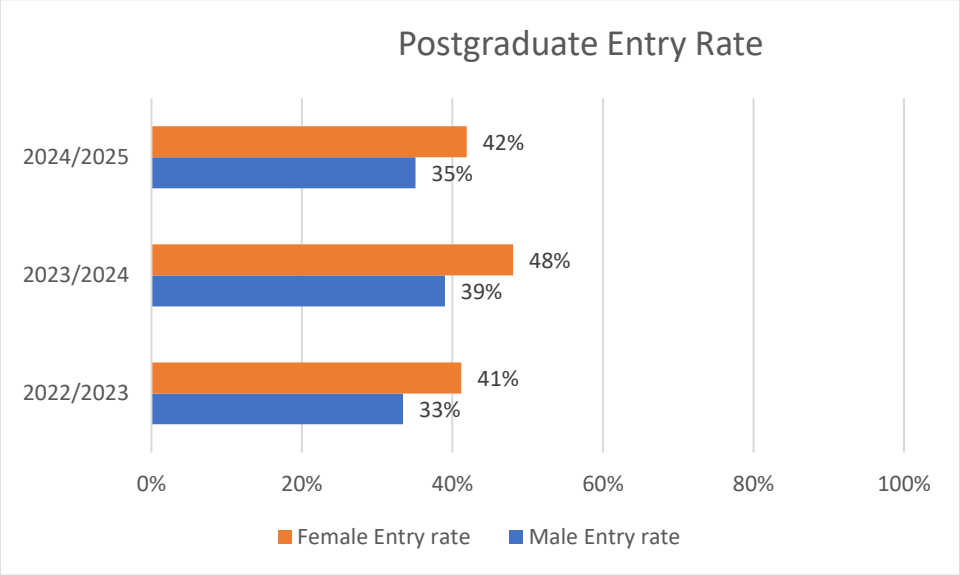


Figure 6. Postgraduate entry rate by gender, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

For master's and doctoral programmes combined, women's entry rate was 41.2%, 48.1% and 41.9%, against 33.4%, 39.0% and 35.1% for men. Women are consistently more likely than men to enrol after applying.

3.3 Participation: enrolment by gender

Table 4: Total enrolment by gender and degree level

Degree level	2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
Bachelor's	8,800	17,347	66.3%	7,731	16,220	67.7%	6,833	14,807	68.4%
Master's	294	492	62.6%	283	481	63.0%	306	458	59.9%
Doctoral	95	97	50.5%	82	98	54.4%	88	108	55.1%
Total	**9,189**	**17,936**	**66.1%**	**8,096**	**16,799**	**67.5%**	**7,227**	**15,373**	**68.0%**

Table 5: Total enrolment by gender and THE broad subject area

Subject area	2022/2023			2023/2024			2024/2025		
	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
STEM	3,311	3,424	50.8%	2,757	3,443	55.5%	2,420	3,267	57.4%
Medicine	307	1,638	84.2%	252	1,507	85.7%	224	1,514	87.1%
Arts & Humanities / Social Sciences	3,720	9,626	72.1%	3,641	9,481	72.3%	3,311	8,458	71.9%
Total	**7,338**	**14,688**	**66.7%**	**6,650**	**14,431**	**68.5%**	**5,955**	**13,239**	**69.0%**

4. Key findings

- **Women are the most applicants:** Women submitted 57.2% of applications in 2024/2025 (5,565 of 9,734), 54.9% in 2023/2024 and 57.5% in 2022/2023.
- **Women are more likely than men to be admitted and to enrol:** Across all levels, women's acceptance rate was 76.9%, 70.8% and 89.6% over the three years, against 65.4%, 51.8% and 67.8% for men. Women's entry rate was 59.0%, 52.8% and 66.2%, against 43.1%, 31.9% and 45.3% for men. In 2024/2025, the gap in women's favour was 21.9 percentage points for acceptance and 20.9 points for entry.
- **Admission decisions do not disadvantage women at any level:** Women's acceptance rate is higher than men's at bachelor's and master's level in every year.
- **Women's participation is strong and rising:** The female share of total enrolment rose from 66.1% in 2022/2023 to 68.0% in 2024/2025.
- **STEM applications have reached near-parity:** Women's share of STEM applicants rose from 32.1% in 2022/2023 to 48.5% in 2023/2024 and 49.2% in 2024/2025. Women are now 57.4% of STEM enrolment, up from 50.8%.
- **Medicine attracts predominantly women:** Women account for 87.1% of Medicine enrolment. This is monitored so that the gender balance does not shift too far in either direction.

6. Extra supporting evidence

- Bahrain Open Data Portal: Number of Students Enrolled in Governmental Higher Education Institutions by Nationality and Sex.