

## Undergraduate Courses on Decline in Britain

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The number of full-time undergraduate-level courses offered in Britain has decreased 27 percent during the past six years, according to a new report.

The number of courses dropped to 51,116 in 2012 from 70,052 in 2006, according to the report, which was released last month and compiled using admission data by the University and College Union, a major organization of college and university professors, lecturers and academic staff.

Even in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, “the availability of courses has shrunk and is shrinking,” said Simon Renton, vice president of the union and a lecturer at University College London.

The union said budget cuts had reduced student choice.

But a spokesman for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the governmental department responsible for universities, said more students were studying than before.

“Our reforms are freeing up places at the institutions where students wish to study and bringing higher education into more local communities,” said the spokesman, who did not give his name, following official policy.

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