



**Cónaidhm Éireannach na Múinteoirí Ollscoile
Irish Federation of University Teachers**

PRESS RELEASE

**Narrowing of gender gap at higher level welcome but
highlights increase in demand amid cuts in sector, says IFUT**

6 October 2010

The Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) has welcomed the increase in the percentage of male students enrolling for third-level education announced by the HEA today, but warned that it highlights ever-increasing pressure on staff and resources in third-level colleges.

Recent data show that the numbers of mature and international students, as well as the traditional school leaver enrolment numbers, are on the increase, while staffing levels, funding and resources are continually being pruned, IFUT General Secretary, Mike Jennings, said.

“This situation threatens the ability of our education system to respond effectively to students’ teaching needs. The Government is jeopardising the very system that produced the graduates that helped Ireland emerge from the last recession of the 1980s. It is an approach that threatens, not just third-level education, but the ability of our economy to recover and prosper in the future”, he said.

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