



Interim assessment of UCAS acceptances by intended entry year, country of institution and qualifications held

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*This is a revised version of the report issued on 14 September

Summary

This analysis reports UK and EU domiciled UCAS acceptances by intended academic year of entry.

Reporting acceptances in this way, rather than by the UCAS admissions cycle in which they were accepted, is a better guide to the likely number of UCAS acceptances starting higher education in an academic year when there have been changing patterns of deferred acceptances.

These statistics reflect the position recorded at four weeks after GCE A-level results day (13 September 2012 for the 2012 cycle). Acceptances at this point have varied between 98 per cent and 99 per cent of the end of cycle totals over recent cycles.

The number of acceptances by entry year at this point can differ from the final number of recorded higher education enrollments for a number of factors and to differing extent through time.

- UK and EU domiciled acceptances to the 2012-13 entry year at this point are 408,500. This is a change of -56,600 (-12 per cent) compared to acceptances into the 2011-12 entry year at the equivalent point in the previous cycle.
- On the same basis, by country of institution:
 - England: 340,500, -54,200 (-14 per cent)
 - Northern Ireland: 9,700, +200 (+2 per cent)
 - Scotland: 36,700, +700 (+2 per cent)
 - Wales: 21,500, -3,300 (-13 per cent)
- UK and EU domiciled acceptances into the 2012-13 entry year at institutions and subject areas estimated to fall within the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) student number control arrangements are 302,200 at this point. This is a change of -52,000 (-15 per cent) compared to acceptances into the 2011-12 entry year at the equivalent point in the previous cycle.
- On the same basis, within this group of acceptances:
 - Recorded as holding entry qualifications in HEFCE's 'AAB+' set:
79,200, -14,100 (-15 per cent)
 - Not recorded as holding entry qualifications in HEFCE's 'AAB+' set:
223,000, -37,900 (-15 per cent)

How to read these tables

Reporting by entry year compared to reporting by UCAS cycle

UCAS acceptances can be reported by the academic year that they intend to start their course ('entry year') rather than by the UCAS cycle from which they are accepted. Reporting acceptances in this way, rather than by the UCAS cycle in which they were accepted, is a better guide to the likely number of students starting higher education courses at UCAS member institutions in an academic year.

This is important when using UCAS statistics as an indicator of likely changes in students starting courses over recent years as it takes account of the substantial changes in the proportion of UCAS acceptances who defer their entry to higher education (that is, intend to start their course after a year rather than immediately).

In particular, the number and proportion of acceptances who deferred their entry in the 2011 cycle was lower than usual (see <http://www.ucas.com/documents/endofcyclereport.pdf>). Compared to the UCAS cycle totals, this meant that the number of acceptances into the 2011-12 entry year was relatively high compared to the UCAS cycle totals for 2011 since a greater proportion of those acceptances entered immediately, whilst the number of deferred acceptances into 2011-12 from the 2010 cycle was at a typical level (27,200 for UK and EU domiciled acceptances). The lower number of deferred acceptances from the 2011 cycle into the 2012-13 entry year (11,700 for UK and EU domiciled acceptances), combined with a partial return in the 2012 cycle to more typical levels of deferred acceptances (20,600 at this point) means that the change in acceptances recorded by entry years differs substantially from that recorded by UCAS cycle over these two years.

It is these patterns that account for the differences between these figures and the usual UCAS cycle-based acceptances. These patterns are also one reason why, although there was no above-trend increase in UCAS application rates in the 2011 cycle (see http://www.ucas.com/about_us/media_enquiries/media_releases/2012/2012applicationsanalysis), there is a substantial increase in acceptances into the 2011-12 academic year.

UCAS acceptances can differ from eventual total higher education entrants, even when counted by entry year, due to a range of factors. These include not all acceptances going on to enroll and some enrollments not coming through UCAS, and these factors and their extent can vary from year to year.

Coverage and structure of analysis tables

The analysis tables report the number of acceptances into entry year 2012-13 against the totals for entry into 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 at equivalent points in the relevant UCAS cycle. They describe accepted applicants from the UK and EU. To ensure a consistent comparison through time the tables do not include a small number (several thousand) of acceptances to courses which start within a cycle.

The reference point for these statistics is four weeks after the release of GCE A level results (13 September 2012 and the equivalent point in previous cycles). Acceptances at this point have varied between 98 per cent and 99 per cent of the end of cycle totals over recent cycles, this proportion has increased over time. For institutions in Scotland the proportion of end of cycle total acceptances recorded at this point is typically lower (around 90 per cent).

There are two sets of tables. The first set (Tables 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d) report acceptances by country of institution and country of domicile of acceptances. The second set (Tables 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d) provide a further analysis of UCAS institutions in England by categories that relate to arrangements for controlling student numbers for entry into 2012-13. These are based on the details of the course the applicant is accepted to and an assessment of their entry qualifications. They approximate the categories that relate to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) student number control arrangements from information recorded in the UCAS system. The assessment of entry qualifications uses a number of data sources including information provided by applicants themselves.

There are four parts to each set of tables. The first (a) gives the accepted applicant totals. The second (b) reports these as the change between the 2012-13 entry year acceptances and acceptances into earlier entry years (reported so that where the 2012-13 entry year acceptances are lower than the comparison entry year acceptances the statistic reported will be negative). The third (c) reports this same statistic as a proportional change from the comparison entry year.

The fourth table (d) splits the acceptances into a particular entry year by the UCAS cycle that the acceptance was from. So, for example, the acceptances into the 2012-13 entry year are split into whether they were accepted from the 2012 cycle ('immediate acceptances') or from the 2011 cycle ('deferred acceptances'). To give the best picture of acceptances across the 2009-10 to 2012-13 entry years, the deferred acceptances into those entry years are reported using the end of cycle position. This is not possible yet for the deferred acceptances from 2012 into 2013-14, who are reported instead at the reference point. This means that deferred acceptances into 2013-14 are likely to change by the end of the cycle whereas the deferred acceptances into other entry years will not. Small cell counts are suppressed and marked as '-'.

Analysis Tables

Tables 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d are revised versions that correct an error in the treatment of EU and aggregate country categories.

Table 1a: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS institutions by entry year, country of institution and country of domicile of accepted applicant

		Entry year			
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Country of institution	Country of domicile				
England	England	333,876	339,944	361,067	311,633
	Wales / NI / Scotland	10,541	11,557	12,455	11,781
	EU	17,102	19,494	21,237	17,130
	All	361,519	370,995	394,759	340,544
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	9,346	8,915	8,754	8,975
	England / Wales / Scotland	307	238	298	276
	EU	467	580	463	441
	All	10,120	9,733	9,515	9,692
Scotland	Scotland	26,853	27,759	27,229	27,554
	England / Wales/ NI	5,977	4,858	4,623	4,858
	EU	4,315	3,857	4,147	4,284
	All	37,145	36,474	35,999	36,696
Wales	Wales	13,681	11,765	11,489	11,233
	England / NI / Scotland	9,681	10,502	12,317	9,380
	EU	1,071	943	992	932
	All	24,433	23,210	24,798	21,545
All	All	433,217	440,412	465,071	408,477

Table 1b: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS institutions by entry year, country of institution and country of domicile of accepted applicant, change in acceptances to 2012-13 compared to previous entry years

		Change between specified year and 2012-13		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Country of institution	Country of domicile			
England	England	-22,243	-28,311	-49,434
	Wales / NI / Scotland	1,240	224	-674
	EU	28	-2,364	-4,107
	All	-20,975	-30,451	-54,215
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	-371	60	221
	England / Wales / Scotland	-31	38	-22
	EU	-26	-139	-22
	All	-428	-41	177
Scotland	Scotland	701	-205	325
	England / Wales/ NI	-1,119	0	235
	EU	-31	427	137
	All	-449	222	697
Wales	Wales	-2,448	-532	-256
	England / NI / Scotland	-301	-1,122	-2,937
	EU	-139	-11	-60
	All	-2,888	-1,665	-3,253
All	All	-24,740	-31,935	-56,594

Table 1c: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions by entry year, country of institution and domicile of accepted applicant, proportional change in acceptances to 2012-13 compared to previous entry years

		Proportional change between specified year and 2012-13		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Country of institution	Country of domicile			
England	England	-7%	-8%	-14%
	Wales / NI / Scotland	12%	2%	-5%
	EU	0%	-12%	-19%
	All	-6%	-8%	-14%
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	-4%	1%	3%
	England / Wales / Scotland	-10%	16%	-7%
	EU	-6%	-24%	-5%
	All	-4%	-0%	2%
Scotland	Scotland	3%	-1%	1%
	England / Wales/ NI	-19%	0%	5%
	EU	-1%	11%	3%
	All	-1%	1%	2%
Wales	Wales	-18%	-5%	-2%
	England / NI / Scotland	-3%	-11%	-24%
	EU	-13%	-1%	-6%
	All	-12%	-7%	-13%
All	All	-6%	-7%	-12%

Table 1d: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions by entry year, UCAS cycle, country of institution and domicile of acceptance

		Entry year								
		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14
		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle
		2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012
Country of institution	Country of domicile									
England	England	22,864	311,012	22,569	317,375	21,718	339,349	8,400	303,233	16,787
	Wales / NI / Scotland	858	9,683	754	10,803	827	11,628	419	11,362	598
	EU	865	16,237	997	18,497	1,055	20,182	697	16,433	776
	All	24,587	336,932	24,320	346,675	23,600	371,159	9,516	331,028	18,161
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	230	9,116	242	8,673	212	8,542	105	8,870	142
	England / Wales / Scotland	20	287	21	217	37	261	12	264	27
	EU	25	442	32	548	33	430	27	414	12
	All	275	9,845	295	9,438	282	9,233	144	9,548	181
Scotland	Scotland	1,267	25,586	1,231	26,528	1,243	25,986	948	26,606	800
	England / Wales/ NI	563	5,414	540	4,318	343	4,280	119	4,739	334
	EU	182	4,133	181	3,676	185	3,962	188	4,096	179
	All	2,012	35,133	1,952	34,522	1,771	34,228	1,255	35,441	1,313
Wales	Wales	480	13,201	478	11,287	403	11,086	289	10,944	190
	England / NI / Scotland	1,003	8,678	1,048	9,454	1,085	11,232	404	8,976	680
	EU	57	1,014	72	871	60	932	40	892	42
	All	1,540	22,893	1,598	21,612	1,548	23,250	733	20,812	912
All		28,414	404,803	28,165	412,247	27,201	437,870	11,648	396,829	20,567

Table 2a: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements

		Entry year			
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
HEFCE-funded institutions: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	AAB+ all qualifications	70,471	81,331	93,307	79,186
	AAB+ with GCE A level	48,989	55,446	61,735	51,365
	AAB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level	21,482	25,885	31,572	27,821
	not AAB+	251,266	249,286	260,941	223,033
	All	321,737	330,617	354,248	302,219
HEFCE-funded institutions: other courses, recruited through UCAS		38,299	38,412	37,430	35,674
Other English institutions		1,483	1,966	3,081	2,651
All English Institutions		361,519	370,995	394,759	340,544

Table 2b: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements, change in acceptances to 2012-13 compared to previous entry years

		Change between specified year and 2012-13		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
HEFCE-funded institutions: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	AAB+ all qualifications	8,715	-2,145	-14,121
	AAB+ with GCE A level	2,376	-4,081	-10,370
	AAB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level	6,339	1,936	-3,751
	not AAB+	-28,233	-26,253	-37,908
	All	-19,518	-28,398	-52,029
HEFCE-funded institutions: other courses, recruited through UCAS		-2,625	-2,738	-1,756
Other English institutions		1,168	685	-430
All English Institutions		-20,975	-30,451	-54,215

Table 2c: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements, change in acceptances to 2012-13 compared to previous entry years

		Proportional change between specified year and 2012-13		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
HEFCE-funded institutions: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	AAB+ all qualifications	12%	-3%	-15%
	AAB+ with GCE A level	5%	-7%	-17%
	AAB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level	30%	7%	-12%
	not AAB+	-11%	-11%	-15%
	All	-6%	-9%	-15%
HEFCE-funded institutions: other courses, recruited through UCAS		-7%	-7%	-5%
Other English institutions		79%	35%	-14%
All English Institutions		-6%	-8%	-14%

Table 2d: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year, UCAS cycle and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements

		Entry year								
		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14
		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle		From UCAS cycle
		2008	2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012
HEFCE-funded institutions: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	AAB+ all qualifications	5,876	64,595	6,049	75,282	6,468	86,839	2,673	76,513	5,214
	AAB+ with GCE A level	4,753	44,236	4,744	50,702	4,853	56,882	1,800	49,565	3,837
	AAB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level	1,123	20,359	1,305	24,580	1,615	29,957	873	26,948	1,377
	not AAB+	16,749	234,517	16,011	233,275	14,848	246,093	5,695	217,338	11,598
	All	22,625	299,112	22,060	308,557	21,316	332,932	8,368	293,851	16,812
HEFCE-funded institutions: other courses, recruited through UCAS		1,897	36,402	2,179	36,233	2,200	35,230	1,112	34,562	1,283
Other English institutions		65	1,418	81	1,885	84	2,997	36	2,615	66
All		24,587	336,932	24,320	346,675	23,600	371,159	9,516	331,028	18,161