UCAS

End of cycle report
2017

Patterns by subject

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Applications by subject

Applications to most subject groups fell in 2017

Academic subjects can be reported using JACS3 (Joint Academic Coding System – further details in the glossary) subject groups. Figure 3.1 shows the number of applications to each of these subject groups in the 2017 cycle, alongside the cumulative share of applications, and annotations that show the change in number of applications from 2016.

There were over 2.9 million applications through UCAS in 2017, but they were not distributed equally across subjects. There were 356,125 applications to business and administrative studies, the highest across all subject groups. This represented 12.2 per cent of all applications in 2017, resulting in around 1 in 8 applications to courses in this subject group.

There were 353,905 applications to courses classified as subjects allied to medicine (which includes nursing), making this the second most popular subject group in 2017. Between them, business and administrative studies, and subjects allied to medicine accounted for a quarter of all applications in 2017.

Other subjects with relatively large numbers of applications were biological sciences (288,950 applications), social studies (267,840 applications), and creative arts and design (267,345 applications). Between them, these subject groups accounted for more than a quarter of all applications made through UCAS in 2017, and when combined with business and administrative studies, and subjects allied to medicine, they accounted for more than half of all applications.

The subject groups with the fewest applications in 2017 were European languages, literature and related subjects (17,970 applications), technologies (8,485 applications), and non-European languages, literature and related subjects (5,685 applications).

Most subject groups had a reduction in applications this year. Subjects allied to medicine had the largest fall, with 61,175 fewer applications this year, a fall of 15 per cent from 2016. Other subject areas with proportional falls in applications of more than 5 per cent were; technologies (-1,085, -11 per cent); combined arts (-4,750, -9.3 per cent); sciences combined with social sciences or arts (-4,835, -7.9 per cent); historical and philosophical studies (-6,015, -7.1 per cent); combined sciences (-2,300, -6.7 per cent); European languages, literature and related subjects (-1,195, -6.2 per cent); creative arts and design (-14,410, -5.1 per cent); and non-European languages literature and related subjects (-305, -5.1 per cent).

There were increases in the number of applications this year in six subject groups. These were; architecture, building and planning (+2,250, +4.9 per cent); law (+6,290, +4.5 per cent); mathematical sciences (+1,670, +3.3 per cent); social studies (+6,980,

+2.7 per cent), computer sciences (+2,005, +1.5 per cent); and mass communications and documentation (+155, +0.2 per cent).

Figure 3.1 Applications by JACS3 subject group in 2017 (with cumulative share of applications, and percentage change in applications from 2016)
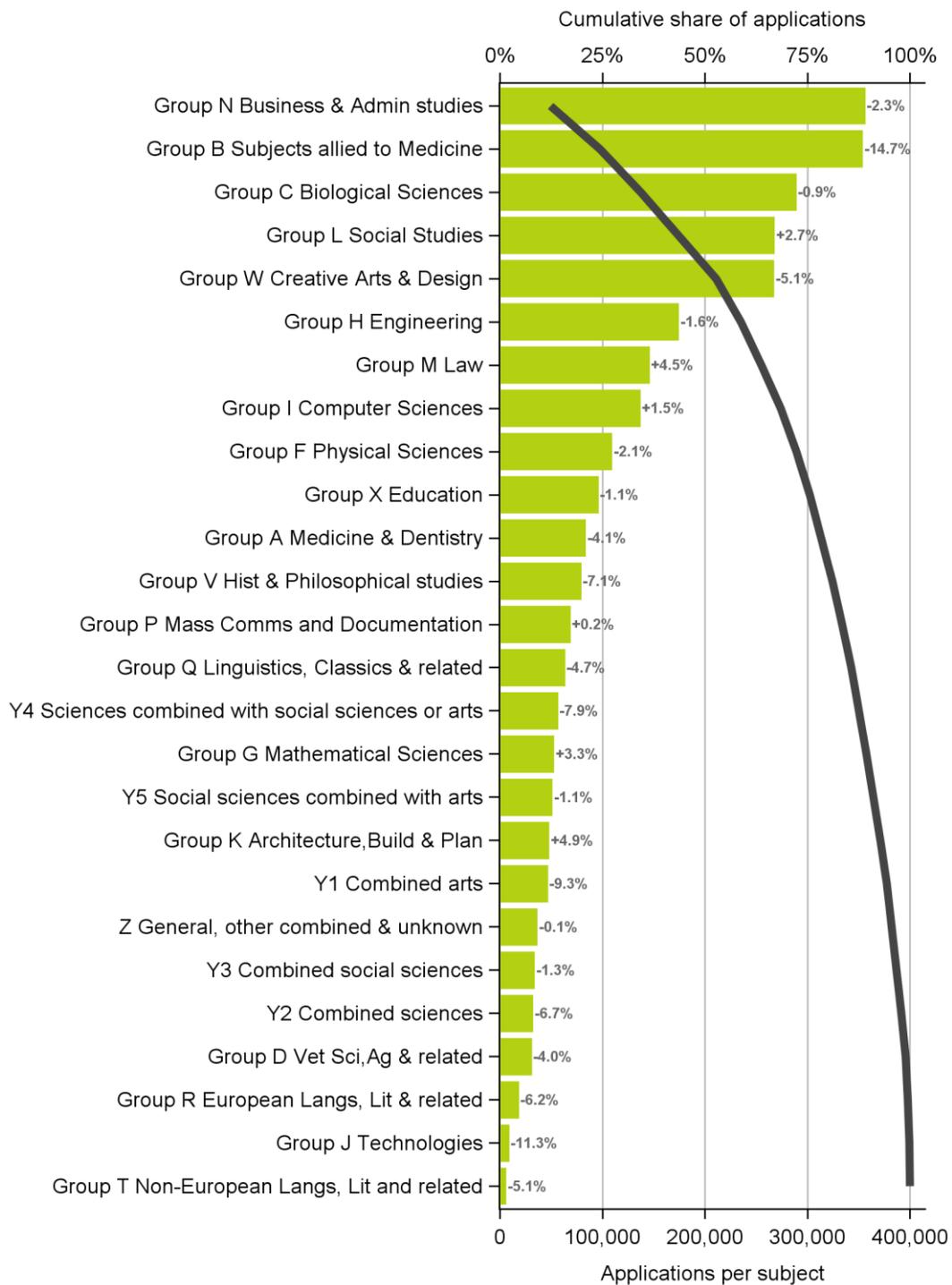
Note: Bars show number of applications per subject, line shows the cumulative share of applications, and annotations show percentage change in applications from previous cycle.

Acceptances by subject

More acceptances to business and administrative studies than any other subject group

Figure 3.2 shows the number of acceptances per subject group for the 2017 cycle, with annotations showing the change in numbers from 2016, and a line showing the cumulative share of acceptances. The relative ordering of acceptances across subject groups is similar to that for applications.
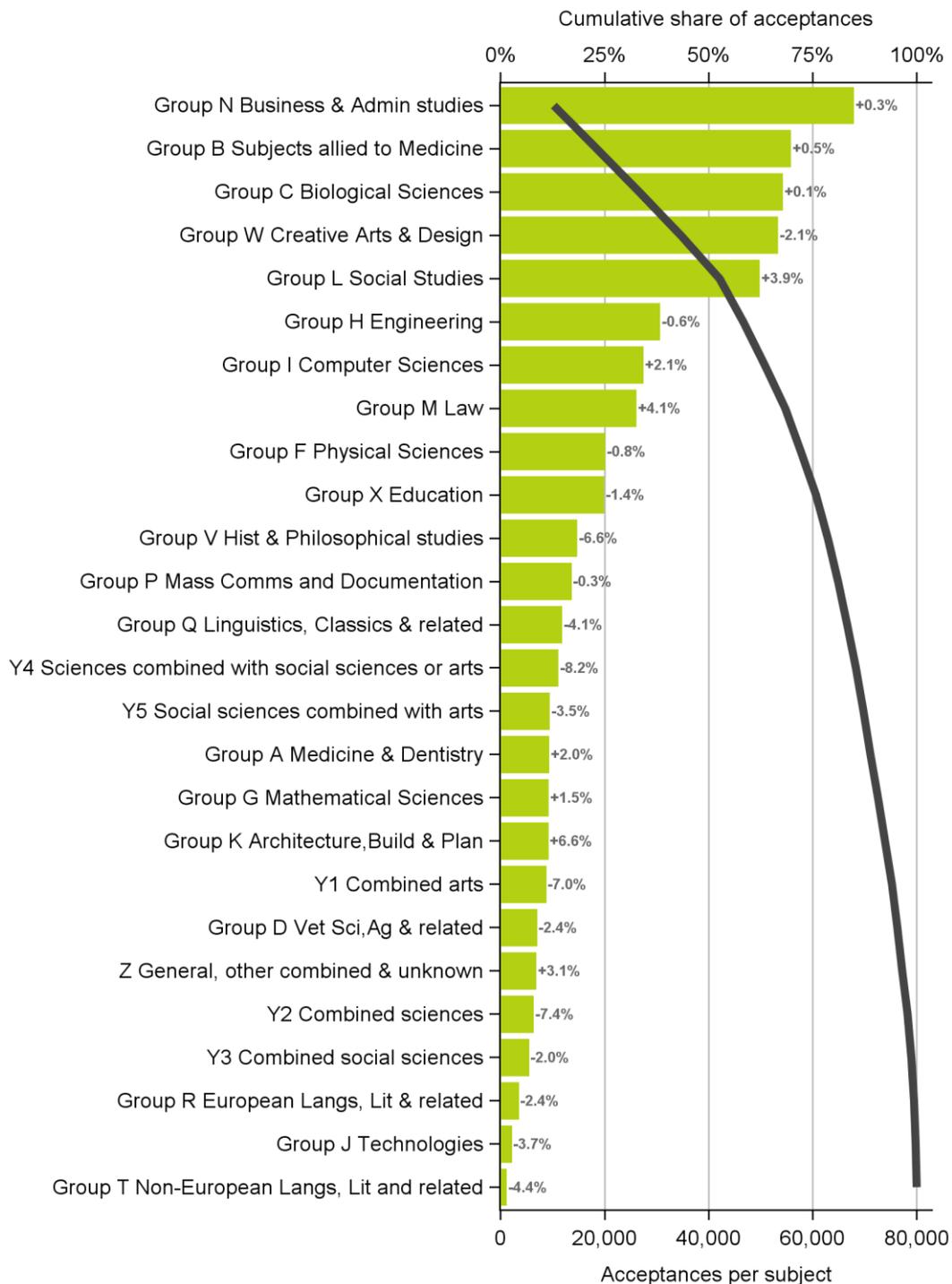
In 2017, there were 67,845 acceptances to business and administrative studies, the subject group with the highest number this year, accounting for 13 per cent of all acceptances. Subjects allied to medicine (55,755 acceptances), biological sciences (54,240 acceptances), creative arts and design (53,320 acceptances), and social studies (49,780 acceptances) also had relatively large numbers of acceptances this year, and between them accounted for 40 per cent of all acceptances.

The three subject groups with the fewest acceptances this year were European languages, literature and related subjects (3,425 acceptances), technologies (2,080 acceptances), and non-European languages, literature and related subjects (1,095 acceptances).

There were increases in acceptances in eleven of the 26 subject groups this year. The subject groups with the largest absolute increases were social studies (+1,850, +3.9 per cent) and law (+1,030, +4.1 per cent). Architecture, building and planning (+565, +6.6 per cent) and computer sciences (+560, +2.1 per cent) also had relatively large increases.

Among the subject groups which had a decline in acceptances this year, the biggest, in absolute terms, were in creative arts and design (-1,165, -2.1 per cent), historical and philosophical studies (-1,035, -6.6 per cent), and sciences combined with social sciences or arts (-980, -8.2 per cent).

Figure 3.2 Acceptances by JACS3 subject group in 2017 (with cumulative share of acceptances, and percentage change in acceptances from 2016)

Cumulative share of acceptances

Group	Change
Group N Business & Admin studies	+0.3%
Group B Subjects allied to Medicine	+0.5%
Group C Biological Sciences	+0.1%
Group W Creative Arts & Design	-2.1%
Group L Social Studies	+3.9%
Group H Engineering	-0.6%
Group I Computer Sciences	+2.1%
Group M Law	+4.1%
Group F Physical Sciences	-0.8%
Group X Education	-1.4%
Group V Hist & Philosophical studies	-6.6%
Group P Mass Comms and Documentation	-0.3%
Group Q Linguistics, Classics & related	-4.1%
Y4 Sciences combined with social sciences or arts	-8.2%
Y5 Social sciences combined with arts	-3.5%
Group A Medicine & Dentistry	+2.0%
Group G Mathematical Sciences	+1.5%
Group K Architecture,Build & Plan	+6.6%
Y1 Combined arts	-7.0%
Group D Vet Sci,Ag & related	-2.4%
Z General, other combined & unknown	+3.1%
Y2 Combined sciences	-7.4%
Y3 Combined social sciences	-2.0%
Group R European Langs, Lit & related	-2.4%
Group J Technologies	-3.7%
Group T Non-European Langs, Lit and related	-4.4%

Acceptances per subject

Note: Bars show number of acceptances per subject, line shows the cumulative share of acceptances, and annotations show percentage change in acceptances from previous cycle.

Large growth in acceptances to biological sciences, social studies, and computer sciences since 2008, but falls in combinations of subjects, and languages
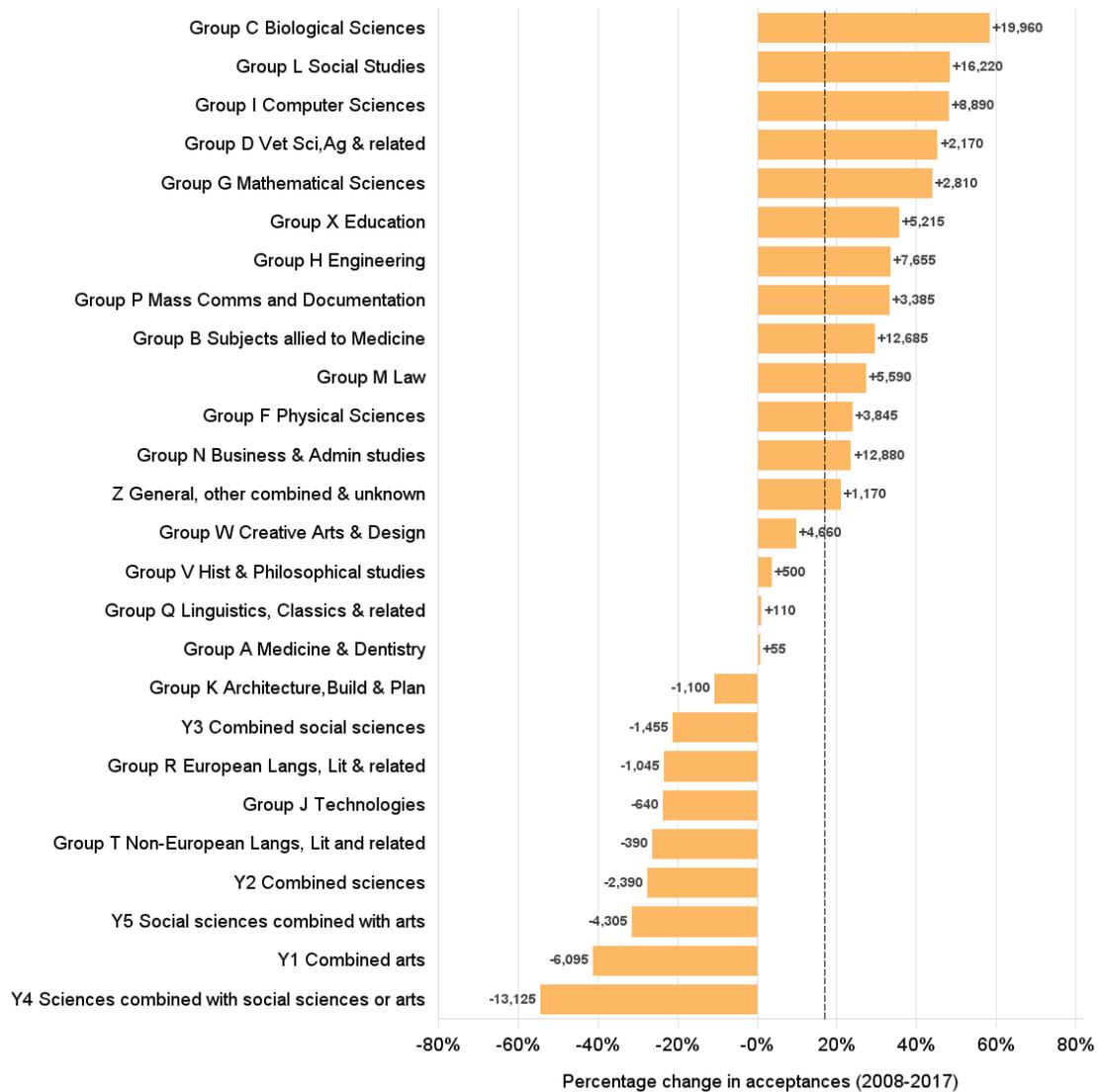
Figure 3.3 shows the proportional change in acceptances across subject groups between 2008 and 2017, with annotations showing the absolute change in acceptances numbers. Comparing acceptances this year with those from 2008 means longer term trends in HE provision can be identified.

Acceptances grew by 17 per cent across the period. Most subject groups also had increases in acceptances, with 13 having greater proportional growth than the sector. Of these, acceptances to biological sciences increased the most, both in terms of absolute numbers (+19,960) and proportionally (+58 per cent).

Acceptances to social studies grew by the second largest amount, with 16,220 additional acceptances (+48 per cent), and computer sciences grew by the third largest amount, increasing by 8,890 (+48 per cent). Veterinary science, agriculture and related subjects, and mathematical sciences, also had proportional growth of more than 40 per cent.

Nine subject groups had fewer acceptances in 2017 than in 2008. These tended to be the smaller subject groups, and include combinations of subjects, plus European and non-European languages, literature and related subjects. The subject group with the largest fall in acceptances during the period was sciences combined with social sciences or arts, which fell by 13,125 (-54 per cent proportionally). Combined arts (-41 per cent), and social sciences combined with arts (-31 per cent), also had relatively large absolute and proportional falls.

Figure 3.3 Proportional change in acceptances by subject group, 2008 to 2017

Note: Dotted line is the proportional increase for all subject groups (+17 per cent). Annotations show the numerical change in acceptances between 2008 and 2017.

Large differences in numbers of men and women accepted across subjects

There were 302,490 women accepted through UCAS in 2017, 71,095 more than the number of men, which was 231,395. Figure 3.4 shows the number of men and women accepted onto each subject group in the 2017 cycle, along with the ratio of men to women. There are large variations in the number of men and women accepted onto courses across different subject groups.

Subject groups with the highest number of women accepted were subjects allied to medicine (45,530), creative arts and design (33,790), biological sciences (33,130), business and administrative studies (32,435), and social studies (31,875). Between them, these subject areas accounted for 58 per cent of all female acceptances in 2017.

In each of these subject groups, except business and administrative studies, more women were accepted than men in 2017, resulting in ratios of women to men that were greater than 1. Subjects allied to medicine had a women to men ratio of 4.5, which meant between four and five women were accepted to this subject group for every man that was accepted.

For 18 out of the 26 subject groups, more women than men were accepted in 2017. The subject group with the highest women to men ratio was education, where more than six women were accepted for every man (ratio of 6.3). There were more than three women accepted to linguistics, classics and related subjects for every man accepted (ratio of 3.3) and more than twice as many women than men accepted to veterinary science, agriculture and related subjects (ratio of 2.8), combined arts (ratio of 2.7), European languages, literature and related subjects (ratio of 2.3), law (ratio of 2.1) and non-European languages, literature and related subjects (ratio of 2.1).

The subject groups to which the highest number of men were accepted were business and administrative studies (35,410), engineering (25,405), computer sciences (23,650), biological sciences (21,110), and creative art and design (19,530). Between them, these subject areas accounted for 54 per cent of all male acceptances in 2017.

For most of these subject groups, there were more men accepted than women in 2017. Computer science had the largest ratio of men to women acceptances, with more than six men accepted for every woman (men to women ratio of 6.3). For engineering, there were almost five men accepted to every woman (men to women ratio of 4.9), and there were more than three men accepted for every woman to the technologies subject group (men to women ratio of 3.3).

Figure 3.4 Number of acceptances in 2017 by JACS3 subject group and sex (with ratios)
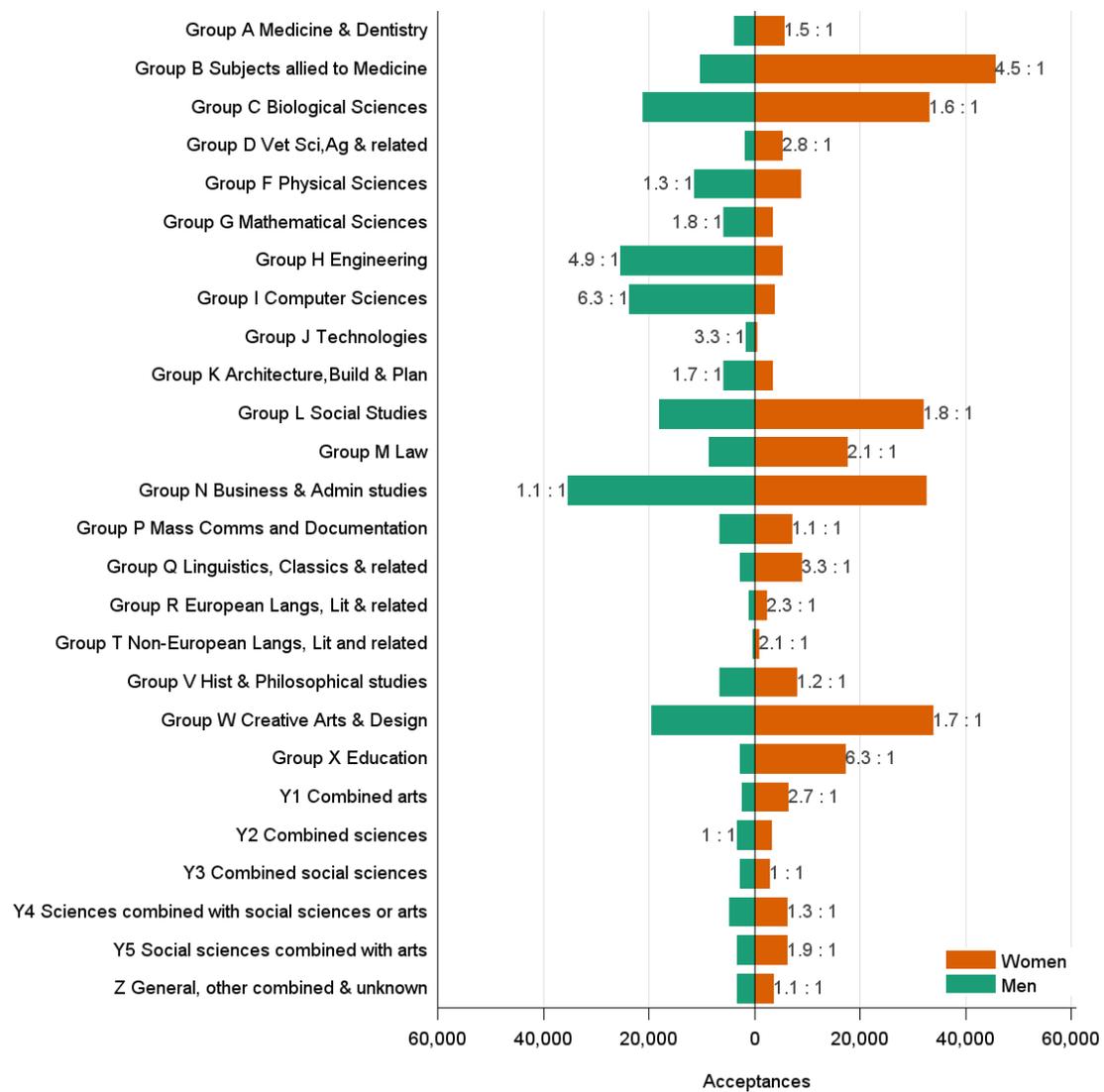
Acceptances to nursing

Second highest number of acceptances to nursing courses on record

Prior to 2017, applicants to nursing, midwifery, and most allied health subjects at providers in England could apply for NHS bursaries. In 2017, the funding model changed, with applicants able to access the same package of financial support of loans as those applying to other undergraduate courses. These changes were principally made to enable providers to offer up to 10,000 extra training places on pre-registration healthcare programmes.

In this report, a nursing applicant is defined as an applicant who made at least one application to a course or module in the principal subject B7 Nursing at a higher education provider. This means nursing applicants could also have applied, and been accepted, onto a non-nursing course. Figure 3.5 shows the number of nursing applicants and acceptances, along with the acceptance rate (the proportion of nursing applicants who were accepted onto a nursing course).

Between 2010 and 2016, the number of applicants to nursing ranged between 61,800 and 67,400. In 2017, the number fell to 54,985, the lowest during the reporting period. This was an 18 per cent fall against the number of applicants in 2016, equating to 11,750 fewer applicants. This proportional fall in applicants to nursing was bigger than the overall 2.6 per cent fall in applicants across the sector this year, and the biggest fall in nursing applicants on record.

The large fall in applicants did not translate into an equivalently large fall in acceptances. In 2017, there were 28,620 acceptances to nursing, a decrease of 0.9 per cent compared to 2016, equating to 270 fewer acceptances. The number accepted this year was the second highest number on record, and 3.9 per cent higher than the number accepted in 2015.

The very high ratio of applicants to acceptances means nursing is one of the most competitive subjects to apply to. Consequently, nursing had an acceptance rate substantially lower than the rest of the sector. Between 2010 and 2016, the acceptance rate varied between 37.9 per cent and 43.3 per cent. In 2017, the large reduction in nursing applicants meant providers, in recruiting similar numbers to previous years, accepted a much higher proportion of applicants. This meant the acceptance rate increased by 8.8 percentage points, to 52.1 per cent. This was the highest across the reporting period, and meant that, in 2017, the chances of being accepted to nursing were the highest on record.

**Figure 3.5 Nursing applicants, acceptances, and acceptance rate**
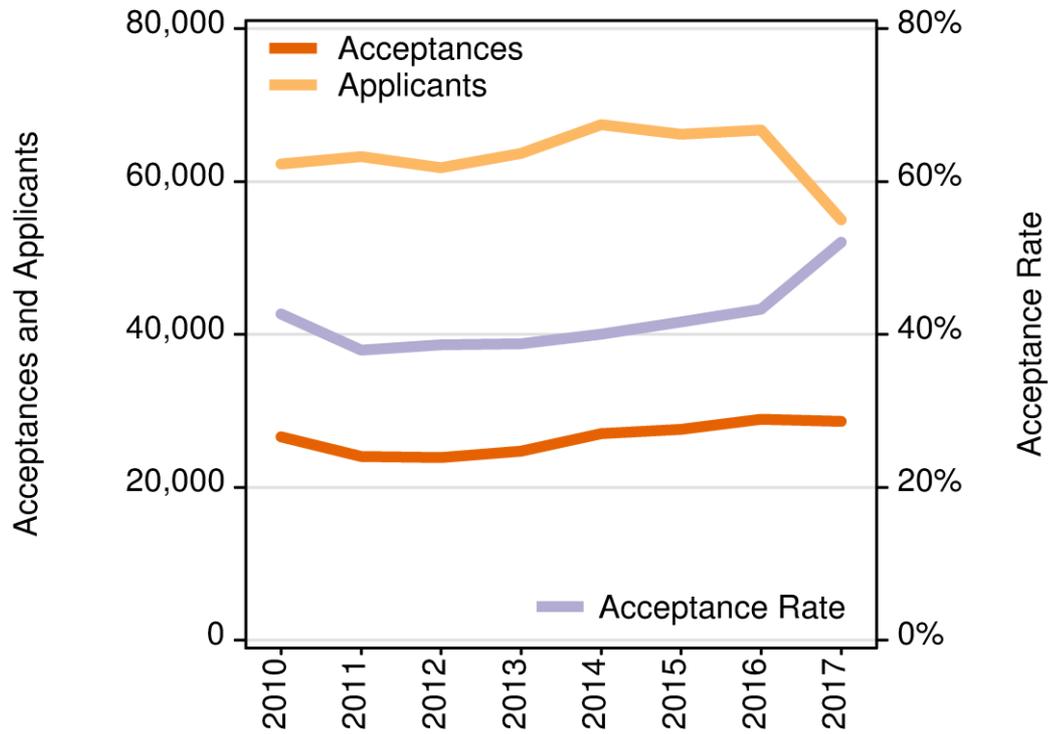
Over 28,000 UK applicants accepted to nursing in 2017, the second highest ever

The vast majority of applicants accepted onto nursing courses were from UK domiciles. In 2017, 98 per cent of all nursing acceptances were from the UK, with a further 1.5 per cent from the EU (excluding the UK) and around 0.5 per cent from outside the EU.

Figure 3.6 shows the number of nursing acceptances for each of these domiciles. After four years of consecutive increases which began in 2013, the number of UK acceptances to nursing reached 28,315 in 2016, the highest on record. In 2017, the number of UK acceptances fell slightly, to 28,095. Despite this fall (-220, 0.8 per cent), the number in 2017 was the second highest on record, and 4.2 per cent higher than in 2015.

The number of acceptances from outside the UK was much smaller. In 2017, there were 425 acceptances from the EU (excluding the UK), a fall of 90 (-18 per cent). There were 105 acceptances from outside the EU (+40, +70 per cent).

Figure 3.6 Nursing acceptances by domicile group
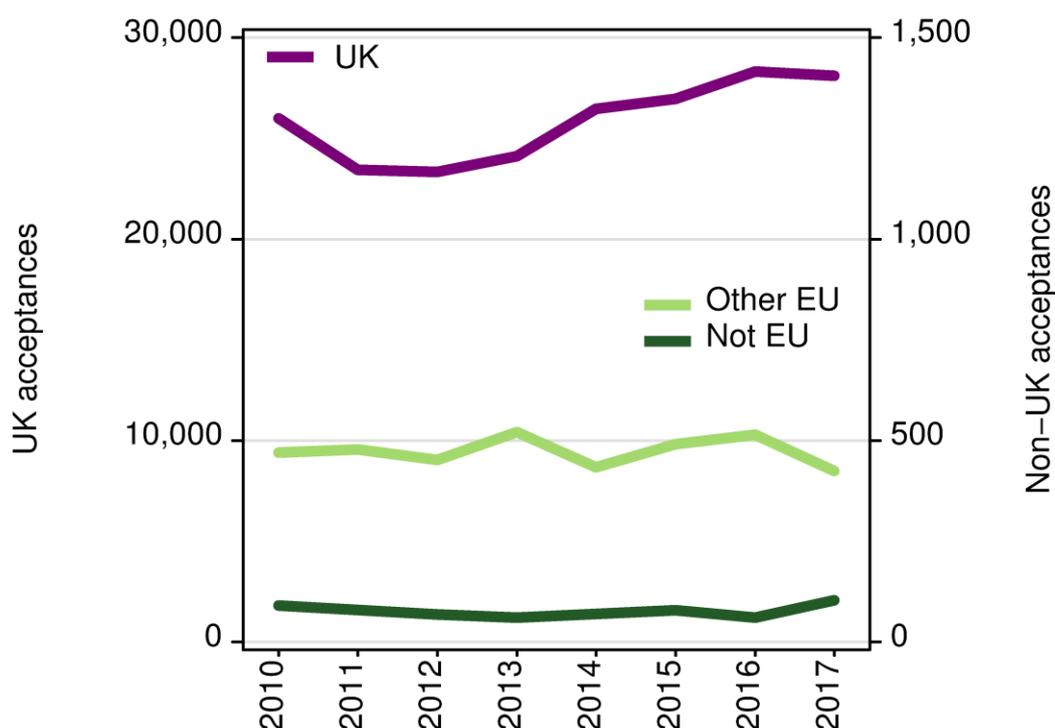
Nursing acceptances from England fell by 2.6 per cent this year, but numbers from Scotland and Wales increased

The majority of UK acceptances to nursing courses (around 78 per cent) were from applicants domiciled in England, followed by Scotland (11 per cent), Wales (6 per cent), and Northern Ireland (4 per cent).

The pattern of acceptances from England closely followed that of the UK. After falling in 2011, the number of acceptances increased for five consecutive years, to reach 22,630 in 2016, the highest on record (Figure 3.7). In 2017, there were 22,045 acceptances from England, a decrease of 2.6 per cent (-585 acceptances), the third highest on record, 2.8 per cent higher than in 2015.

This year, the number of acceptances to nursing from Scotland and Wales increased. There were 3,225 acceptances to nursing in 2017 from Scotland, an increase of +275 (+9.3 per cent) and the second highest on record. There were 1,730 acceptances in 2017 from Wales, an increase of 6.2 per cent (+100 acceptances). This is the highest total on record for Wales, following increases each year since 2015.

There were 1,090 acceptances from Northern Ireland in 2017, a very small decrease of 15 compared to last year (-1.2 per cent), and within the expected range of year-to-year variation.

**Figure 3.7 Nursing acceptances by UK domicile group**
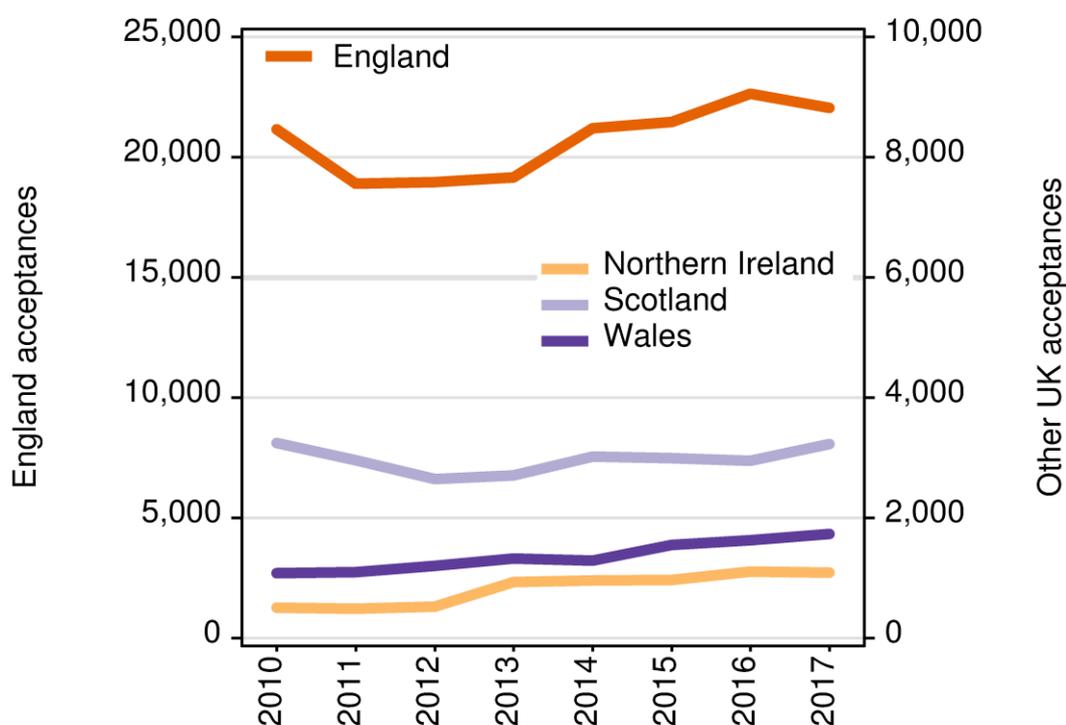
Highest number of acceptances to providers in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, second highest number to providers in England

The patterns in acceptances for providers in each of the UK countries are very similar to those by country of domicile. Acceptances to providers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were the highest on record, while those to providers in England were the second highest on record.

In 2017, there were 22,575 acceptances to nursing courses at providers in England (Figure 3.8). This is a decrease of 3.0 per cent, equating to a reduction of 710 acceptances. This is the first decline since 2011, and despite being lower than last year, acceptances in 2017 were 2.0 per cent higher than in 2015.

There were 3,615 acceptances to nursing from Scotland this year, an increase of 265 (+8.0 per cent), and 1,625 acceptances to providers in Wales, an increase of 125 (+8.4 per cent). Providers in Northern Ireland also had an increase in nursing acceptances this year, with 45 more than in 2016 to reach 805 (+6.2 per cent).

Figure 3.8 Nursing acceptances by country of provider
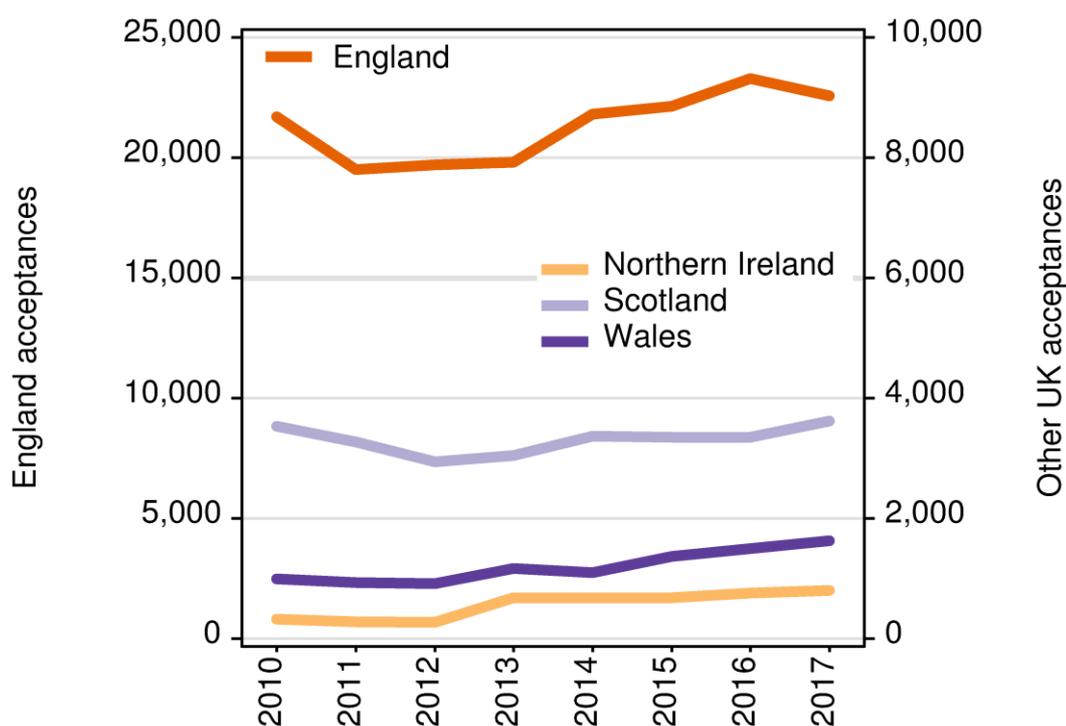
More 18 and 19 year olds from England accepted to nursing than ever before, but falls among those aged 21 and over

Since 2008, most applicants from England accepted to nursing courses were aged 21 or over. This contrasts with most other subjects, where those aged 21 and older typically represent a minority of acceptances. Across the sector, the pattern of acceptances varied by age, with a 1.1 per cent increase in number of UK 18 year olds accepted this year, but a reduction in the number accepted aged and 19 and over.
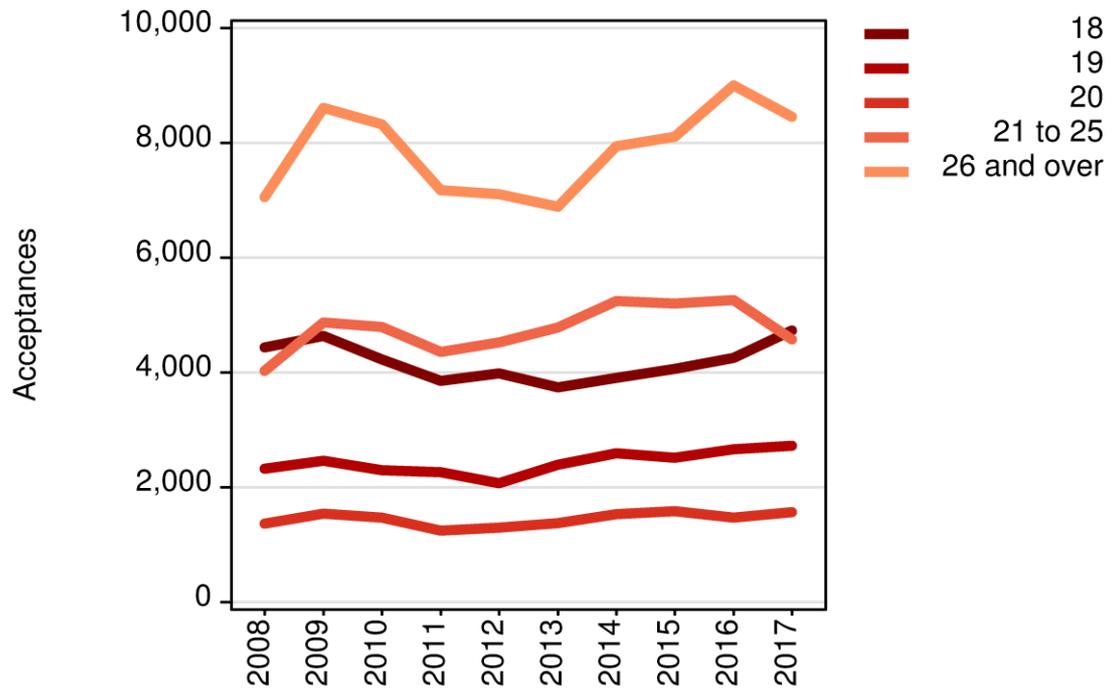
Figure 3.9 shows the number of acceptances from England by age group. In 2017, 4,730 applicants aged 18 were accepted to nursing courses, an increase of 480 (+11 per cent). This followed increases in each of the previous three cycles, and took acceptance numbers this year to the highest on record for this age group.

There were also increases in the number of 19 and 20 year old acceptances from England. This year, 2,720 applicants aged 19 were accepted (+60, +2.3 per cent), the highest on record. 1,560 applicants aged 20 were accepted (+90, +6.1 per cent).

In contrast to the patterns for those aged 18 to 20, the number of acceptances for older age groups fell in 2017. This year, 4,575 applicants aged 21 to 25 were accepted, a fall of 680 (-13 per cent) compared to 2016, and 8,450 applicants aged 26 and over were accepted, a fall of 545 (-6.0 per cent).

These patterns mean that, for the first time since 2008, there were more 18 year olds accepted to nursing courses than were aged 21 to 25. The proportion of all nursing acceptances aged 18 increased, from 14.7 per cent in 2016 to 16.5 per cent this year.

Figure 3.9 English nursing acceptances by age group

Entry routes to nursing

More English applicants placed onto nursing courses through Clearing than ever before

There are a number of different acceptance routes in the admissions cycle. Figure 3.10 shows the number of acceptances by acceptance route to nursing using a logarithmic scale, so that the proportional changes can be seen more clearly across the large differences in numbers accepted through the various routes.

The majority, around 77 per cent, of nursing acceptances were through applicants' firm choices. In 2017, 17,040 applicants were accepted through this route, 1,570 fewer than in 2016, a decrease of 8.4 per cent. The share of applicants accepted through their firm choice also decreased, by 4.9 percentage points, to 77.3 per cent.

Around 2.2 per cent of nursing applicants were accepted through their insurance choice. In 2017, 490 applicants were accepted through this route, which continued a trend of steady increases that started in 2014.

There are two routes for Clearing: an applicant may have been unsuccessful in the main scheme then secured a place in the Clearing process, or an applicant may have applied directly via the Clearing process. Acceptances through both Clearing routes (main scheme and direct) increased to the highest on record in 2017. Combined, the number of acceptances through both Clearing routes in 2017 reached 2,585. This was an increase of 720 on last year (+39 per cent). The share of applicants accepted through Clearing increased by 3.5 percentage points, to 11.7 per cent, the highest on record.

The majority (77 per cent) of Clearing acceptances were accepted through main scheme Clearing. In 2017, main scheme Clearing acceptances totaled 1,990, an increase of 26.4 per cent (+415 acceptances).

Direct to Clearing nursing acceptances reached 595 in 2017, more than doubling the number accepted through this route last year. The number of acceptances through direct to Clearing in 2017 was higher than the number of acceptances through insurance choices, for the first time since 2009.

Applicants who do not receive any offers from their five main scheme choices, or decline any offers they do receive, are eligible to make choices through the Extra process. In 2017, the number of nursing applicants accepted through Extra was 705. This is a decrease of 80 acceptances (around -10 per cent), but in keeping with the number accepted through Extra each year since 2011.

Figure 3.10 English nursing acceptances by entry route
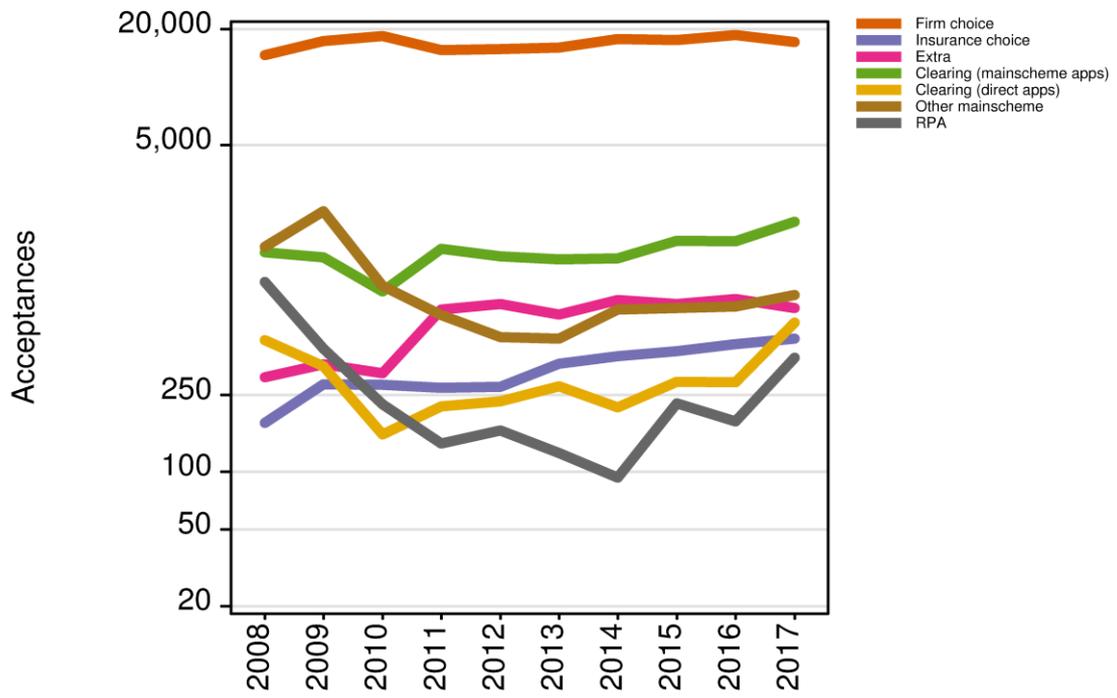
Note: Due to small numbers, acceptances through Adjustment are not shown

Entry rates for nursing

UK 18 and 19 year olds more likely than ever to study nursing

Entry rates measure the proportion of the population that enter higher education, and so account for demographic variation. Figure 3.11 shows the trend in entry rates to nursing courses for UK domiciled applicants by age group.

Across the reporting period, 18 year olds consistently had the highest entry rate. Between 2008 and 2016, the entry rate to nursing for 18 year olds ranged between 0.6 and 0.7 per cent. In 2017, the entry rate increased to 0.8 per cent, the highest on record. This meant that this year, around 1 in 120 UK 18 year olds were accepted onto a undergraduate nursing courses.

The 19 year old entry rate is lower than the rate for 18 year olds. In 2008, 0.3 per cent of the UK 19 year old population were accepted onto a nursing course. By 2017, this proportion had increased to 0.5, equivalent to 1 in every 200, and the highest on record.

For most of the reporting period, the 20 year old entry rate was 0.2 per cent, but by 2017 had increased to 0.3 per cent, equivalent to around 1 in every 350.

The entry rate for those aged 21 to 25 was 0.1 per cent for most of the period, except in 2014 and 2016 when it was 0.2 per cent. The entry rate for those aged 26 and over was consistently less than 0.1 per cent.

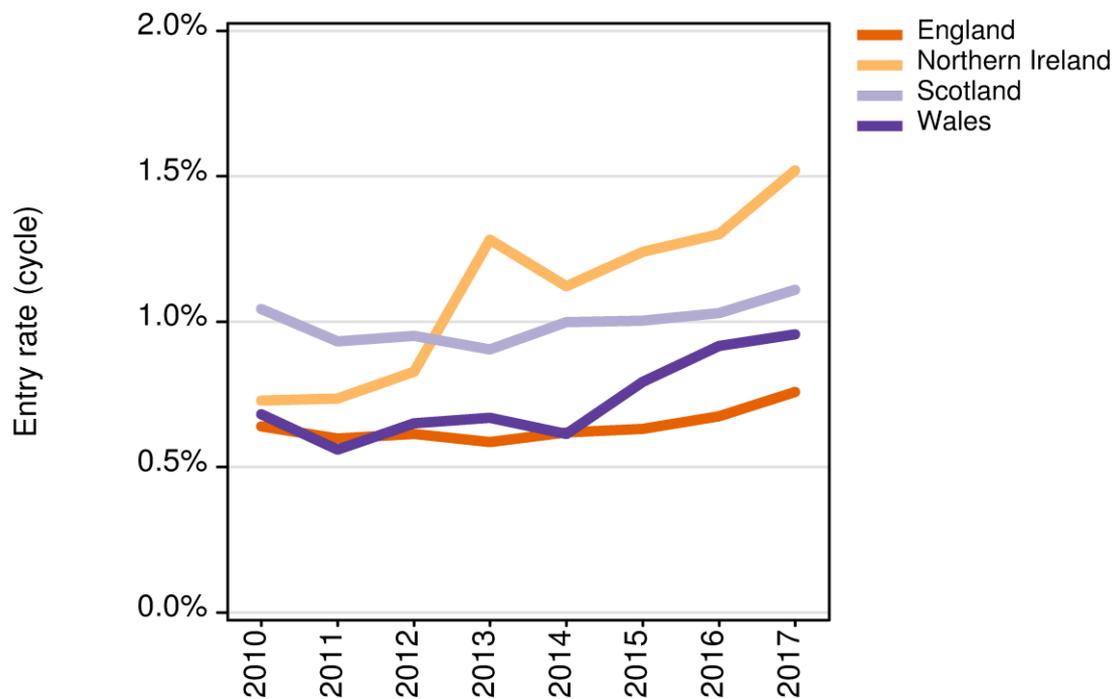**Figure 3.11 Entry rates to nursing by age**
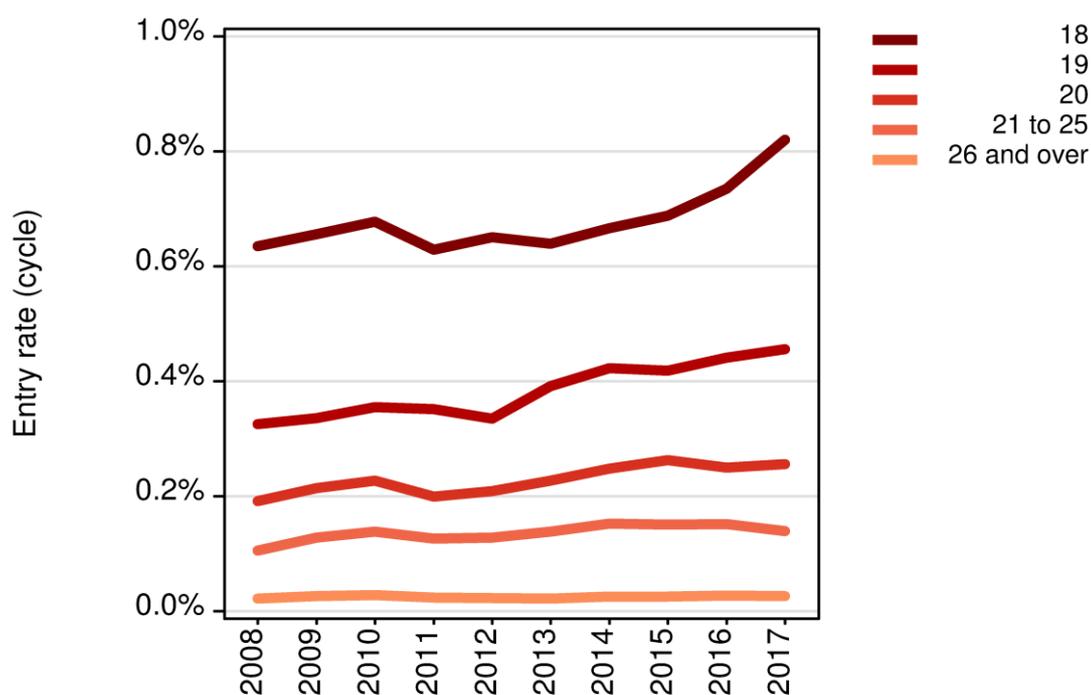
18 year old entry rates to nursing vary across the UK

Figure 3.12 shows the 18 year old entry rates to nursing for each of the four UK countries.

In 2017, the entry rate to nursing for 18 year olds in England was 0.8 per cent, equivalent to around 1 in every 120 people. The entry rates to nursing for the other UK countries were higher. In Wales, the entry rate was 1.0 per cent, in Scotland it was 1.1 per cent, and in Northern Ireland, it was 1.5 per cent, the highest rate in the UK.

Across the period, the 18 year old entry rates to nursing increased for all four UK countries.

Figure 3.12 18 year old entry rates to nursing by UK domicile

18 year old entry rates broadly equal across area-based measure of disadvantage

Figure 3.13 shows the 18 year old entry rates to nursing for England by POLAR3 quintile, a classification of small areas across the UK into five groups according to the level of participation among young people in HE.

In 2017, the entry rate for POLAR3 quintile 1, the most disadvantaged areas, was 0.7 per cent. This is equivalent to around 1 in every 140 of the 18 year old population in these areas being accepted onto a nursing course through UCAS this year.

The entry rate in 2017 for POLAR3 quintile 5, the most advantaged areas, was 0.6 per cent, equivalent to around 1 in every 170 of the 18 year old population in these areas being accepted onto a nursing course. This was the lowest entry rate across all the quintiles, meaning 18 year olds from the most advantaged areas were the least likely to enter onto a nursing course in 2017.

The entry rates for POLAR3 quintiles 2, 3 and 4 were 0.8 per cent, equivalent to around 1 in every 120 of the 18 year old population being accepted onto a nursing course.

The patterns for nursing by POLAR3 quintile are notably different to those in other subject areas, and show far greater equality of representation among 18 year olds than the sector as a whole, where the historical entry rates for POLAR3 quintile 5 have been 2 to 3 times higher than for quintile 1.

Figure 3.13 English 18 year old entry rates to nursing by POLAR3 quintile
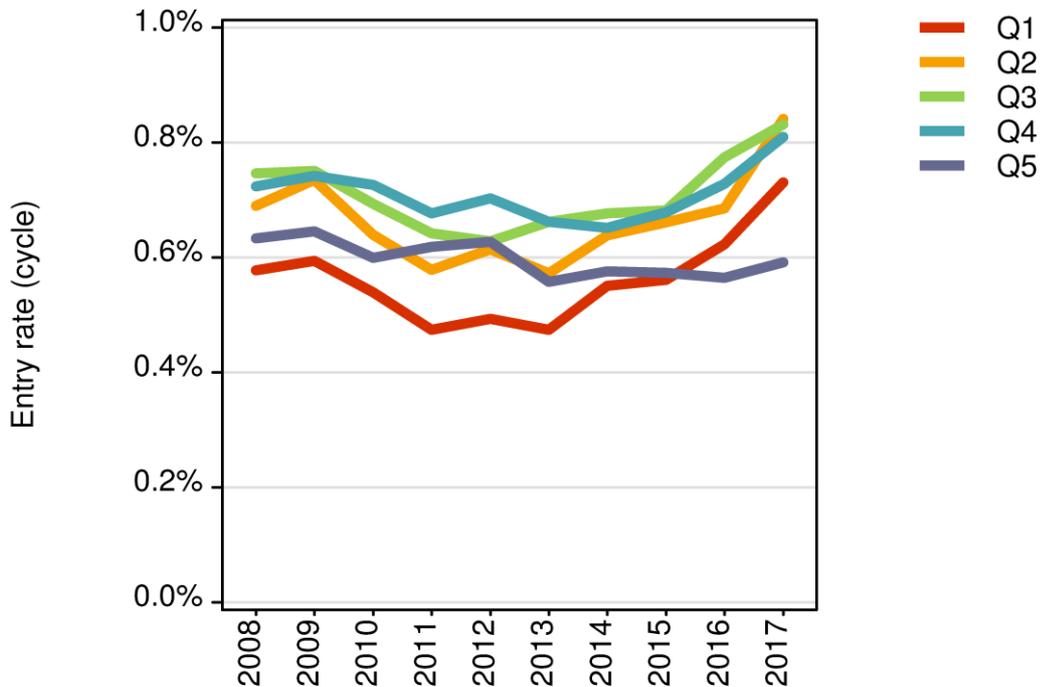
English 18 year old women 30 times more likely to study nursing than 18 year old men

Figure 3.14 shows the 18 year old entry rate to nursing for men and women in England.

The entry rate for women is much higher than for men. In 2017, the entry rate for women was 1.5 per cent, 30 times higher than the entry rate for men, which was less than 0.1 per cent. This ratio, of around 30 to 1, has been consistent across the 10 years covered by the reporting period.

Figure 3.14 English 18 year old entry rates to nursing by sex
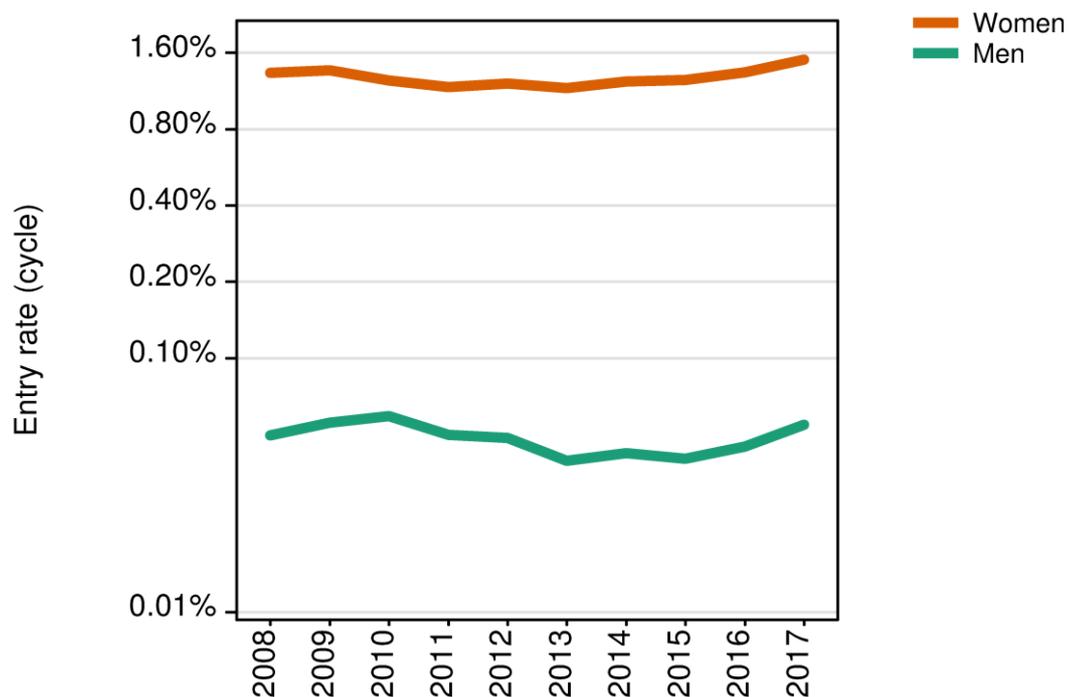
A note on numbers in Scotland

UCAS covers the overwhelming majority of full-time undergraduate provision for people living in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, so the statistics on acceptances or entry rates can be taken as being very close to all recruitment to full-time undergraduate higher education. In Scotland, there is a substantial section of higher education provision that is not included in UCAS' figures. This is mostly full-time higher education provided in further education colleges, which represents around one third of young full-time undergraduate study in Scotland, and this proportion varies by geography and background within Scotland. Accordingly, figures on entry rates or total recruitment in Scotland reflect only the part of full-time undergraduate study that uses UCAS.

In 2014, there were fewer very late acceptances than in other cycles recorded in the UCAS data for some Scottish providers. These changes may mean that the number of applicants and acceptances to Scottish UCAS providers in 2014 recorded through UCAS could be understated by up to 2,000, compared to how applicants and acceptances have been reported in recent cycles. This means that comparing 2014 applicants and acceptances for Scottish providers (or those from Scotland) to other cycles may not give an accurate measure of change.

In 2015, around 120 courses at Scottish providers which were previously part of the UCAS Teacher Training scheme, moved into the UCAS Undergraduate scheme. As such, the number of applicants and acceptances to Scottish providers in 2015 recorded through UCAS will include those which were previously part of UCAS Teacher Training, meaning that comparing 2015 applicants and acceptances for Scottish providers (or those from Scotland, particularly those aged 21 or over) to previous cycles may not give a like-for-like measure of change.

Glossary

Acceptance	An applicant who, at the end of the cycle has been placed for entry into higher education.
Acceptance rate	The number of acceptances divided by the number of applicants.
Adjustment	An acceptance route where applicants who have met and exceeded the conditions of their firm choice choose to take up an alternative offer.
Age	This analysis uses country-specific age definitions that align with the cut off points for school and college cohorts in the different administrations of the UK. For England and Wales, ages are defined on 31 August, for Northern Ireland on 1 July, and for Scotland on 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants outside of the UK, a cohort cut off of 31 August has been used.
Applicant	A person who has made an application in the UCAS system. Counts of applicants include those applying through the main scheme, late applicants direct to Clearing, and records of prior acceptance (RPAs).
Base population estimate	The population estimates are based on Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates and national population projections (published in June 2015). For 16 to 20 year olds, the estimates are obtained by ageing 15 year olds from the appropriate number of years earlier. This approach avoids the estimates being susceptible to changes in net migration (including overseas students) during these ages. Older ages are obtained from the mid-year estimates and national population projections without ageing. In both cases, the estimates are adjusted from age at mid-year to age on the country-specific reference dates using the monthly distribution of births. Analysis of application and entry rates by area-based background are supported through small area population estimates available from the Office for National Statistics, National Records for Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency. These small area population estimates have been revised to be consistent with the national level population estimates.
Clearing	An acceptance route available late in the application cycle.
Direct to Clearing	Applied via Clearing without an initial application through the main scheme (i.e. prior to the 30 June deadline).
Domicile	Declared area of permanent residence.
Entry rate	Number of acceptances from a UCAS application cycle divided by the estimated base population.
Extra	An acceptance route where applicants holding no offers after using all five main scheme choices can make additional choices.
Firm choice	An offer made by a provider which has been confirmed by the applicant as their first choice. These can be either conditional (dependent on

	achieving specified conditions) or unconditional (applicant has met specific conditions and are assumed to be accepted or placed at the provider).
Insurance choice	An offer made by a provider which has been confirmed by the applicant as their second choice, in case the conditions of their firm choice are not met. These can be either conditional (dependent on achieving specified requirements) or unconditional (no further requirements to be met).
JACS	Joint Academic Coding System is a way of coding academic subjects. The system is co-owned and maintained by HESA and UCAS. JACS version 1.7 was introduced in 2002/03. It has been revised twice, with JACS 2.0 coming into effect in 2007/08 and JACS 3.0 in 2012/13. JACS 3.0 came into effect in the 2012/13 academic year.
Main scheme	The main UCAS application scheme through which up to five course choices can be applied to. This opens in September and closes to new applications on 30 June the following year.
Main scheme Clearing	Where an applicant was unsuccessful in the main scheme (i.e. applied before 30 June), and subsequently found a place using Clearing.
Non-EU	Countries outside the European Union, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.
Offer	Provider decision to grant a place to an applicant. May be subject to the applicant satisfying academic and/or other criteria.
POLAR3	Developed by HEFCE and classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in HE. Each of these groups represents around 20 per cent of young people, and are ranked from quintile 1 (areas with the lowest young participation rates, considered as the most disadvantaged) to quintile 5 (highest young participation rates, considered most advantaged).
Provider	A higher education provider – a university or college.
RPA	Record of Prior Acceptance. When a provider informs UCAS of applicants it has accepted outside of the normal application process (e.g. individuals who have applied directly to the provider).
UK	United Kingdom. Excludes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.