

L39: unconditional offers

University of Lincoln's perspective on unconditional offers:

Universities have always developed their offer strategies for students over time, and in line with changing circumstances in the context of their culture and mission. The purpose of any offer-making strategy is to ensure that applicants who would thrive at the institution are offered a place, indicating that the institution believes they would succeed if they studied in that environment. Recently, the sector has used unconditional offers as an approach, and the University of Lincoln has carefully designed and evaluated a scheme which fits our mission and is based on seeking applicants who will succeed at the university.

Applications have different elements depending on the course and the requirements for study, and our whole approach to offers at the university is based on taking different elements into account, not just achieved or predicted grades.

The university has continued to attract good students, has good retention and completion statistics, and high student satisfaction. The university has carefully monitored the progress of its students who came through the unconditional offer scheme, and found that on average, they do better than those students who came through the conditional offer scheme, and as the results of our analysis were positive, we have extended our scheme over time.

Students tell us they like the scheme and that it reduces some of the anxiety, which can be quite considerable, in preparing for university and allows them to plan properly for their futures at the university.

As is good practice, we will continue to monitor the progress of all our students, including those coming to us from the unconditional offer scheme.

Definitions of offer types:

Unconditional offer

This is an offer made by a provider where they are satisfied that an individual has demonstrated sufficient attainment and potential to succeed on their chosen programme. Based on the offer status at the 30 June application deadline.

Conditional unconditional offer

An offer made by a provider which was originally conditional, but becomes unconditional if the applicant selects that offer as their firm (first) choice. By definition, conditional unconditional offers that are selected as a firm choice by the applicant become unconditional and are also included in the unconditional offers group (see above).

Offer with an unconditional component

All offers showing as having an element of unconditional offer-making, that is, unconditional offers plus conditional unconditional offers that have not been selected as firm (and hence remain conditional unconditional).

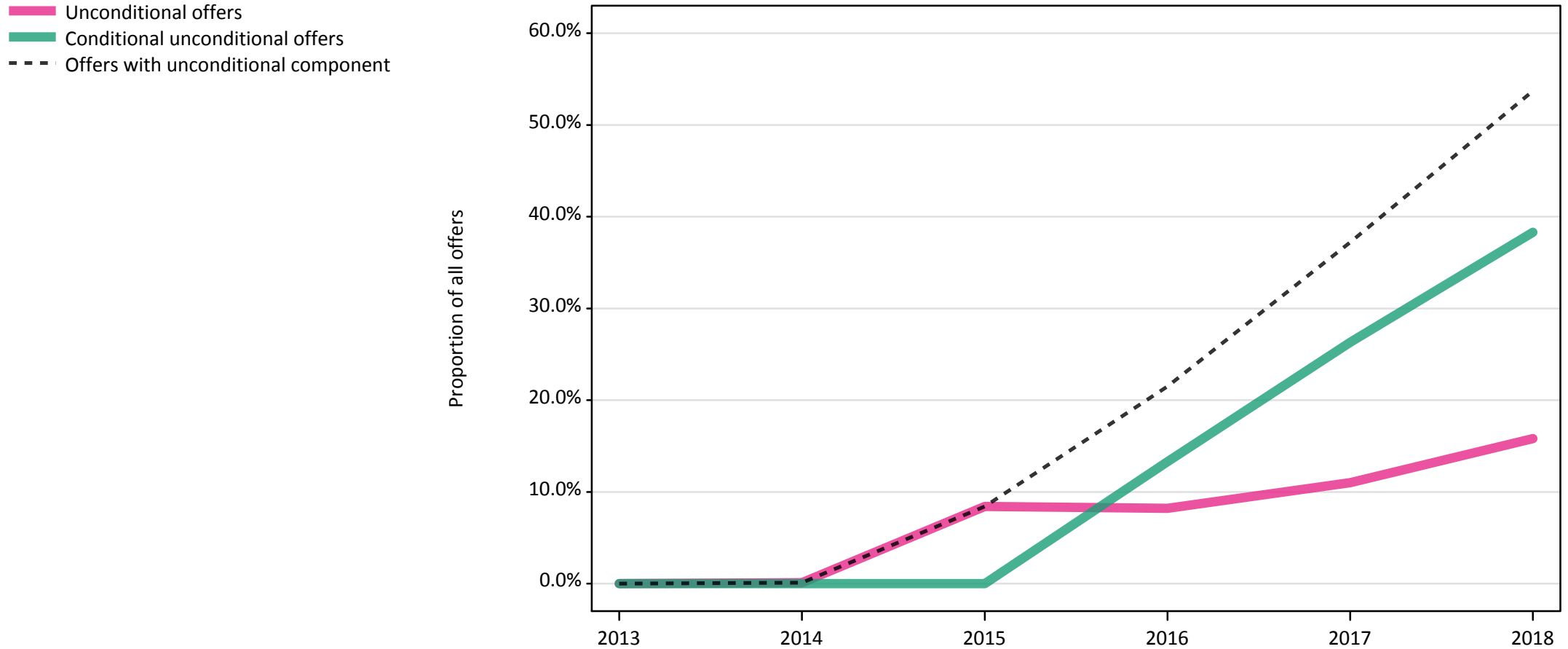
All offers

All offers made by the provider, subject to the coverage of this report. This includes conditional as well as unconditional offers to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

Technical note:

The coverage of this report is limited to offers made by 30 June, to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales. This is because these applicants are least likely to apply already having achieved a full set of qualifications typically required for undergraduate higher education.

A.1 Proportion of all offers that are unconditional, by cycle year



A.2 Unconditional offers by cycle year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	0	5	665	770	1,080	1,810
Conditional unconditional offers	0	0	0	1,255	2,570	4,380
Offers with unconditional component	0	5	665	2,020	3,650	6,150
All offers (conditional and unconditional)	9,275	7,725	7,855	9,400	9,795	11,445

A.3 Proportion of all offers that are unconditional, by cycle year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	0.0%	0.1%	8.4%	8.2%	11.0%	15.8%
Conditional unconditional offers	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	26.3%	38.3%
Offers with unconditional component	0.0%	0.1%	8.4%	21.5%	37.2%	53.7%

Note: Percentage values are not printed in the above table if the total rounded number of offers for that year is below 100.