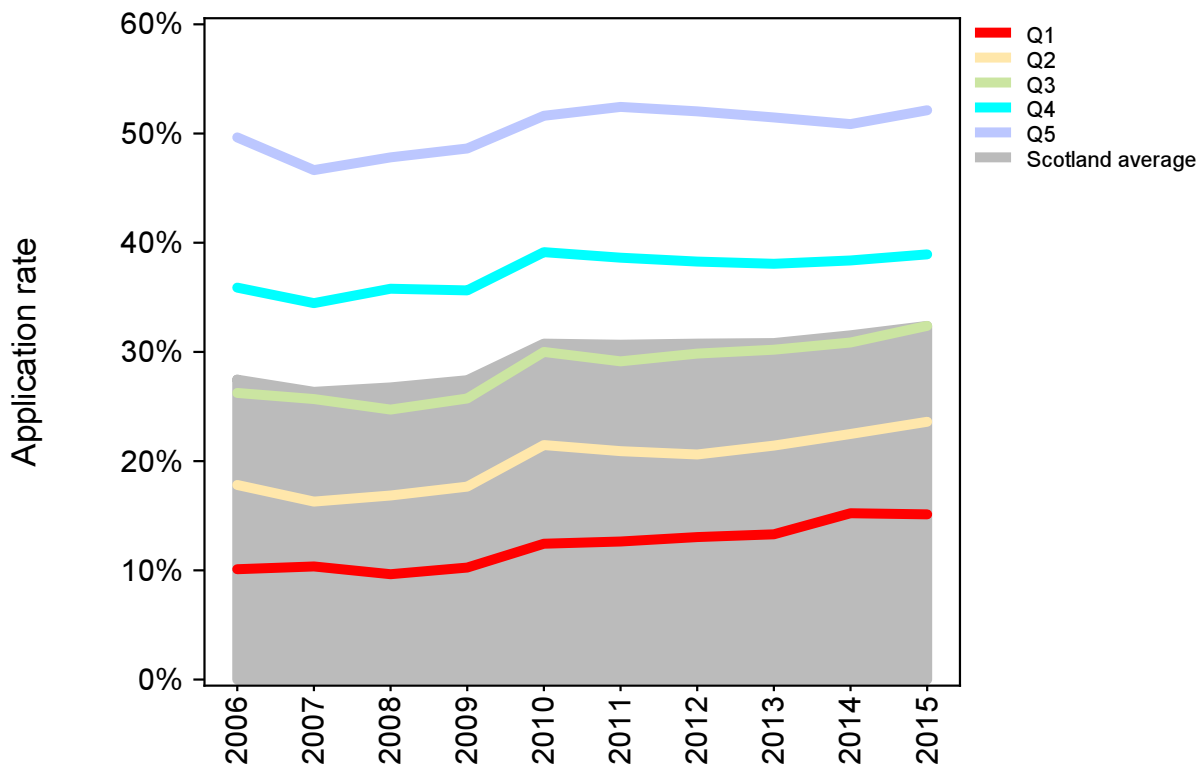




50 per cent increase in demand for higher education from the most deprived areas of Scotland since 2006

18 year olds living in the least deprived areas of Scotland are more likely to apply to higher education through UCAS than those in the most deprived areas. The largest proportional increase in the application rate since 2006 has been from the most deprived areas, where application rates increased by 50 per cent over the period (+5.0 percentage points) to 15.1 per cent. Proportional increases in application rates become smaller for less deprived areas. The increase from the least deprived areas was 5 per cent (+2.5 percentage points) to 52.1 per cent.

Figure 1: Application rates of 18 year olds in Scotland by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Q5=least deprived)



The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2012) ranks small geographical areas in Scotland by their relative level of deprivation across a range of measures (see technical note 4), which are used to form five groups with equal population sizes. Not all higher education providers in Scotland use UCAS, meaning there is a substantial section of provision (mostly offered through further education colleges, see technical note 1) that is not included in UCAS' figures.

In 2015, the application rate from the least deprived areas was 52.1 per cent, compared to 15.1 per cent in the most deprived areas – a similar range to that which is found with other area groupings, such as POLAR. Faster relative growth in application rates for more deprived areas across the period means the proportional difference in application rates between areas has fallen. In 2015, young people from the least deprived areas were three and a half times more likely to apply than those in the most deprived areas. This is a reduction from five times more likely in 2006.

For all backgrounds, the application rate in 2015 is close to the highest rate recorded over the period. For each quintile, the largest year-on-year change occurred in 2010 when the Scottish admissions system for nursing (CATCH) was integrated into the UCAS Undergraduate scheme (see technical note 5).

Technical notes

1. In Scotland, there is a substantial section of 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. This proportion varies by geography and background in Scotland.
2. Ages are defined as those on 28 February the year following the cycle in which they would apply, to best align with school cohorts in Scotland. For example, 2015 application rates include young people who will be aged 18 on 28 February 2016 and have applied in the 2015 UCAS application cycle.
3. Application rates are based on applications made to UCAS by the 24 March deadline in each year reported.
4. Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation (SIMD) identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland, providing a relative measure of deprivation amongst small areas (data zones). In this report, the SIMD 2012 has been used to group areas in each year in the times series, from 2006 to 2015. Further information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD. Further information on the assignment of data zones into quintiles can be found here under population-based approach: www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00439496.pdf.
5. Similar trends are seen when applicants who made all choices to courses that were previously part of the CATCH scheme are removed from the analysis. When these applicants are removed, the application rate reduces by no more than two percentage points. The biggest absolute reduction is seen in quintile 5 areas for 2014 and 2015.
6. In 2015, some courses offered by Scottish providers that were previously part of the UCAS Teacher Training (UTT) scheme were integrated into the UCAS Undergraduate scheme. Near identical trends are seen when applicants who made all choices to courses that were previously part of the UTT scheme are removed from the analysis.
7. An alternative measure commonly used for the reporting of demand for higher education by level of disadvantage is the POLAR3 classification. When application rates for 18 year olds in Scotland are reported using the POLAR3 classification, a similar pattern to that seen for the SIMD quintiles is found. The application rates by SIMD and POLAR3 quintile for 2006 to 2015 are given in the table below (application rates are based on unrounded figures and rounded to one decimal place). The population distribution by POLAR (a UK-based classification) differs from SIMD in that 10 per cent of all 18 year old in Scotland are in POLAR3 Q1 compared with 21 per cent in SIMD Q1; roughly equal numbers in both Q3 groups; and 31 per cent in POLAR3 Q5 compared with 20 per cent in SIMD Q5. The application rate of 18 year olds across all areas of Scotland was 32.4 per cent in 2015 and is shown below in the column 'Scotland'.

Year	Application rate (%)										Scotland
	SIMD					POLAR3					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	
2006	10.1	17.8	26.2	35.9	49.6	9.9	15.0	21.5	27.6	44.1	27.5
2007	10.3	16.3	25.7	34.4	46.6	9.1	14.4	21.2	26.7	41.6	26.4
2008	9.6	16.9	24.7	35.8	47.8	9.6	14.2	21.0	27.6	41.9	26.7
2009	10.3	17.7	25.7	35.6	48.6	9.9	14.9	21.7	28.5	42.2	27.4
2010	12.4	21.5	30.0	39.1	51.6	13.6	18.7	25.1	31.7	45.5	30.8
2011	12.7	20.9	29.1	38.6	52.4	12.2	18.9	24.9	31.2	46.0	30.7
2012	13.0	20.6	29.8	38.3	52.0	13.1	18.2	26.1	30.8	45.7	30.7
2013	13.3	21.4	30.2	38.1	51.5	13.3	18.8	25.6	31.0	46.0	30.8
2014	15.2	22.5	30.9	38.4	50.9	15.3	19.9	26.3	32.2	45.6	31.5
2015	15.1	23.6	32.4	38.9	52.1	15.7	21.6	27.1	33.0	46.3	32.4

8. A data file for the data points shown in Figure 1 along with POLAR3 data points is available with this analysis note at www.ucas.com/corporate/data-analysis.