

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

UCAS

(2013 cycle, 4 weeks  
after A level results)

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## Summary

This analysis reports UK and EU domiciled UCAS acceptances by intended academic year of entry between the entry years of 2010-11 and 2013-14.

Reporting acceptances by the academic year they are recruited to, rather than by the UCAS admissions cycle in which they were accepted, is a better guide to the change in the number of those starting higher education in a particular academic year.

These statistics reflect the position recorded exactly four weeks after GCE A level results day. Acceptances at this point have varied between 97 per cent and 99 per cent of the eventual end of cycle totals over recent cycles. For entry into 2012-13 there was a net increase of 7,800, (+2 per cent) between this point and the end of the 2012 cycle

The number of acceptances by entry year at this point can differ from the final number of higher education enrolments recorded on statistical returns. This can be due to a number of factors that can vary in their effect from year to year.

### *Key statistics*

- UK and EU domiciled acceptances to the 2013-14 entry year at this point are 445,820.
- This is an increase of 37,350 (9 per cent) compared to the 2012-13 entry year (at the equivalent point in the 2012 cycle).
- UK and EU domiciled acceptances to the 2013-14 entry year are 4 per cent fewer than to 2011-12 and 1 per cent more than to 2010-11.
- The total increase of 37,350 to the 2013-14 entry year (compared to the 2012-13 entry year) is split as an increase of 26,670 in acceptances to enter HE immediately and an increase of 10,680 in deferred entry (from the previous cycle)
- By country of institution, UK and EU domiciled acceptances to the 2013-14 entry year, and change compared to the 2012-13 entry year:

England:	375,120, +34,580 (+10 per cent)
Northern Ireland:	10,650, +960 (+10 per cent)
Scotland:	37,390, +690 (+2 per cent)
Wales:	22,660, +1,120 (+5 per cent)
- The four largest (numerically) changes by domicile group and institution country are:

English domiciled to English institutions,	+32,410 (+10 per cent)
EU domiciled to English institutions,	+1,600 (+9 per cent)
English domiciled to Welsh institutions,	+1,140 (+12 per cent)
Northern Ireland domiciled to Northern Ireland institutions,	+950, (+11 per cent)

- UK and EU domiciled acceptances into the 2013-14 entry year at institutions and subject areas approximated to be subject to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) student number control arrangements ('SNC courses') are 334,860 at this point.
- This is an increase of 32,860 (11 per cent) compared to acceptances into the 2012-13 entry year (at the equivalent point in the previous cycle).
- Of this increase, around a third (9,890) comes from an increase in deferred acceptances from 8,350 (deferred from 2011 cycle to 2012-13) to 18,240 (deferred from 2012 cycle to 2013-14)
- For these 'SNC courses', UK and EU domiciled acceptances into the 2013-14 entry year:
  - Not recorded as holding entry qualifications in HEFCE's 'ABB+' set:  
223,840, +25,820 (+13 per cent)
  - Recorded as holding entry qualifications in HEFCE's 'ABB+' set:  
111,010, +7,030 (+7 per cent)
  - of which:
    - holding GCE A levels  
76,700, +4,020 (+6 per cent)
    - holding BTECs  
28,580, +3,160 (+12 per cent)
- Within these 'SNC courses' for 2013-14, 33 per cent are recorded as holding entry qualifications in HEFCE's 'ABB+' set (compared to 34 per cent on the same basis for 2012-13)
- For other courses at these institutions there are 36,310 UK and EU domiciled acceptances to 2013-14 at this point. This is an increase of 740 (+2 per cent) compared to 2012-13 at the equivalent point in the 2012 cycle.

## 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. 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 (11,650 for UK and EU domiciled acceptances), combined with a partial return in the 2012 cycle to more typical levels of deferred acceptances (22,330 for UK and EU domiciled acceptances at the end of the cycle) 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. There is a similar but smaller effect when comparing changes to 13-14, resulting from the reduced deferred component from 2011 to 2012-13.

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 enrol and some enrolments 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 2013-14 in the context of the totals for entry into 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 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 (12 September 2013 and the equivalent point in previous cycles). Acceptances at this point have varied between 97 per cent and 99 per cent of the end of cycle totals over recent cycles. For institutions in Scotland the proportion of end of cycle total acceptances recorded at this point is typically lower (around 94 per cent). The table below shows the change in UK and EU acceptances between the reporting point 28 days after GCE A level results day and the end of 2012 cycle.

Institution country	2012-13 entry year acceptances 28 days after GCE A level results day	2012-13 entry year acceptances at end of cycle	2012-13 entry year change from day 28 to end of cycle	2012-13 entry year percentage change from day 28 to end of cycle
England	340,550	345,640	5,100	1%
Northern Ireland	9,690	9,780	90	1%
Scotland	36,700	38,570	1,870	5%
Wales	21,550	22,290	740	3%
Total	408,480	416,280	7,800	2%

There are two sets of analysis tables. The first set (Tables 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d) report acceptances by country of institution and country of domicile.

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 2013-14. 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 approximations relevant to 13-14 are applied retrospectively to all entry years for the purpose of comparison only. Some examples of the factors which contribute to these being approximations are: acceptances through UCAS do not cover all courses subject to these arrangements; to enable point in time comparisons these numbers do not include a small number of acceptances to courses which start within a cycle; and a small number of qualification types (eg Access to HE) have not been assessed against the ABB+ categories for technical reasons.

The assessment of entry qualifications uses a number of data sources including information provided by applicants themselves. For acceptances that meet the ABB+ categories from GCE A level qualifications, these are split into those that meet the ABB+ categories from qualifications awarded solely within the cycle of application (information provided by the awarding bodies), and those that meet the ABB+ categories at least partly, and in some cases solely, using qualifications awarded prior to the cycle of application (information provided by the applicants). The other ABB+ categories are assessed against the qualification information provided by the awarding bodies for qualifications awarded in the year of application in combination with information provided by the applicants relating to qualifications awarded prior to application. The ABB+ criteria can be met solely through the awarding bodies information, in combination with applicant supplied information or through the applicant supplied information alone.

There are four parts to each set of tables. The first (a) gives the accepted applicant totals to each entry year. The second (b) reports these as the change between the 2013-14 entry year acceptances and acceptances into earlier entry years (reported so that where the 2013-14 entry year acceptances are lower than the comparison entry year acceptances the statistic reported will be negative). This shows directly whether recruitment to 2013-14 is higher or lower than the reference year chosen. The third (c) reports this same statistic as a proportional change from the comparison entry year.

The fourth table (d) splits the acceptances for each entry year by the UCAS cycle that the acceptance was from. So, for example, the acceptances into the 2013-14 entry year are split into whether they were accepted from the 2013 cycle ('immediate acceptances') or from the 2012 cycle ('deferred acceptances'). To give the best picture of acceptances across the 2010-11 to 2013-14 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 2013 into 2014-15, who are reported instead at the reference point. This means that deferred acceptances into 2014-15 are likely to change by the end of the cycle whereas the deferred acceptances into other entry years will not. Last year, deferred acceptances to 13-14 increased by 1,760 between this point and the end of the cycle.

All tables show acceptances and differences rounded to the nearest 10. Proportional changes are not shown for smaller domicile to country of institution flows (where the base is less than 500).

## Analysis Tables

**Table 1a: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS institutions by entry year, country of institution and country of domicile of accepted applicant (four weeks after A level results)**

Institution country	Domicile of applicant	Entry year			
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England	England	339,940	361,070	311,630	344,050
	Northern Ireland	3,460	4,020	3,180	3,430
	Scotland	1,750	1,800	1,400	1,540
	Wales	6,340	6,640	7,200	7,380
	EU (not UK)	19,490	21,240	17,130	18,730
	All	370,990	394,760	340,550	375,120
Northern Ireland	England	210	270	250	260
	Northern Ireland	8,920	8,750	8,980	9,930
	Scotland	20	20	30	20
	Wales	10	10	0	10
	EU (not UK)	580	460	440	440
	All	9,730	9,520	9,690	10,650
Scotland	England	3,670	3,410	3,830	4,180
	Northern Ireland	1,080	1,120	910	1,020
	Scotland	27,760	27,230	27,550	27,990
	Wales	110	90	120	110
	EU (not UK)	3,860	4,150	4,280	4,110
	All	36,470	36,000	36,700	37,390
Wales	England	10,280	12,030	9,180	10,320
	Northern Ireland	160	210	150	150
	Scotland	60	70	50	70
	Wales	11,770	11,490	11,230	11,140
	EU (not UK)	940	990	930	990
	All	23,210	24,800	21,550	22,660
All	All	440,410	465,070	408,480	445,820

**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 2013-14 compared to previous entry years (four weeks after A level results)**

Institution country	Domicile of applicant	Change between specified year and 2013-14		
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
England	England	4,100	-17,020	32,410
	Northern Ireland	-30	-590	250
	Scotland	-220	-260	140
	Wales	1,040	740	180
	EU (not UK)	-760	-2,500	1,600
	All	4,130	-19,640	34,580
Northern Ireland	England	60	-10	20
	Northern Ireland	1,010	1,170	950
	Scotland	-10	-10	-10
	Wales	0	0	0
	EU (not UK)	-140	-20	0
	All	920	1,130	960
Scotland	England	500	770	350
	Northern Ireland	-60	-100	110
	Scotland	230	760	430
	Wales	0	10	-10
	EU (not UK)	250	-40	-180
	All	920	1,390	690
Wales	England	30	-1,720	1,140
	Northern Ireland	-10	-60	0
	Scotland	10	0	10
	Wales	-630	-350	-90
	EU (not UK)	50	0	60
	All	-550	-2,140	1,120
All	All	5,410	-19,250	37,350



**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 2013-14 compared to previous entry years (four weeks after A level results)**

Institution country	Domicile of applicant	Proportional change between specified year and 2013-14		
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
England	England	1%	-5%	10%
	Northern Ireland	-1%	-15%	8%
	Scotland	-12%	-15%	10%
	Wales	16%	11%	3%
	EU (not UK)	-4%	-12%	9%
	All	1%	-5%	10%
Northern Ireland	England			
	Northern Ireland	11%	13%	11%
	Scotland			
	Wales			
	EU (not UK)			
	All	9%	12%	10%
Scotland	England	14%	22%	9%
	Northern Ireland	-6%	-9%	12%
	Scotland	1%	3%	2%
	Wales			
	EU (not UK)	6%	-1%	-4%
	All	3%	4%	2%
Wales	England	0%	-14%	12%
	Northern Ireland			
	Scotland			
	Wales	-5%	-3%	-1%
	EU (not UK)	5%	-0%	6%
	All	-2%	-9%	5%
All	All	1%	-4%	9%

Note: Proportional changes not reported for rows where a base is fewer than 500.

**Table 1d: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions by entry year, UCAS cycle, country of institution and domicile of acceptance (four weeks after A level results)**

Institution country    Domicile of applicant		Entry year								
		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15
		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle
		2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013
England	England	22,570	317,370	21,720	339,350	8,400	303,230	18,180	325,870	17,460
	Northern Ireland	170	3,290	170	3,840	90	3,090	150	3,280	130
	Scotland	230	1,530	250	1,550	90	1,310	130	1,400	130
	Wales	360	5,990	410	6,230	230	6,960	350	7,030	340
	EU (not UK)	1,000	18,500	1,060	20,180	700	16,430	930	17,800	840
	All	24,320	346,670	23,600	371,160	9,520	331,030	19,740	355,380	18,900
Northern Ireland	England	20	190	30	230	10	240	30	240	20
	Northern Ireland	240	8,670	210	8,540	110	8,870	150	9,770	170
	Scotland	0	20	0	20	0	30	0	20	0
	Wales	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	10	0
	EU (not UK)	30	550	30	430	30	410	20	420	20
	All	300	9,440	280	9,230	140	9,550	200	10,450	210
Scotland	England	460	3,210	280	3,140	90	3,740	300	3,880	280
	Northern Ireland	60	1,020	60	1,060	20	890	30	980	50
	Scotland	1,230	26,530	1,240	25,990	950	26,610	850	27,130	720
	Wales	20	90	0	90	10	110	10	100	10
	EU (not UK)	180	3,680	190	3,960	190	4,100	210	3,900	180
	All	1,950	34,520	1,770	34,230	1,260	35,440	1,400	35,990	1,230
Wales	England	1,040	9,250	1,070	10,960	390	8,780	690	9,620	740
	Northern Ireland	10	160	10	200	10	140	0	150	10
	Scotland	10	50	0	70	0	50	0	60	0
	Wales	480	11,290	400	11,090	290	10,940	240	10,900	280
	EU (not UK)	70	870	60	930	40	890	50	940	50
	All	1,600	21,610	1,550	23,250	730	20,810	990	21,680	1,090
All	All	28,170	412,250	27,200	437,870	11,650	396,830	22,330	423,500	21,430

**Table 2a: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements for 2013-14 (four weeks after A level results)**

		Entry year			
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	ABB+ All qualifications	108,490	122,730	103,980	111,010
	ABB+ with GCE A level (awarded within cycle of application)	73,840	81,320	67,630	72,560
	ABB+ with GCE A level (at least partly awarded prior to cycle of application)	5,630	6,150	5,040	4,140
	ABB+ with BTEC	23,140	28,730	25,410	28,580
	ABB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level or BTEC	5,880	6,540	5,900	5,740
	not ABB+	221,770	231,130	198,020	223,840
	All	330,260	353,870	302,000	334,860
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: other courses, recruited through UCAS		38,560	37,610	35,570	36,310
Other English institutions		2,170	3,280	2,980	3,960
All English institutions	All	370,990	394,760	340,550	375,120

\*Note: some of these institutions subject to the controls may have opted out of the ABB+ arrangements for student number control

**Table 2b: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements for 2013-14, change in acceptances to 2013-14 compared to previous entry years (four weeks after A level results)**

		Change between specified year and 13-14		
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	ABB+ All qualifications	2,530	-11,720	7,030
	ABB+ with GCE A level (awarded within cycle of application)	-1,280	-8,760	4,930
	ABB+ with GCE A level (at least partly awarded prior to cycle of application)	-1,500	-2,010	-910
	ABB+ with BTEC	5,440	-150	3,160
	ABB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level or BTEC	-130	-790	-150
	not ABB+	2,070	-7,290	25,820
	All	4,590	-19,010	32,860
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: other courses, recruited through UCAS		-2,250	-1,310	740
Other English institutions		1,790	680	990
All English institutions	All	4,130	-19,640	34,580

\*Note: some of these institutions subject to the controls may have opted out of the ABB+ arrangements for student number control

**Table 2c: UK and EU acceptances to UCAS member institutions in England by entry year and categories relating to HEFCE student number control arrangements in 2013-14, change in acceptances to 2013-14 compared to previous entry years (four weeks after A level results)**

		Proportional change between specified year and 13-14		
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	ABB+ All qualifications	2%	-10%	7%
	ABB+ with GCE A level (awarded within cycle of application)	-2%	-11%	7%
	ABB+ with GCE A level (at least partly awarded prior to cycle of application)	-27%	-33%	-18%
	ABB+ with BTEC	24%	-1%	12%
	ABB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level or BTEC	-2%	-12%	-3%
	not ABB+	1%	-3%	13%
	All	1%	-5%	11%
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: other courses, recruited through UCAS		-6%	-3%	2%
Other English institutions		82%	21%	33%
All English institutions	All	1%	-5%	10%

\*Note: some of these institutions subject to the controls may have opted out of the ABB+ arrangements for student number control

**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 in 2013-14 (four weeks after A level results)**

		Entry year								
		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15
		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle		UCAS cycle
		2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013
Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: courses subject to number control arrangements, recruited through UCAS	ABB+ All qualifications	8,110	100,380	8,510	114,220	3,390	100,590	7,080	103,930	6,780
	ABB+ with GCE A level (awarded within cycle of application)	6,480	67,370	6,420	74,900	2,340	65,290	5,160	67,400	4,850
	ABB+ with GCE A level (at least partly awarded prior to cycle of application)	290	5,340	310	5,840	180	4,860	230	3,910	190
	ABB+ with BTEC	890	22,250	1,220	27,510	580	24,830	1,210	27,370	1,340
	ABB+ with qualifications other than GCE A level or BTEC	460	5,420	560	5,980	290	5,610	490	5,260	390
	not ABB+	13,940	207,830	12,800	218,330	4,960	193,060	11,150	212,690	10,680
	All	22,050	308,220	21,310	332,560	8,350	293,650	18,240	316,620	17,460
	Institutions with HEFCE-funded provision*: other courses, recruited through UCAS	2,190	36,370	2,210	35,400	1,110	34,460	1,430	34,880	1,300
Other English institutions	80	2,090	80	3,200	50	2,930	80	3,880	150	
All English institutions	24,320	346,670	23,600	371,160	9,520	331,030	19,740	355,380	18,900	

\*Note: some of these institutions subject to the controls may have opted out of the ABB+ arrangements for student number control