



Briefing: UCAS statistics on placed applicants 28 days after A-level results day

Briefing Paper: Placed nursing and midwifery applicants as of 20 September 2022

UCAS has published data showing a number of applicants have been placed on undergraduate nursing and midwifery courses at UK universities. The data was delayed in publication due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, but outlines the figures produced 28 days after A level and SQA results day. The data indicates broad sectoral growth since 2019 and pre-pandemic levels. However, there has been a mix of increases and decreases across domicile and age categories.

- The nursing higher education sector has seen reduced numbers of placed applicants, with a UK-wide decrease of 9%. **However, there is still a 14% growth compared to 2019 and pre-pandemic levels.** The midwifery higher education sector has also seen reduced numbers of placed applicants with a decrease of 6.7% since 2021.
- For nursing, there is an 8.7% decrease in placed **English** domiciled applicants; a 7% decrease in placed applicants domiciled in **Scotland**; a 25% decrease in placed applicants domiciled in **Wales**; and a 12% decrease in the number of placed applicants domiciled in **Northern Ireland**.
- For midwifery, there is an 8.6% decrease in placed **English** domiciled applicants; a 17.4% increase in placed applicants domiciled in **Scotland**; no change in the number of placed applicants domiciled in **Wales**; and a 10% increase in the number of placed applicants domiciled in **Northern Ireland**.
- This compares with the wider higher education sector which saw a 1% decrease in placed applicants.
- For nursing, across the UK there was an 1.4% increase in placed nursing applicants aged 18; a 0.05% decrease in placed applicants aged 19; a 3.7% decrease in placed applicants aged 20; a 7.6% decrease in placed applicants aged 21-24; a 16.2% decrease in placed applicants aged 25-29; a 11.7% decrease in placed applicants aged 30-34; and a 7.1% decrease in placed applicants aged 35 and over.

- For midwifery, across the UK there was a 4% increase in placed applicants aged 18; an 8% decrease in placed applicants aged 19; no change in placed applicants aged 20; a 21% decrease in placed applicants aged 21-24; a 19% decrease in placed applicants aged 25-29; an 8% decrease in placed applicants aged 30-34; and no change in placed applicants over 35.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

Overall decrease in placed applicants

Overall, 502,710 applicants were placed in this cycle. This is a 1% decrease in the total number of people with a confirmed place on an undergraduate course in the UK compared to 2021.

Decrease in 18-year-old placed applicants

37.3% of all 18-year-olds from the UK have accepted a place at a UK university, a decrease of 1.6% compared to 2021. However, this is notably higher than 33.8% in 2019 and pre-pandemic levels. This ranged from a 0.2% increase for those domiciled in Scotland to a 3.6% decrease for those domiciled in Northern Ireland.

Decrease in applicants from other age groups

The number of UK applicants from all age groups other than those aged 18 decreased. This ranged from -6.1% for applicants aged 20 to -12.5% for applicants aged 30-34.

Divide between applicants from the EU and those from outside the EU

Placed applicant rate changes from the EU were lower than those from outside the EU. From the EU there was a decrease of 13.9%, continuing the significant decrease of 62.8% since 2020. From outside the EU placed applicants increased by 4,430 or 9.5%. Within this, applicants from China increased by 3090 or 22.7%; applicants from India increased 7.6%; and applicants from the USA decreased by 16.7%.

Decrease in applicants with a deferred place

Across the UK, of applicants with a confirmed place, 27,600 hold a deferred place. This is a decrease of 11.2% compared to 2021. This represents 5.5% of all placed applicants in 2022, a decrease of 0.6% since 2021.

Nursing figures

UK universities in 2022 have placed a number of nursing applicants with 27,410 placed by September 20. This is a decrease of 2740 (9.1%) since 2021.

Placed applicants by domicile group

There was an 8.7% decrease overall in placed **English domiciled applicants** compared to 2021, falling from 22,680 to 20,700. The number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** decreased by 7% (3,990 in 2021; 3,710 in 2022). The number of **applicants domiciled in Wales** decreased by 24.8% (1,650 in 2021; 1,240 in 2022),

and the number of **applicants domiciled in Northern Ireland** decreased by 12% (1,170 in 2021; 1,030 in 2022).

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** decreased by 9.5% (29,490 in 2021, 26,680 in 2022). **However, this is still a 14.4% increase since 2019 and pre-pandemic levels.** The number of placed **EU** applicants decreased by 26.5% (340 in 2021, 250 in 2022), whilst the number of **non-EU** applicants increased by 50% from 320 in 2021 to 480 in 2022. Almost all (230) EU applicants are from Ireland while most non-EU applicants are from Hong Kong, India, Nigeria, and the USA.

Placed applicants by age group

The number of placed nursing applicants has increased for certain age groups while decreasing for others. Across the UK, the largest increase was for **17-year-olds**, with an increase of 20 (50%) more applicants (40 in 2021; 60 in 2022). The largest decrease was for **25–29-year-olds**, who represent 890 (22%) fewer applicants (4,040 in 2021; 3,150 in 2022).

The number of 18-year-olds has decreased by 5% since 2021 (8,020 in 2021, 7,590 in 2022). The number of applicants aged 19 decreased by 7% (3,030 in 2021, 2,820 in 2022). There was a 3% decrease in the number of applicants aged 20 (2,660 in 2021, 1,590 in 2022), and a 19% decrease in the number of applicants aged 21-24 (4,120 in 2021, 3,340 in 2022). There was a decrease in those aged 30-34 of 10% (3,040 in 2021, 2,740 in 2022), and a decrease in those aged 35 and over of 2% (6,210 in 2021, 6,110 in 2022).

Male and female applicants

The number of placed **female** applicants to nursing courses decreased by 10.1%. However, this is a 13.5% increase since 2019 and pre-pandemic levels. Placed **male** applicants decreased by only 0.7%, despite a higher general decrease of student numbers.

Country of Provider

Providers in England have placed 21,490 applicants which is a decrease of 8.5% from 2021. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 3,850 applicants, a decrease of 9.2% from 2021. **Providers in Wales** have placed 1,210 applicants, a decrease of 21.4% as compared to 2021. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 880 applicants, an increase of 1.1%.

Applicant Status

Compared to 2020 the number of applicants placed through firm decisions decreased by 6.9%, while those placed by clearing decreased by 9.1%. This breakdown is in line with a lower proportion of applicants being placed across the sector. There is a 2.9% decrease in the number of students who are free to be placed in clearing (17,060 in 2021, 16,570 in 2022) and there remains 2,460 applicants holding an offer, a 37.4% decrease compared to 2021.

Midwifery figures

UK universities in 2022 have placed a number of midwifery applicants, with 3,890 placed by September 20. This is a decrease of 280 (6.7%) since 2021.

There was an 8.6% decrease overall in placed **English domiciled applicants** compared to 2021, falling from 3,590 to 3,280. The number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** increased by 17.4% (230 in 2021; 270 in 2022). The number of **applicants domiciled in Wales** remained the same, and the number of **applicants domiciled in Northern Ireland** increased by 10% (100 in 2021; 110 in 2022).

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** decreased by 6.5% (4,130 in 2021, 3,860 in 2022). **However, this is still a 10% increase since 2019 and pre-pandemic levels.** The number of placed **EU** applicants decreased by 50% (20 in 2021, 10 in 2022), whilst the number of **non-EU** applicants did not change (20 in 2021 and 2022).

Placed applicants by age group

The number of placed midwifery applicants has increased for certain age groups while decreasing for others. Across the UK, the largest increase was for **18-year-olds**, with an increase of 40 (4%) more applicants (1120 in 2021, 1160 in 2022). The largest decrease was for **17-year-olds**, who represent 10 (100%) fewer applicants (10 in 2021, 0 in 2022).

The number of 19-year-olds has decreased by 8% since 2021 (370 in 2021, 340 in 2022). The number of applicants aged 20 did not change (190 in 2021 and 2022). There was a 21% decrease in the number of applicants aged 21-24 (620 in 2021, 490 in 2022), and a 19% decrease in the number of applicants aged 25-29 (730 in 2021, 630 in 2022). There was a decrease in those aged 30-34 of 8% (600 in 2021, 550 in 2022), and no change in those over 35 (530 in 2021 and 2022).

Male and female applicants

The number of placed **female** applicants to midwifery courses decreased by 6.5%. However, this is a 9.9% increase since 2019 and pre-pandemic levels. Placed **male** applicants stayed the same, despite a higher general decrease of student numbers.

Country of Provider

Providers in England have placed 3,350 applicants which is a decrease of 8.7% from 2021. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 280 applicants, an increase of 21.7% from 2021. **Providers in Wales** have placed 170 applicants, a decrease of 5.6% as compared to 2021. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 90 applicants, equal to placed applicants in 2021.

Applicant Status

Compared to 2021 the number of applicants placed through firm decisions decreased by 10.3%, while those placed by clearing increased by 81.8%. There is a 14.2% decrease in the number of students who are free to be placed in clearing (5,290 in 2021 and 4540 in 2022) and there remains 140 applicants holding an offer, a 12.5% decrease compared to 2021.

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