



# Briefing: UCAS deadline applicant statistics for January 2023

## Briefing Paper – 9 February 2023

UCAS has published a [statistical release](#) providing core numbers for the January equal consideration deadline 2023.

### Headlines for the overall higher education sector

UCAS has emphasised the unprecedented demand for higher education during the Covid-19 pandemic. The extraordinary demand over the last two years and the current context of economic factors has seen a decrease in the overall number of applicants and for applicants to certain subject areas. UCAS polling has indicated that cost of living is becoming a key factor in terms of student motivations and course choices.

- Overall applications for full-time undergraduate applications for university and college courses that start this coming autumn fell by 2% since 2022. This amounts to 596,590 applicants.
- The number of UK 18-year-olds applying to an undergraduate course this year is the second highest on record.
- The number of applicants from the most disadvantaged areas in the UK (POLAR4 quintile 1) is the second highest on record at 36,470, which is up 19% on 2020 figures.
- The number of international applicants continues to grow, with a 3% increase in applicants of all ages.
- Interest in apprenticeships has risen again, up 9% compared to the same point in the cycle last year.

### Headlines for nursing

The number of applicants to UK undergraduate nursing courses has decreased by 19% compared to 2022 from 41,220 to 33,570. The spotlight the pandemic put on healthcare saw an extraordinary interest in healthcare courses such as nursing which saw recording breaking number of applicants in 2021. It can be noted that the number of applicants still exceeds the number of acceptances from last year. If we are to compare to pre-pandemic cycles than there has been a slight increase in the number of applicants since 2019.

### Applicants by country of provider

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Scotland** decreased by 24% compared to 2022.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **England** decreased by 18% compared to 2022 and increased by 10% compared to 2019.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Wales** decreased by 22% compared to 2022.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 17% compared to 2022.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	24950	26750	36410	33410	27370
Northern Ireland	2570	2430	3120	2880	2380
Scotland	6140	6410	7920	6690	5070
Wales	3300	3090	4090	3630	2820

### Applicants by age

There has been a decrease in the number of applicants for every age group compared to 2022. The biggest decreases were in the number of applicants aged 30-34 years (25%), those aged 25-29 years (24%) and those aged 18 years (21%).

### Male and female applicants

In line with the trends in the number of overall nursing applicants, the number of female and male applicants decreased compared to 2022.

### Domicile

The number of **UK domiciled applicants** decreased by 20% compared to 2022. However the number of **international domiciled applicants** has increased slightly from 2,610 to 2,640, growth in the number of applicants from Nigeria should be noted.

## Headlines for midwifery

The number of applicants to UK undergraduate midwifery courses has decreased by 22% compared to 2022 from 11,410 to 8,910.

### Applicants by country of provider

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Scotland** decreased by 28% compared to 2022.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **England** decreased by 23% compared to 2022 but is comparable to 2019 numbers.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Wales** decreased by 22% compared to 2022.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 8% compared to 2022 and increased by 26% compared to 2019.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
England	7350	7520	10510	9520	7360
Northern Ireland	580	540	810	800	730
Scotland	1200	1220	1630	1330	960
Wales	1170	1220	1640	1390	1080

### Applicants by age

There has been a decrease in the number of applicants for every age group compared to 2022. The biggest decreases were in the number of applicants aged 25-29 years (33%), those aged 30-34 years (30%) and those aged 21-24 years (26%).

### Male and female applicants

In line with the trends in the number of overall midwifery applicants, the number of female applicants decreased compared to 2022. The number of male applicants to midwifery courses continues to be low but they have remained the same compared to 2022.

### For more information contact:

Robyn Cooke, Policy and Research Manager, [robyn.cooke@cod-health.ac.uk](mailto:robyn.cooke@cod-health.ac.uk)