



Briefing: Confirmed places on A-level Results Day 2023

Briefing Paper: UCAS data release 17 August 2023

On A-level results day, UCAS has published data on confirmed places on undergraduate higher education courses. The full data set including a breakdown for nursing and midwifery courses by applicant domicile, age, and country of provider is available. This paper highlights some key trends as the data stands today, with changes taking place in the coming weeks as Clearing progresses. The Council will monitor developments and review the data trends at the end of Clearing.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

UCAS has published a press release on the headlines for the higher education sector on A-level results day 2023.

- Trends and grading levels have broadly returned to 2019 levels showing how 'atypical' the pandemic years were.
- Overall, there has been a 3% decrease in placed applicants compared to the same point last year.
- 79% of UK 18-year-old applicants have secured a place at their first choice university.
- 97% of students undertaking T-levels received at least one offer and 1,220 have been accepted.
- 51,210 international students have been accepted which is 2.3% down from the same time last year. The top three countries with placed applicants are China, India and Hong Kong.
- Widening participation challenges still exist as for every disadvantaged student, 2.30 advantaged students have progressed compared to 2.29 last year.
- Interest in apprenticeships continues to grow.

Headlines for nursing courses

UCAS has emphasised the '**atypical**' demand for higher education over the pandemic and this was particularly seen in nursing courses. A more comparable reference point is 2019 which saw 18,370 applicants placed on an undergraduate nursing course in the UK, 2023 has seen **18,300 applicants placed** on A-level results day.

There are 8,690 nursing applicants whose UCAS application status is '**holding offer**' and have not currently been placed. An additional 12,730 nursing applicants are **free to be placed in Clearing**.

Placed applicants by country of provider

Providers in England have placed 14,010 applicants which is a decrease of 13% from 2022 but a 3.9% increase from 2019. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 2,850 applicants, a decrease of 17% from 2022 and 8.3% down from 2019. **Providers in Wales** have placed 800 applicants, a decrease of 11.1% as compared to 2022 and a 23.8 decrease from 2019. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 640 applicants, a decrease of 5.9% compared to 2022 and 11.1% decreased from 2019.

Placed applicants by domicile

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** decreased by 13.9% from last year, however it is on par with 2019 levels (17,910 in 2019; 17,700 in 2023). The number of placed **EU** applicants decreased by 7.1% (140 in 2022; 130 in 2023), whilst the number of **non-EU** applicants increased by 9.3% from 430 in 2022 to 470 in 2023. The majority of EU applicants are from Ireland while there are significant number of non-EU applicants from India and Nigeria.

There was an 13% decrease overall in placed **English domiciled applicants** compared to 2022, falling from 15,460 to 13,460. The number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** decreased by 17% (3,320 in 2022; 2,750 in 2023). The number of **applicants domiciled in Wales** decreased by 19% (950 in 2022; 760 in 2023), and the number of **applicants domiciled in Northern Ireland** decreased by 13% (840 in 2022; 730 in 2023).

Placed applicants by age

The number of placed applicants to undergraduate nursing courses has decreased since 2022 for every age group. The biggest decreases are in the **25-29 years group** and the **30-34 years group**. Those aged **over 35 years** have seen the smallest decrease from 4,760 to 4,590.

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 17,700 UK domiciled accepted applicants; 10,440 listed their ethnicity as White, 4,630 as Black, 1,700 as Asian and 550 as Mixed.

Placed applicants by gender

The number of placed **female** applicants to nursing courses decreased by 15% compared to 2022. The number of placed **male** applicants decreased by 2% from 2022 but increased by 28% compared to 2019.

Headlines for midwifery courses

UCAS has emphasised the 'atypical' demand for higher education over the pandemic and that a more comparable reference point is 2019. Accepted places on undergraduate midwifery courses in the UK has increased by 9% since 2019 but decreased by 3% from 2022.

On A-level results day, **3,180 applicants were placed** on an undergraduate midwifery course in the UK. There are 1,100 midwifery applicants whose UCAS application status is '**holding offer**' and have not currently been placed. An additional 3,250 midwifery applicants are **free to be placed in Clearing**.

Placed applicants by country of provider

Providers in England have placed 2,730 applicants which is a decrease of 2% from 2022 but a 7% increase from 2019. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 220 applicants, a decrease of 14% from 2022. **Providers in Wales** have placed 170 applicants which is an increase compared to 130 placed in 2022. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 50 applicants, a decrease compared to 2022 but the same as 2019.

Placed applicants by domicile

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** decreased by 3% from last year, however it is an increase from 2019 (2,890 in 2019; 3,240 in 2022; 3,150 in 2023). The number of placed **International** domiciled applicants remains low and figures are the same as 2022.

Placed applicants by age

The number of placed midwifery applicants has increased for certain age groups since 2022 while decreasing for others. Across the UK, the largest increase was for **18-year-olds**, with an increase of 18% (930 in 2022; 1,110 in 2023). The largest decrease was for **25–29-year-olds** which has seen a 25% drop in placed applicants (540 in 2022; 410 in 2023).

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 3,150 UK domiciled accepted applicants; 2,270 listed their ethnicity as White, 4,480 as Black, 220 as Asian and 120 as Mixed.

Placed applicants by gender

The number of placed **female** applicants to nursing courses decreased from 3,250 to 3,170 compared to 2022. The small number of placed **male** applicants has remained the same.

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