



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

UCAS has [published data](#) on confirmed places on undergraduate higher education courses 28 days after A-level results following the Clearing process.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

UCAS has published a press release on the headlines for the higher education sector at the end of Clearing for 2023.

- A record number of UK 18-year-olds have secured a place at university or college through Clearing.
- In total, 67,990 students have found a place using Clearing
- Trends and grading levels have broadly returned to 2019 levels showing how 'atypical' the pandemic years were.
- Overall, there has been a 2% decrease in placed applicants compared to the same point last year.

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 23,900 applicants placed on an undergraduate nursing course in the UK, 2023 has seen **24,140 applicants placed** at the end of Clearing. The total number of applicants placed this year is 12% lower than in 2022.

Placed applicants by country of provider

Providers in England have placed 18,870 applicants which is a decrease of 12% from 2022 but a 5% increase from 2019. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 3,300 applicants, a decrease of 14% from 2022 and 10% down from 2019. **Providers in Wales** have placed 1,050 applicants, a decrease of 13% as compared to 2022 and a 28% decrease from 2019. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 920 applicants, an increase of 5% compared to 2022.

Placed applicants by domicile

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** decreased by 12% from last year, however the number of placed international applicants has increased each year from 2019. The number of placed **EU** applicants increased by 5% (730 in 2022; 800 in 2023), and the number of **non-EU** applicants increased by 11% (480 in 2022; 540 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 a 12% decrease overall in placed **English domiciled applicants** compared to 2022, falling from 20,700 to 18,200. The number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** decreased by 14% (3,710 in 2022; 3,210 in 2023). The number of **applicants domiciled in Wales** decreased by 19% (1,240 in 2022; 1,010 in 2023), and the number of **applicants domiciled in Northern Ireland** decreased by 19% (1,030 in 2022; 930 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 6,110 to 5,930.

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 23,350 UK domiciled accepted applicants; 13,180 listed their ethnicity as White, 6,500 as Black, 2,400 as Asian and 750 as Mixed.

Placed applicants by gender

The number of placed **female** applicants to nursing courses decreased by 13% compared to 2022. However the number of placed **male** applicants is just above last years figures which means the imbalance has narrowed slightly.

Headlines for midwifery courses

Accepted places on undergraduate midwifery courses in the UK has increased by 10% since 2019 and increased slightly (by 10 places) from 2022. The total number of placed midwifery applicants at the end of Clearing stands at 3,900.

Placed applicants by country of provider

Providers in England have placed 3,360 applicants an increase of 10 places from 2022. **Providers in Scotland** have placed 260 applicants which is the same as 2019 but a decrease of 7% from 2022. **Providers in Wales** have placed 210 applicants which is an increase compared to 130 placed in 2022. **Providers in Northern Ireland** have placed 70 applicants, a decrease compared to 2022 but the same as 2019.

Placed applicants by domicile

The overall number of placed applicants from the **UK** is the same as last year. The number of placed **International** domiciled applicants remains low and figures are slightly above 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 those **aged 20 years** (190 in 2022; 230 in 2023). The largest decrease was for **25-29-year-olds** which has seen a 20% drop in placed applicants (630 in 2022; 500 in 2023). The biggest number of placed applicants remains those aged 18 years with 1,280 placed this year.

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 3,860 UK domiciled accepted applicants to midwifery courses; 2,740 listed their ethnicity as White, 610 as Black, 290 as Asian and 160 as Mixed. The number of non-white placed applicants has increased from last year whilst the number of white placed applicants has decreased which means it a more diverse cohort than previously.

Placed applicants by gender

The number of placed **female** and placed **male** applicants has remained very similar to last years figures.

For more information contact:

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