Briefing: UCAS End of Cycle data 2023

UCAS has published a series of data resources and reports as part of the 2023 End of Cycle release.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

- 752,025 applicants in total and 554,465 accepted applicants (all ages, all domiciles) in the 2023 cycle.

- 73.7% of UCAS applicants in the 2023 cycle were accepted onto UK undergraduate programmes. This is comparable to the 2022 acceptance rate.

- Overall, more students than ever before are declaring a disability or mental health condition. UCAS do note that reporting for this data has changed so it may be down to students being more comfortable at sharing details.

- UCAS has published data on seven new questions which include refugee/asylum seeker status, caring responsibilities and received free school meals.

- Overall, the data shows that the second highest number of UK 18-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds have secured a place at university or college this year.

- Overall, there has been a decline in the number of accepted international students however there are differences between non-EU and EU figures.

- There has been a slight decrease in the number of accepted applicants onto 'subjects allied to medicine which includes nursing, midwifery, pharmacy and allied health professions courses. (71,665 in 2022; 71,245 in 2023).

- There has been a slight increase in the number of accepted applicants onto medicine and dentistry courses (12,170 in 2022; 12870 in 2023).

Headlines for nursing courses

Key statistics for 2023 UCAS cycle:

- This year, 48,625 students **applied** for nursing higher education courses in the UK. The nursing higher education sector has seen reduced numbers of applicants following the surge seen during the pandemic, with a UK-wide decrease of 13.4%. However, numbers of applicants are still 9.7% above pre-pandemic levels.
- From these applicants, 26,330 students were **accepted** into undergraduate nursing courses across the UK, a 10.6% decrease from 2022. However, the proportion of applicants who were accepted this year is higher than last year (54.1%).

- There were 15,025 acceptances into undergraduate nursing courses at **lower tariff providers**, 8,795 acceptances at **medium tariff providers** and 2,510 at **higher tariff providers**.
- There were 23,080 **female** acceptances and 3,245 **male** acceptances.
- The number of **international domiciled** accepted applicants increased slightly to 895. 650 of which were non-EU domiciled.
- All **age groups** saw a decline in accepted nursing applicants from 2022 to 2023. The biggest reduction was seen in the 25-29 age group, which dropped by 21.8% (3,485 in 2022, 2,725 in 2023). The numbers of 18-year-olds accepted onto undergraduate nursing courses decreased by 14.1% (7,680 in 2022, 6,595 in 2023).

Headlines for midwifery courses

Key statistics for midwifery courses:

- This year, 10,130 students **applied** for midwifery higher education courses in the UK which is an 18% decrease from 2022.
- From these applicants 4,020 students were **accepted** into undergraduate nursing courses across the UK, a 2% increase from 2022. This means 39.7% of applicants were accepted onto midwifery courses.
- There were 2,210 acceptances into undergraduate midwifery courses at **lower tariff providers**, 1,345 acceptances at **medium tariff providers** and 465 at **higher tariff providers**.
- The number of placed **female** and placed **male** applicants has remained very similar to last years figures.
- There continues to be small numbers of **international domiciled** accepted applicants (40).
- There was a mix of increases and decreases depending on **age groups.** There were increased in accepted applicants for those aged 18 years, 19 years, 20 years, and 35 and over. The biggest decrease was seen in those aged 25-29 years.

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