



Briefing: UCAS deadline applicant statistics for January 2024

Briefing Paper – 15 February 2024

UCAS has published a [statistical release](#) providing core numbers for the January equal consideration deadline 2024.

UCAS publishes nursing and midwifery specific data which we have summarised below. We are looking to get a better breakdown for the allied health professions.

Headlines for the overall higher education sector

- Overall there were 594,940 applicants for full-time undergraduate university and college courses that start this coming autumn which is fall by 0.3% since 2023.
- The number of UK 18-year-olds applying to an undergraduate course this year is the second highest on record.
- Across the UK there has been a 1% decline in applicants from England and Wales, a 2% decrease in Northern Ireland and a 2% increase in individuals applying from Scotland.
- The number of international applicants continues to grow, with a 0.7% increase in applicants of all ages.
- There has been continued demand for STEM courses with engineering and technology courses seeing a 10% growth, and applications to both Mathematical sciences and computing seeing an increase of 7%.
- There has been a decline in public service related subjects such as healthcare and teaching.

Headlines for nursing

The number of applicants to UK undergraduate nursing courses has decreased by 7% compared to 2023 from 33,570 to 31,100. The 2024 figures do seem more aligned to 2019 figures.

UCAS has confirmed that applications have fallen for all fields of nursing, but in particular for adult nursing and mental health nursing. We hope to gain more insight into the data and trends for the fields of nursing as well as regional differences in the coming weeks.

Applicants by country of provider

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Scotland** decreased by 8% compared to 2023.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **England** decreased by 10% compared to 2023.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Wales** increased by 8% compared to 2023.

The number of applicants to nursing courses for providers in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 5% compared to 2023.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
England	24950	26750	36410	33410	27370	24680
Northern Ireland	2570	2430	3120	2880	2380	2260
Scotland	6140	6410	7920	6690	5070	4650
Wales	3300	3090	4090	3630	2820	3050

Applicants by age

There has been a decrease in the number of applicants for every age group compared to 2023 apart from those aged 19 years which has remained the same. The biggest decreases were in the number of applicants those aged 25-29 years (19%), aged 30-34 years (14%) and those aged 35 years and over (13%).

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 2023.

Domicile

The number of **UK domiciled applicants** decreased by 7% compared to 2023. The number of **international domiciled applicants** has also decreased for both EU and non-EU domiciled applicants.

Headlines for midwifery

The number of applicants to UK undergraduate midwifery courses has decreased by 13% compared to 2023 from 8,910 to 7,740.

Applicants by country of provider

Compared to 2023:

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Scotland** decreased by 15%.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **England** decreased by 14%.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Wales** decreased by 15%.

The number of applicants to midwifery courses for providers in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 7%.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
England	7350	7520	10510	9520	7360	6360
Northern Ireland	580	540	810	800	730	670
Scotland	1200	1220	1630	1330	960	820
Wales	1170	1220	1640	1390	1080	910

Applicants by age

There has been a decrease in the number of applicants for every age group compared to 2023. The biggest decreases were in those aged 30-34 years (26%) and those aged 35 years and over (18%).

Male and female applicants

In line with the trends in the number of overall midwifery applicants, the number of female applicants decreased compared to 2023.

Domicile

The number of **UK domiciled applicants** decreased by 13% compared to 2023. The number of **international domiciled applicants** has also decreased for EU domiciled applicants and has remained the same for non-EU domiciled applicants.

For more information contact:

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