

Briefing: Confirmed places on A-level Results Day 2025

Briefing Paper: UCAS data release 14 August 2025

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 2025.

- Overall, 226,580 UK 18-year-olds have been accepted at their first (UCAS 'firm') choice compared with 216,750 last year (+4.5%), while 26,330 have been placed at their insurance choice up from 24,850 in 2024 (+ 6.0%). This means the UK 18-year-old entry rate on results day stands at 32.0%, an increase of 0.3%.
- The number of UK 18-year-olds accepted at higher, medium and lower tariff institutions have all increased; higher tariff +7.2%, medium tariff +4.5% and lower tariff +1.4%.
- The number of UK mature students (aged 21 and over) securing a place has declined by 2.4%, from 52,130 in 2024 to 50,880 this year.
- The number of accepted international undergraduate students applying via UCAS has increased by 2.9% (52,640 acceptances compared with 51,170 in 2024) with the largest market, China, growing by 13%.
- The subjects with the largest percentage increases in placed students this year are engineering and technology (+12.5% on last year), mathematical sciences (+10.5%) and law with 27,150 (+10.4%).

Headlines for nursing courses

On A-level day 2025 there are **18,300 applicants who have been accepted onto nursing courses across the UK**. This is a 1% decrease from 2024.

There are 7,760 nursing students whose UCAS application status is currently **'holding an offer'** and have not currently been placed. An additional 10,800 nursing applicants are **free to be placed in Clearing**.

Placed applicants by country of provider

- **Providers in England** have accepted 14,030 applicants into nursing courses, this is an increase of 1% compared to 2024.
- **Providers in Wales** have accepted 830 applicants into nursing courses, this represents a 15% decrease from 980 accepted applicants in 2024.
- **Providers in Northern Ireland** have accepted 660 applicants into nursing courses, this is a 3% increase from 2024.
- **Providers in Scotland** have accepted 2790 applicants into nursing courses, this represents a decrease of 6% from 2,960 in 2024.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
England	13,480	15,490	17,440	16,120	14,010	13,870	14,030
Northern Ireland	720	810	710	680	640	640	660
Scotland	3,110	3,470	3,460	3,440	2,850	2,960	2,790
Wales	1,050	1,060	1,080	900	800	980	830

Placed applicants by domicile

The number of **accepted domestic UK applicants** is 17,540. This has decreased by 1% from 17,690 applicants in 2024.

The number of **accepted international applicants** has remained the same as 2024 at 760.

Placed applicants by age

Overall accepted applicants into nursing courses across the UK has decreased by 1% from 18,450 in 2024 to 18,300 in 2025. This is consistent with an overall downward trend since 2022.

There was an increase in accepted applicants in the following age groups: **17 and under** (25% increase), **18 years old** (6% increase), **19 years old** (5%) and **20 years old** (2%). The following age groups experienced a decrease: **25-29 years** (1% decrease), **30-34 years** (15% decrease) and **35 years and over** (8% decrease). The age group of **21-24 years** did not change from 2024.

Placed applicants by gender

The number of placed applicants who identify as female is unchanged from 2024 at 16,100. The number of placed applicants who identify as male has decreased from 2024 by 7%.

Notably, since 2024, UCAS has introduced two additional gender categories. The data shows that 50 applicants identified with a gender other than male or female—this is an increase from 40 accepted applicants in 2024. Similarly, 50 applicants selected “I prefer not to say,” representing a increase from 40 applicants in 2024.

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 17,540 UK domiciled accepted applicants; 9,940 listed their ethnicity as White, 4,600 as Black, 1,940 as Asian, 630 as Mixed, 310 as Other and 130 preferred not to disclose. Overall, there is more diversity in ethnicity than seen at this point in 2024.

Headlines for midwifery courses

Overall, there were **3,350 accepted applicants for midwifery courses across the UK** on A-level day 2025. This is a 7% increase from 2024.

There are 1,230 midwifery students whose UCAS application status is currently **‘holding an offer’** and have not currently been placed. An additional 2,080 midwifery applicants are **free to be placed in Clearing**.

Placed applicants by country of provider

The accepted applicant rate in **Northern Ireland, Scotland** and **Wales** has remained unchanged from 2024. The number of accepted applicants in **England** has increased by 8% since 2024.

Country of provider	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
England	2,550	2,860	3,030	2,790	2,730	2,620	2,830
Northern Ireland	50	70	80	80	50	90	90
Scotland	230	260	200	260	220	250	250
Wales	90	120	130	130	170	190	190

Placed applicants by domicile

The number of accepted applicants has increased since 2024 for both UK and international domiciles. The international accepted application rate has increased 39% since 2024 while the accepted application rate for the UK has increased by 6%. This reflects an overall increase of 7%.

Placed applicants by age

Accepted applicant numbers across the age groups is mixed. There has been an increase across the age groups of: **18 years old** (16% increase), **19 years old** (13% increase) and **21-24 years** (26% increase). Meanwhile there has been a decrease in applicant acceptance rates in age groups: **20 years old** (7% decrease), **25-29 years** (8% decrease), **30-34 years** (15% decrease) and **35 and over** (5% decrease).

Placed applicants by gender

There were 3,340 female accepted applicants, this represents an increase of 7%. The rate of male accepted applicants into midwifery courses across the UK is 10. This has been unchanged since 2021. 10 applicants identified by another term, this is an increase from 0 in 2024.

Placed applicants by ethnicity

Out of the 3,330 UK domicile applicants accepted in the 2025 A-levels; 2,160 identified as White, 580 identified as black, 350 identified as 350, 160 identified as mixed and 60 applicants selected “other”. 10 applicants preferred not to disclose.

For more information contact

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