

Technical notes accompanying the 2018 end of cycle data resources

The header in each CSV details the variables and statistics in that data resource.

This page provides some additional technical notes and guidance for the data resources.

The definitions document contains the definition notes for the variables and statistics in the resources and also further information on the specification used in the end of cycle data resources.

Coverage of UCAS Conservatoires data

UCAS Conservatoires is an admissions scheme that processes applications to music, dance, and drama courses at conservatoires in the UK. The scheme handles applications for nine conservatoires, and includes both undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Eight conservatoires offer music courses, with two offering dance courses, and four offering drama courses. The courses are mainly vocational, based around performance and production.

How the scheme works

Applicants can make up to six applications to courses available through UCAS Conservatoires. Applications are considered by conservatoires and a decision is made to either invite applicants to attend an audition, or to reject the application. Following the audition process, successful applicants are made one of four different place types: a guaranteed unconditional place, a guaranteed conditional place, a reserve unconditional place, or a reserve conditional place. Guaranteed places confirm that a place is available on the course for that applicant, whereas a reserve place indicates that the conservatoire is not able to offer a guaranteed place to that particular applicant, but would like the opportunity to review the situation as the cycle progresses. Unconditional places indicate that the applicant has met the entry requirements, whereas conditional places include conditions that need to be met before a place is confirmed. Applications can be withdrawn by applicants at any point in the process. Once the places have been offered by conservatoires, the applicant then replies to those places. If an applicant selects a guaranteed place (either unconditional or conditional) as their first choice, then all other places must

be declined. When the first choice is a reserve place, the applicant may select another place as their second choice before declining the remaining places. An application choice becomes placed once it becomes a guaranteed unconditional first choice. Applicants may only hold a confirmed place in one of the UCAS schemes, even though it is possible to apply through more than one scheme simultaneously. If a place is confirmed in more than one scheme, the applicant must accept a single place and withdraw their applications from the other schemes by the end of the application cycle.

Context technical notes

An applicant can apply to courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in the same UCAS Conservatoires cycle. This means a small number of applicants are counted in both the undergraduate and postgraduate statistics.

The courses in the UCAS Conservatoires scheme can be split into three subject groups: music, drama, and dance. Dance and drama courses were offered through UCAS Conservatoires from 2012. Applicants can apply to up to six courses, potentially spanning different subject groups. Therefore, each applicant may be counted more than once, from 2012 onwards, when calculating applicants by subject group. Two conservatoires offer dance courses (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and four conservatoires offer drama courses (Birmingham Conservatoire, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama).

Due to the small size of the scheme, changes in the composition of the scheme need to be noted, as they can make large differences in the data from year to year, which can lead to difficulties when directly comparing years. For example, in 2011, Leeds College of Music stopped offering undergraduate courses through UCAS Conservatoires, and moved to using the UCAS Undergraduate scheme instead. However, the conservatoire's postgraduate applications continued to be offered through the UCAS Conservatoires scheme. In 2012, there was an addition of new courses in the UCAS Conservatoires scheme, mainly dance and drama. The Royal Academy of Music joined the scheme in 2013 and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School joined in 2018. In 2015, Leeds College of Music once again began offering its undergraduate courses through UCAS Conservatoires and in 2018 Birmingham Conservatoire began offering its undergraduate drama courses through UCAS Conservatoires.

The figures for acceptances in 2016 for Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance omit around 65 UCAS applicants who gained admission to the provider but were not recorded as accepted at the end of the cycle. This instance was specific to this cycle only and care should be taken in interpreting a time series for this provider.

In earlier releases of the data resources a small number of postgraduate courses had been incorrectly reported as being at undergraduate level. Also one applicant had been removed in error from the 2013 cycle. Both of these errors have been rectified in the 2018 data resources.