

# Statement of voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics

UCAS takes pride in the quality, trustworthiness, and value of the analysis and statistics it publishes about higher education (HE). Adherence on a voluntary basis to the Code of Practice for Statistics allows us to evidence and demonstrate these aspects of our work.

UCAS publishes a wide range of statistic and analysis reports, as well as providing a variety of data products and services, which can be accessed in the [Data and analysis](#) section of our website. In compiling these statistical releases, UCAS has committed to applying the three core principles (referred to as 'pillars') of the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) (hereafter referred to as 'the Code'):

- **Trustworthiness** – Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data.
- **Quality** – Data and methods that produce assured statistics.
- **Value** – Statistics that support society's need for information.

This statement describes how these principles have been followed.

## Trustworthiness

Statistical releases are handled by a dedicated team of data scientists at UCAS, who are supported by an analytical data profession team which oversees provision of appropriate technical training and guidance. This data profession team reports to the Data Science and Statistics Profession Lead, who serves as Head of Profession for Statistics, with responsibility for upholding the standards of the Code.

UCAS publishes a [timetable of statistical releases](#) for the UCAS Undergraduate, UCAS Teacher Training, and UCAS Conservatoires admissions services. We adhere to a scheduled publication time of 00:01 on a Thursday – which differs from the conventional release time of 09:30 – to meet the deadline for same day digital publication by UK-based media organisations. To facilitate accurate reporting of our outputs in the media, we may provide access to pre-release data to a controlled group of media organisations, as well as key stakeholders and customer-facing staff, under a strict embargo for a period of up to 36 hours.

A different release schedule is adopted in response to user need for reporting during Confirmation and Clearing, reflecting the fast pace of change at this key period in the admissions cycle. This schedule takes effect for a two-week period, starting on the Friday after A level results day, with statistical releases made each working day at 11:00.

UCAS currently holds an accreditation in the ISO 27001:2013 international standard for managing and implementing good information security practices. To comply with ISO 27001, UCAS is obliged to maintain an Information Security Management System which sets out the procedures, processes, and controls to ensure the risks to UCAS data are handled appropriately. To safeguard personal and other confidential information, we apply appropriate statistical disclosure controls on all our published figures.

## Quality

The integrity of the administrative source data which underpins UCAS' analytical reporting is rigorously assured by a dedicated information governance function, supported by data policies and data standards, which include UCAS being a signatory of the [Higher education data collection Codes of practice](#). Further cross-checking is conducted by our data science infrastructure team, in preparing the analytical data structures used in production of statistical outputs.

Where appropriate, additional administrative data sources (such as the National Pupil Database, maintained by the Department for Education) are used to supplement UCAS analytical data, and provide additional context for our reporting.

We are transparent about data and methods used in generating analytical outputs and, where possible, publish details of the methodologies used (see [UCAS Undergraduate analysis reports](#)). Published releases are subjected to robust quality assurance processes in their preparation, including independent cross-checking of figures with key stakeholders where appropriate. Outputs are generated automatically wherever possible, using version-controlled code repositories to ensure full reproducibility of results, with a clear audit trail.

## Value

UCAS is committed to publishing data, as part of demonstrating public benefit in support of our charitable objects on supporting progression in education. We publish a large amount of data which is easily accessible [on our website](#), in open data formats and with appropriate documentation. [Data explorers](#) are provided to aid navigation of selected releases of end of cycle statistics. UCAS also publishes a number of [analytical reports](#), which provide insight and context, with supporting raw data also made available.

UCAS regularly communicates with customers through a series of user groups and forums, including a dedicated Data Group, to ensure the relevance and accessibility of our analytical reporting. UCAS also actively collaborates with other higher education sector bodies, including conducting joint research projects, to improve efficiency and consistency of methods in publishing statistics.

Further information about analytical reporting or UCAS' voluntary commitment to the Code of Practice for Statistics can be obtained from our corporate communications team at [communications@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:communications@ucas.ac.uk).