

UCAS END OF CYCLE REPORT 2019:

CHAPTER 3: CLEARING

Over 28,000 students used UCAS' new online self-release option, with almost 99% of those who reapplied successfully placed through Clearing.

- > In total, 28,030 students released themselves into Clearing online.
- > 73.3% of students placed after using self-release were accepted onto a course they hadn't previously applied to
- > 73,320 students used Clearing to secure a place, up nearly 10%, and a new record.
- > 19,640 students were placed after applying directly into Clearing.
- > 69.7% of Clearing acceptances said they contacted one of their original choices.



UCAS

A RECORD

73,320

STUDENTS USED
CLEARING IN 2019.



Overall numbers of applicants using Clearing

As predicted earlier in the cycle, a total of 73,320 applicants used Clearing to secure their place at a university or college in the 2019 cycle. This is a new record, and an increase of 9.8% on last year. Clearing accounted for 13.5% of all students accepted – also a new high.

53,685 students (up 9%) were accepted having initially applied earlier in the cycle, and 19,640 applicants (up 12.1%) applied for the first time directly into Clearing.

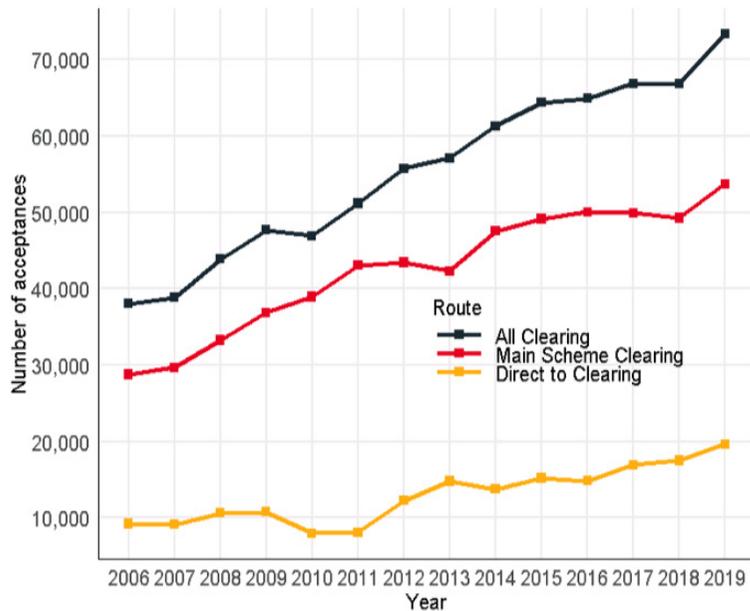


FIGURE 1: Applicants accepted through Clearing

Explore all the end of cycle data in our interactive dashboard on [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)¹. Definitions of terms used in this report are available in the glossary².

Young people in England (compared to other UK countries) are more likely to be placed in Clearing, with 15.3% (32,020 people) of all accepted English 18 year old applicants securing their place through Clearing. 4.6% of all young Scottish people accepted went through Clearing – a reflection of number controls in place for Scottish students at Scottish universities.

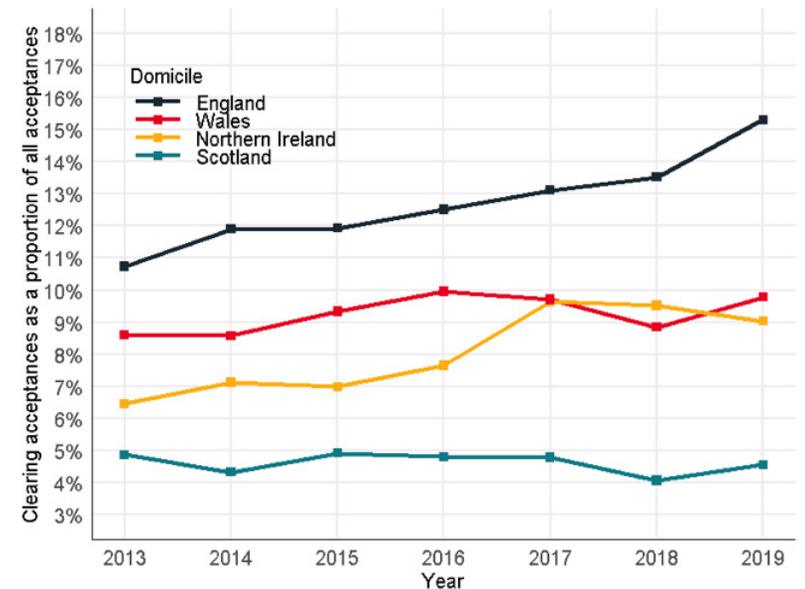


FIGURE 2: Proportion of UK 18 year olds accepted through Clearing by domicile

¹ <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-data-resources-2019>

² <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports/2019-end-cycle-report>

Online self-release

UCAS gave students even more control of their application in 2019, and introduced the ability for anyone with a confirmed place to release themselves into Clearing online. Previously, the student contacted the university they were placed at, and the university released them.

A total of 28,030 applicants with a confirmed place used the new online self-release. Of those, 18,955 applied for another course in Clearing, with 18,690 subsequently being accepted.

In total, 18,690 applicants were accepted after using self-release from any confirmed place (including through Clearing). Of those, 12,380 were UK 18 year olds.

16,505 applicants were accepted after self-releasing from a place confirmed in the main scheme. For UK 18 year olds, this group is made up of 11,135 students.

28,030

STUDENTS USE UCAS' NEW ONLINE SELF-RELEASE OPTION.

Most applicants who self-released (25,195, 89.9% of the total) did so from a place they had secured in the main scheme. Others who used self-release did so after already being accepted in Clearing – this is split between those who first applied in the main scheme (2,465, 8.8%), and those who applied directly into Clearing (370, 1.3%).

Most of the 25,195 applicants who self-released from a place secured in the main scheme were from the UK. Of the 21,620 students from the UK who self-released from a main scheme place, most (15,995, 74%) were aged 18. A total of 1,400 EU students, and 2,180 non-EU students used the new function to self-release from a main scheme place.

73.3%

OF STUDENTS PLACED AFTER USING SELF-RELEASE WERE ACCEPTED ONTO A COURSE THEY DIDN'T APPLY TO IN THE MAIN SCHEME

New destinations through self-release

Of those students who were placed after using self-release from a confirmed main scheme choice, most (73.3%) were accepted onto a course they had not previously applied to in the main scheme. 9.3% were placed on a course where they previously held an offer, but had decided to decline it.

More than half (53.6%) of those accepted after using self-release were placed at a university or college they had previously applied to in the main scheme. A sixth (16.7%) were placed at a university or college that had previously made an offer to them, but they had chosen to decline in the main scheme³.

³Based on choice status on 30 June 2019. Excludes universities or colleges for which the institution's or applicant's reply had not been received by this date.



Moving between provider groups (UK 18 year olds)

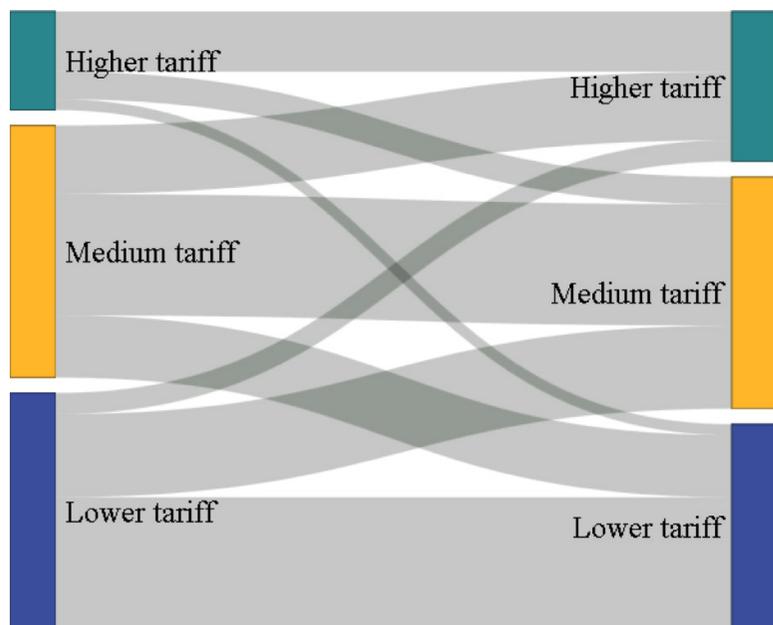


FIGURE 3: Movement between provider tariff groups following self-release from a main scheme place for UK 18 year olds

In the UCAS Clearing survey, all main scheme applicants placed through Clearing (regardless of their reason for being in Clearing) were asked ‘In Clearing, did you contact any of the universities of colleges you originally applied to?’. 69.7% said they contacted one of their previous choices.⁴

SELF-RELEASING FROM	THEN BEING ACCEPTED AT
higher tariff 1,865 students (16.8% of the total)	higher, 1,145 (61.3%)
	medium, 520 students (27.7%)
	lower, 205 students (11%)
medium tariff 4,770 students (42.9% of the total)	higher, 1,295 (27.2%)
	medium, 2,295 students (48.1%)
	lower, 1,180 students (24.7%)
lower tariff 4,495 students (40.4% of the total)	higher, 400 (9%)
	medium, 1,575 students (35%)
	lower, 2,520 students (56%)

Additional self-release highlights

All figures refer to applicants self-releasing from a confirmed main scheme place.

- > Language courses were among the subjects that saw a small net gain among placed UK 18 year old applicants who self-released and were subsequently placed on a new course, going against recent trends of fewer applicants to these courses. Medicine and dentistry courses saw the largest proportional gain through self-release.
- > Education and teaching courses were among the subjects seeing a small net loss in UK 18 year old applicants.
- > There is little variation between POLAR4 quintiles⁵ in the proportion of all acceptances who were applicants that self-released from a main scheme place. For UK 18 year olds, 4.2% of all acceptances from students in POLAR4 Q1 came from applicants self-releasing from a main scheme choice, compared to 4.9% for Q4 (with 4.5% for Q5).
- > A level results day was the most common day for UK 18 year olds to use self-release into Clearing, with 8,110 using it on 15 August 2019.
- > 97.2% of those who self-released from a main scheme choice only did so once. 2.6% self-released twice, and 0.2% released three or more times.

⁴In 2019 the UCAS Clearing survey had 6,110 respondents. Survey responses have been weighted to adjust for imbalance across applicant groups.

⁵<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/>



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