

## Technical definitions for terms used in Daily Clearing Analysis 2015

The terms defined in this document are those used in the 2015 Daily Clearing Analysis, which is published on the UCAS website. The Daily Clearing Analysis comprises of a number of PDF report documents, each containing tables and graphs that provide core numbers for the current UCAS cycle and comparison data for the previous four cycles. The Daily Clearing Analysis is produced on 4 August and then each week day during the period 13-28 August. Not all of the terms defined below are used in each PDF report, and the number and type of reports produced varies throughout the reporting period.

As part of the 2015 Daily Clearing Analysis, a parallel set of PDF reports has been produced that exclude – from all cycles – applications to teacher training courses (detailed subject group X1) at providers in Scotland. This is because a large set of teacher training courses in Scotland are being recruited for through the UCAS Undergraduate scheme for the first time in 2015, having previously been recruited through UCAS Teacher Training.

The primary set of reports describes the full set of applications in the UCAS Undergraduate scheme. The context set of reports gives a better ‘like for like’ comparison of 2015 to earlier cycles, particularly when looking at applicants from Scotland, providers in Scotland, or the Education subject group.

In Scotland there is a substantial section of provision that is not included in UCAS' figures. This is mostly full-time higher education provided in further education colleges which represents around one third of young full-time undergraduate study in Scotland, and this proportion varies by geography and background within Scotland. Accordingly, figures on entry rates or total recruitment in Scotland reflect only that part of full-time undergraduate study that uses UCAS.

Apart from the aforementioned exclusion, the terms defined below apply equally to both the primary and context sets of reports.

## Populations used in analysis

<b>Applicants</b>	A person who has made an application in the UCAS system during the cycle reported. This includes those who submit applications for deferred entry. All reporting in the Daily Clearing Analysis is based on the application cycle and is not adjusted for deferrals to report by entry cycle.
<b>Base population estimate</b> <i>Used to calculate the proportion of 18 year old UK population placed</i>	The population estimates are based on the Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates and national population projections. For 16 to 20 year olds, the estimates are obtained by ageing 15 year olds from the appropriate number of years earlier. This approach avoids the estimates being susceptible to changes in net migration (including overseas students) during these ages.

## Applicant types and statuses

<b>Main scheme</b>	The main UCAS Undergraduate application scheme, through which up to five providers/courses can be applied to. Opens in September and closes to new applications on 30 June.
❖ <b>Placed</b>	An applicant who has been placed for entry into higher education. There are a number of placement routes; Clearing, Adjustment, Firm, Insurance and RPAs. RPAs are excluded from the Daily Clearing Analysis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing</li> </ul>	An acceptance route available late in the application cycle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjustment</li> </ul>	An acceptance route where applicants who have met and exceeded the conditions of their firm choice choose to take up an alternative offer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firm</li> </ul>	An offer made by a provider which has been confirmed by the applicant as their first choice. These can be either conditional (dependent on achieving specified requirements) or unconditional (these are assumed to be accepted/placed). In order to be defined as Placed (Firm), an applicant must have been placed at the provider with which they hold their Firm choice at 30 June.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance</li> </ul>	An offer made by a provider which has been confirmed by the applicant as their second choice, in case the conditions of the Firm choice are not met. These can be either conditional (dependent on achieving specified requirements) or unconditional (no further requirements to be met). In order to be defined as Placed (Insurance), an applicant must have been placed at the provider with which they hold their Insurance choice at 30 June.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	Applicants in Placed (Other) include those for whom statuses could not be defined because no decision had been recorded on their application by 30 June.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RPA</li> </ul>	An RPA is a Record of Prior Acceptance, where an application is submitted to UCAS via a provider when an unconditional firm has been offered and accepted by the applicant. These are not recorded in the Daily Clearing Analysis and will be reported after the cycle has closed.
❖ <b>Holding offer</b>	An applicant who was holding an offer at 30 June which has a yet-to-be-resolved outcome; for example, a Conditional Firm (CF) for which the results are yet to be verified against the conditions.
❖ <b>Free to be placed in Clearing</b>	An applicant who is not Placed or Holding offer and who applied by 30 June. Applicants can move from this status to Placed (Clearing).
<b>Direct to Clearing</b>	Applicants who register to apply after 30 June. Applicants cannot make parallel applications through this route – only one application will be active at a given point in time. Applicants in Other (Direct to Clearing) include those for whom statuses could not be defined because no decision had been recorded on their application at the point of reporting.

## Applicant characteristics

<b>Age</b>	The Daily Clearing Analysis uses country-specific age definitions, which align with the cut off points for school/college cohorts in the different administrations of the UK. For England and Wales, ages are defined on 31 August, for Northern Ireland on 1 July, and for Scotland on 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants outside of the UK, the cohort cut off for England and Wales has been used.
<b>Domicile</b>	Declared area of permanent residence.
<b>POLAR3</b>	Developed by HEFCE and classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in HE. Each of these groups represents around 20 per cent of young people and is ranked from quintile 1 (areas with the lowest young participation rates; the most disadvantaged) to quintile 5 (highest young participation rates; considered most advantaged).
<b>Region</b>	Area of permanent residence for UK regions.
<b>Subject (JACS3)</b>	Courses are classified using JACS3: <a href="http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1787/281/">http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1787/281/</a>

## Provider characteristics

<b>Tariff group</b>	Providers are grouped based on the average levels of attainment of their accepted applicants in recent cycles (summarised through UCAS Tariff points). A provider belongs to either the lower, medium, or higher Tariff group, and each group of providers accounts for around a third of all UK 18 year old acceptances in recent cycles.
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