

Progression Reports frequently asked questions

Below you'll find answers to the questions we get asked the most about Progression Reports.

What is the Progression Report?

The Progression Report reveals not only which university a student progressed on to, but also the offers they received. It now includes a key statistic summary, making it easier to understand and share your results. In 2016/17 the Progression Report is being released in two parts, so advisers can access as much information, as soon as possible. Part one includes centre details, plus the individual choice, and applicant level CSV files. Part two includes a report for the whole sector.

Why is the Progression Report now available earlier, but in two parts?

The national reference data presented for all applicants is subject to an embargo which prevents its release ahead of the publication of the UCAS End of Cycle Report, on 15 December 2016. However, as there is not an embargo on a school's own data, we have released this earlier to ensure reporting deadlines can be made. The national data will be released on 9 January 2017.

Why is the UCAS data in a separate report?

This approach enables us to provide one-to-one comparison tables and graphs for your school's data, even when there may be several different lines plotted on a graph. It also allows us to provide more than one reference set of results to compare with your school's data – for example, 18 year old applicants, or applicants from schools in the same UK country as your school.

What has changed for the 2016 report?

- Entries have been removed, modified and added in the technical notes section.
- The glossary includes an entry for detailed subject groups (renamed from subject lines).
- Aesthetic changes – such as colour schemes, graph styles and table styles.
- The acceptance route section (2) is now more specific about the routes, and doesn't include unplaced applicants (which can be found elsewhere and is explicitly reported in section 13).
- The proportions in the acceptance routes section are now as a proportion of acceptances (rather than applicants).
- The proportions in the applicant reply section (4) are now as a proportion of offers (rather than choices), so the 'other' and 'total' rows no longer include choices not resulting in offers.
- The detailed applicant Tariff section has been split into two (17/18) – one for acceptances and one for offers, with an additional acceptance/offer rate table.

Is the data in this report the same as in the legacy report?

Several of the underlying definitions used (such as age and what is an offer) have been updated to match UCAS' other data products. This may lead to minor differences between new and legacy reports. View the front page and glossary of the new report for more details on changes and up-to-date definitions.

What does Tariff group mean?

Unfortunately we are unable to provide a list of high, medium and low Tariff groupings. The Tariff groups are an average of the levels of attainment of their accepted applicants, which is summarised through UCAS Tariff points. This average is taken over a period of the application cycle. The grouping is intended to be used as a relative summary measure.

Where can I find a list of universities applied to, in order of numbers applying, and a list of universities students progressed to, in order of numbers applying?

Section 20 of the Progression Report, 'Name of your centre', shows a list of the top 15 universities:

- 20.1 shows the top 15 universities in order of acceptances
- 20.2 shows the top 15 universities in order of offers made
- 20.3 shows the top 15 universities for choices made

These tables show the trends for your centre over the past five years. If this information is not detailed enough, you can find a full breakdown of provider in the 'Choice level' CSV file, which formed part of the raw data and was included as part of the report.

Where can I find a list of subjects applied to and a list of subjects accepted, in application number order?

Section 19 of the Progression Report, 'Name of your centre', shows the number of applicant acceptances split by course group. Section 21 shows this information for the top 15 subject lines that applicants have accepted, been offered, and the choices they made.

Again, both of these sections show the trends for your college over the past five years. If this information is not detailed enough, you can find a full breakdown of subject in the 'Choice level' CSV file, which formed part of the raw data and was included as part of the report.

Why do I get two CSV files and what is the difference?

The 'Choices' spreadsheet details all the choices your students made (a maximum of five each). The 'Applicant' spreadsheet details their final accepted place.

The spreadsheet data does not include any students who opted out of sharing their information with your centre, whereas the PDF documents will include these numbers.

Why have the numbers of offers changed, compared to equivalent data provided in previous years?

The new Progression Report now uses a standardised definition of the state of an offer prior to Confirmation, bringing it in-line with our other analytical offer reporting. This definition is based on the state of an offer at 30 June. It may differ from the best determination of the

original offer state in a small number of cases – the latter being used in previous versions of school reports.

What does 'Other' mean?

Generally speaking it is meant to be the combination of all non-headline sub-groups. However, in the sections referring to application decisions and replies (sections 3, 4 and 5), it can account for a large proportion of applicants. This is partly due to the number of options available at this point. In the 'Applicant replies' section, rejected applications which do not require a reply are included under the 'Other' section – which is why it may be a large number.

How can someone have an unsuccessful application and then go on to be accepted?

If a section refers to main scheme applications, it is using its position at the 30 June deadline. This may lead to unusual cases where, for example, an applicant was rejected due to an administrative error, which was fixed after 30 June.

My school has been in a merger. Does the new report take this into account?

Previous reports ignored school mergers, unless it was specifically requested for one to be taken into account. Both options will be available with the new reports, if appropriate.

Can I manipulate the data in the CSV file (with a pivot table, for example)?

Yes, the CSV file contains raw data that can be processed further using pivot tables or other calculations.

How do I copy and paste from a PDF?

If you are using Adobe Reader, go to 'Edit' then click 'Take a snapshot'. This allows you to select an area of the PDF to copy and paste as an image.

If you have any other queries, please get in touch with us at ucasmediaschoolsteam@ucas.ac.uk.