A photograph of three students sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking at papers and smiling. The image is partially obscured by a grey geometric overlay.

Results of the UCAS survey on future numerical GCSE entry requirements

2017 will see the first awarding of GCSEs in England with numerical grades. While large numbers of learners will not apply to higher education (HE) holding these qualifications until 2019, it is likely that a small numbers of learners will apply holding these qualifications in both 2017 and 2018.

Ofqual has set anchor points between the old and new grading scales for qualifications in England, and exam boards will use statistical evidence to make sure that, broadly speaking:

- the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a C and above (the alignment being at the bottom of each grade)
- the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above
- grade 9 will be awarded to the top 20% of those who get grade 7 or above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G

The UK qualification regulators are clear that the two grading scales are not directly comparable. As a result, universities and colleges have been considering where to set their entry requirements for the numerical GCSEs. To provide clarity on what universities and colleges intend to do, we surveyed all UCAS higher education providers (HEPs) in the UK about their future intentions. The graph below indicates the position for the 68 providers that responded to the survey.

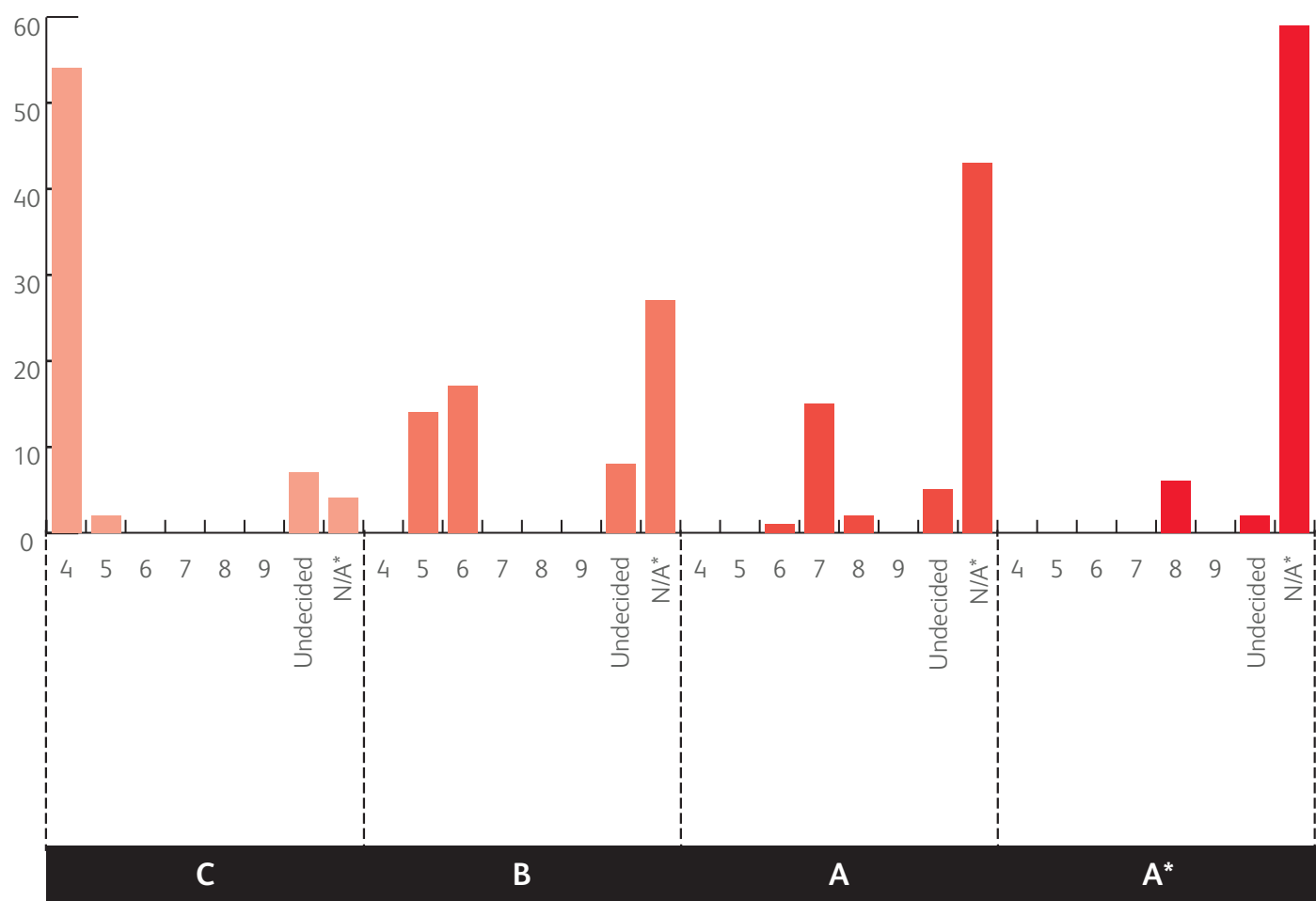
While it is likely that HEPs will adopt different entry requirements relating to GCSEs, they will also make this clear as part of their published entry requirements. We would always advise that applicants review the specific entry requirements at a particular university or college, and for a particular course.

In some instances, the minimum entry requirement set by universities and colleges for a specific course is dictated by a professional body. For example, the National College for Teaching and Leadership has stated that the minimum entry requirement for teacher training programmes is a GCSE grade 4 in English and Maths.

We have produced a **range of resources to support the education sector** in the changing qualification landscape. This includes a postcard on the changes to GCSE grading to help universities and colleges when reviewing their GCSE entry requirements.

If you have any queries regarding this publication, please contact Ben Jordan, Senior Policy Executive, at bjordan@ucas.ac.uk.

Figure 1: Survey responses to how universities and colleges intend to position their GCSE entry requirements using the new numerical grading scale.



*N/A means that the university or college does not have courses with this specific GCSE entry requirement