

Definitions

Acceptance route

Acceptance route is the route which a placed application has been accepted through, and can have the following values:

- **Firm choice** – where the applicant has been accepted to their first choice.
- **Insurance choice** – where the applicant has been accepted to their second choice.
- **Main scheme Clearing** – where an applicant was unsuccessful in the main scheme (i.e. applied before 30 June) and subsequently found a place using Clearing.
- **Direct Clearing** – where the applicant has applied through Clearing without an initial application through the main scheme.
- **Adjustment** – where applicants who have met and exceeded the conditions of their firm choice choose to take up an alternative offer (introduced in 2009).
- **Extra** – where applicants who hold no offers after using all of their main scheme choices can make additional choices.
- **RPA** – where an application is submitted to UCAS by a course provider when an unconditional firm place has already been offered and accepted by the applicant.

Please note: 'Insurance choice' and 'firm choice' values are based on the applicant's response to an offer as at the June deadline. There are 10,000 to 20,000 acceptances to a main scheme choice each year where the applicant has not responded, or is awaiting an offer, by the June deadline. These acceptances are classified as 'Other main scheme choice'.

Achieved A level point score

A points score attached to the highest three A level grades achieved by the applicant, as identified either on application or through the Awarding Body Linkage (ABL) process.

The following points per grade are used in the calculation: A* = 6, A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1. A level Double Award grades are included, but AS level grades are not included. This value is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. For example, if an applicant applied in the 2010 cycle with one A level grade C, but went on to obtain a further two A Levels in 2011, the value for the applicant applying in 2010 would remain 3. This is only relevant for 18 year old applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales, and any applicants outside of this cohort will be assigned the value 'Not applicable'. These scores are calculated purely for analytical purposes and do not relate to the UCAS Tariff.

Age band

Derived from date of birth declared by the applicant, age is aligned 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. Age is then grouped into 17 and under, 18, 19, 20, and 21 and over.

Please note, if the derived age is outside of the range 11-100, it is set to 18 by default.

Age (individual)

Derived from date of birth declared by the applicant, age is aligned 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. Values are displayed for each age between 18 and 64.

Please note, if the derived age is outside of the range 11-100, it is set to 18 by default.

Applicant domicile (UK/EU/not EU)

An applicant's area of permanent residence summarised at a high level. This variable is derived from domicile as declared by the applicant and does not guarantee fee status. It is split by the following values: UK, EU (excluding UK), and not EU.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have been assigned as 'not EU'.

Applicant domicile (high level)

An applicant's area of permanent residence summarised at a high level, by individual UK country, EU, and not EU. This variable is derived from domicile as declared by the applicant and does not guarantee fee status.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are assigned as 'not EU'. See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

Applicant domicile (low level – overseas country focus)

An applicant's area of permanent residence, which broadly relates to country. The domicile is declared by the applicant by selecting from a list of available domiciles during the application process. In the interest of keeping a consistent time series, the most recent label for each domicile is displayed across the time series, regardless of the domicile displayed to the applicant at the time of the application. For

example, in the 2009 application cycle, the label 'Virgin Islands (British)' changed to 'British Virgin Islands', however the report will display 'British Virgin Islands' across every application cycle going back to 2004.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are displayed as separate values, rather than being part of 'United Kingdom'.

Applicant domicile (region)

An applicant's declared domicile as a region in the UK. Reported as North East, Yorkshire and The Humber, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, South West, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

Deadline

The deadline by which applications are required at certain points in the cycle. Reports by deadline give cumulative totals across the 15 October deadline, 15 January deadline, 24 March deadline, and 30 June deadline.

Acceptances by deadline reflect the number of applicants who applied by that deadline and were accepted by the end of the cycle.

Deferred status

This indicates if an application is deferred. Most applications are into the academic year that starts immediately at the end of the cycle, for example into the 2013/14 academic year from the 2013 application cycle. Applications can also be deferred for entry into the following academic year, for example into the academic 2014/15 year from the 2013 cycle. These are called deferred applications.

Disability indicator

This indicates whether the applicant has declared a disability on the application by selecting from a list of available options. These options include, but are not restricted to, learning difficulties, serious visual or hearing impairment, physical impairment, mental health conditions, and long standing illness.

Ethnic group (summary level)

High level grouping of ethnic origin as declared by the applicant: Asian, Black, Mixed, White, Other, and Unknown.

Ethnic group (detailed level)

Low level grouping of ethnic origin as declared by the applicant: White, Asian – Bangladeshi, Asian – Chinese, Asian – Indian, Asian – Pakistani, Asian – Other Asian background, Black – African, Black – Caribbean, Black – Other Black background,

Mixed – White and Asian, Mixed – White and Black African, Mixed – White and Black Caribbean, Mixed – Other mixed background, White, Other, and Unknown.

Holds A level qualification

This indicates if an applicant has achieved an A level or A level Double Award qualification (at least one) as identified either on their application or through the Awarding Body Linkage process.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. For example, if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving an A level, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'A level qualification not identified'.

Holds BTEC qualification

This indicates if an applicant has achieved a BTEC qualification (at least one) as identified either on their application or through the Awarding Body Linkage process. This applies to the following qualifications in the NQF framework: NQF National Awards, NQF National Certificate, NQF National Diploma, and NQF Subsidiary Certificates, and the following qualifications in the QCF framework: QCF Subsidiary Diplomas, QCF Diploma, QCF Extended Diploma, and QCF 90 Credit Diplomas.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. For example, if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving a BTEC, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'BTEC qualification not identified'.

Holds SQA qualification

This indicates if an applicant has achieved an SQA Higher or Advanced Higher qualification (at least one) as identified either on their application or through the Awarding Body Linkage process.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. For example, if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving an SQA, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'SQA qualification not identified'.

Number of choices

The number of main scheme choices made to UK providers by each applicant.

Please note: Until 2008, an applicant could make six main scheme choices. This was reduced to five main scheme choices in subsequent years. Until 2010, this contains Route B choices, which were referred out sequentially. Therefore, applicants may have Route B choices that would not have been referred out, but would still be counted.

POLAR3 quintile

Developed by HEFCE, POLAR3 classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in higher education. 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, considered as the most disadvantaged) to quintile 5 (highest young participation rates, considered most advantaged).

POLAR3 is based on the participation rates of young people between 2005 and 2009 who entered higher education between 2005/06 and 2010/11, therefore is most suitable for applicants aged 19 and under. These groups are assigned using the postcode declared by the applicant at the time of their application. If a UK postcode is invalid, considered unsafe for measurement, or there is no link to Census geography possible, then the applicant is classified as 'Not assigned'.

POLAR4 quintile

Developed by HEFCE, POLAR4 classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in Higher Education. 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, considered as the most disadvantaged) to Quintile 5 (highest young participation rates, considered most advantaged).

POLAR4 is based on the participation rates of young people between 2009 and 2014, who entered HE between 2009-10 and 2014-15 academic years. These groups are assigned using the postcode declared by the applicant. If a postcode is invalid, considered unsafe for measurement or there is no link to Census geography possible then the applicant is classified as 'Not Assigned'. Please note: POLAR4 is only relevant for applicants domiciled in the UK (as determined by the EXACT definition of domicile – please see relevant descriptions for more details), therefore any applicants outside of this cohort are classified as 'Not Applicable'.

Provider country

Where the provider is located within the UK. See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

Sex

Sex as declared by the applicant.

SIMD quintile

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) for 2012 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland, providing a relative measure of deprivation among 6,505 small areas (data zones) based on seven socioeconomic domains. These small areas are classified into five groups ranked from quintile 1 (considered the most deprived) to quintile 5 (considered least deprived), with equal

populations in each quintile. Quintiles are assigned using the postcode declared by the applicant. Applicants declaring invalid postcodes are classified as 'Not assigned'.

SIMD quintile 2016

Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD) for 2016 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland, providing a relative measure of deprivation amongst 6,976 small areas (data zones) based on seven socio-economic domains. These small areas are classified into five groups, ranked from quintile 1 (considered the most deprived) to quintile 5 (considered least deprived), with equal populations in each quintile. Quintiles are assigned using the postcode declared by the applicant, applicants declaring invalid postcodes are classified as 'Not assigned'. Please note: SIMD is only relevant for applicants domiciled in Scotland, therefore any applicants outside of this cohort are classified as 'Not applicable'.

Subject group (summary level)

This classifies courses into a summary level of 26 subjects. Each course is assigned up to three valid JACS3 subject codes (e.g. G100 – Mathematics) and a course balance indicator by UCAS, which are available for review by the provider. The course is assigned a subject based on these JACS3 subject codes and balance indicator, which largely correlates to the first two characters of the subject codes. Where there are more than one JACS3 subject codes for a given course, and the balance indicator is dual or triple, the first two characters of each subject code are reported in combination to a relevant category (e.g. course with dual balance indicator with JACS3 subject codes B940 = Counselling and C843 = Counselling psychology is assigned the subject 'Y Combined sciences').

Please note: Between 2007 and 2011, the subject codes assigned to each course were from the JACS2.0 classification, therefore JACS3 versions of the subject categories have been approximated for 2007 to 2011 to allow a consistent time series.

Subject group (detailed level)

Classifies courses into a detailed level of 215 subjects. Each course is assigned up to three valid JACS3 subject codes (e.g. G100 – Mathematics) and a course balance indicator by UCAS, which are available for review by the provider. The course is assigned a subject based on these JACS3 subject codes and balance indicator, which largely correlates to the first two characters of the subject codes. Where there are more than one JACS3 subject codes for a given course, and the balance indicator is dual or triple, the first two characters of each subject code are reported in combination to a relevant category (e.g. course with dual balance indicator with JACS3 subject codes L370 = Social theory and M900 = Others in law is assigned the subject 'Y Combs of soc studies/law').

Please note: Between 2007 and 2011, the subject codes assigned to each course were from the JACS2.0 classification, therefore JACS3 versions of the subject categories have been approximated for 2007 to 2011 to allow a consistent time series.