

S90: unconditional offers

University of Sussex's perspective on unconditional offers:

The University of Sussex introduced the Sussex Unconditional Offer Scheme (SUOS) in 2014 to identify applicants with demonstrable evidence of exceptional performance in their schooling to date.

Whilst the university's demanding offer levels mean that all applicants to Sussex have impressive levels of academic ability, SUOS has sought to reward our most able applicants and recognise excellence. Where those selected for the scheme have responded by making Sussex their firm choice, we have matched this commitment by making their offer unconditional ahead of completion of examination results. We believe it's important that our offer of an unconditional place is matched by the applicant's positive decision to firmly accept Sussex.

Students selected for SUOS are reminded of the importance of their examination results for their future careers, and the university's Sussex Excellence Scholarship encourages these applicants to still achieve top grades.

The proportion of applicants selected for SUOS has always been small because the scheme has always been about identifying exceptional students. The numbers selected, however, have fallen in recent years. This follows the reform to A levels and the phased introduction of these changes over several cycles. Whilst all applicants with all types of qualification are considered for the scheme, the importance of existing results to the selection process (and the gradual reduction in the numbers presenting with AS level grades) has seen a reduction in the number of applicants selected for SUOS. With decisions now based primarily on Level 2 results, a number of academic schools (especially those in science and engineering, where there are subject specific Level 3 entry requirements) have had to withdraw from participation in the scheme. This is why the numbers receiving conditional unconditional offers has dropped.

In light of this changing qualifications landscape, the university has recently decided to close the Sussex Unconditional Offer Scheme for the 2020 UCAS cycle. This means that the current 2019 applicants will be the final cohort considered for the unconditional offer scheme.

Further information about the Sussex approach to unconditional offers can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/admissions/suos.

Definitions of offer types:

Unconditional offer

This is an offer made by a provider where they are satisfied that an individual has demonstrated sufficient attainment and potential to succeed on their chosen programme. Based on the offer status at the 30 June application deadline.

Conditional unconditional offer

An offer made by a provider which was originally conditional, but becomes unconditional if the applicant selects that offer as their firm (first) choice. By definition, conditional unconditional offers that are selected as a firm choice by the applicant become unconditional and are also included in the unconditional offers group (see above).

Offer with an unconditional component

All offers showing as having an element of unconditional offer-making, that is, unconditional offers plus conditional unconditional offers that have not been selected as firm (and hence remain conditional unconditional).

All offers

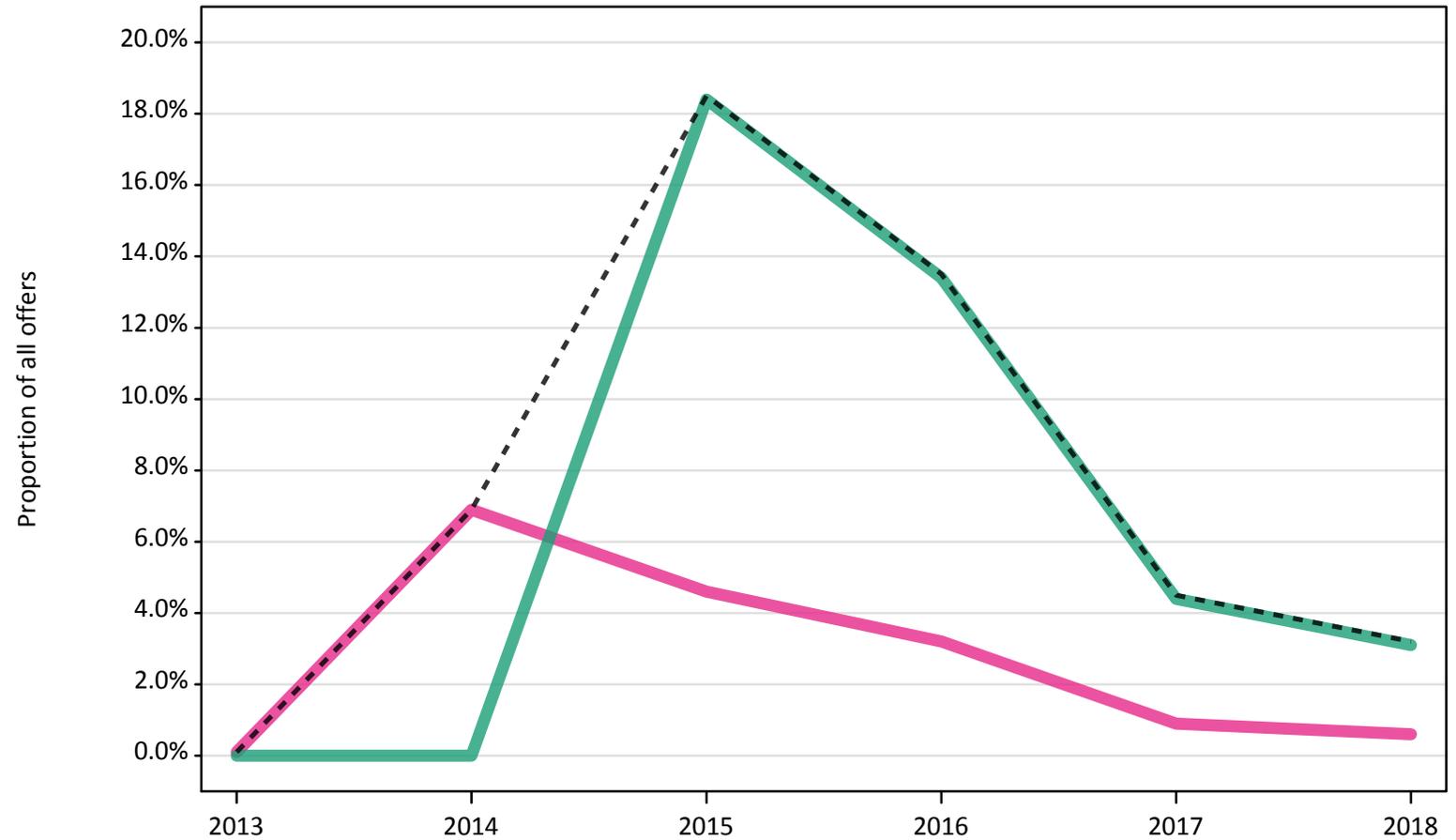
All offers made by the provider, subject to the coverage of this report. This includes conditional as well as unconditional offers to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

Technical note:

The coverage of this report is limited to offers made by 30 June, to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales. This is because these applicants are least likely to apply already having achieved a full set of qualifications typically required for undergraduate higher education.

A.1 Proportion of all offers that are unconditional, by cycle year

- Unconditional offers
- Conditional unconditional offers
- Offers with unconditional component



A.2 Unconditional offers by cycle year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	10	420	320	280	120	65
Conditional unconditional offers	0	0	1,295	1,185	565	345
Offers with unconditional component	10	420	1,310	1,195	575	360
All offers (conditional and unconditional)	7,825	6,145	7,065	8,875	12,750	11,175

A.3 Proportion of all offers that are unconditional, by cycle year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	0.1%	6.9%	4.6%	3.2%	0.9%	0.6%
Conditional unconditional offers	0.0%	0.0%	18.4%	13.4%	4.4%	3.1%
Offers with unconditional component	0.1%	6.9%	18.5%	13.5%	4.5%	3.2%

Note: Percentage values are not printed in the above table if the total rounded number of offers for that year is below 100.