

P80: unconditional offers

University of Portsmouth's perspective on unconditional offers:

Success at university is not determined by young peoples' ability to perform in highly pressured examinations. Well-designed unconditional offer schemes can help reduce the stress that young people feel at examination time, and enable universities to form a holistic judgement about young people's potential, commitment, and ambition.

Parents and schools do have legitimate concerns about unconditional offers, but these worries can be addressed. Any student who has an unconditional offer from the University of Portsmouth, and who achieves or exceeds their predicted grades, is given a scholarship of £1,000. The university found that in both 2017 and 2018, young people to whom we made unconditional offers were more likely to attain their predicted grades than applicants to whom we made conditional offers.

The university also notes that predicted A level grades can be unreliable. In each year since 2013, over half of English 18 year olds with conditional offers have missed their predicted grades by two or more grades.

In light of all of this, the University of Portsmouth believes that well-designed unconditional offer schemes have a role in university admissions practices, and that our scheme has worked well in supporting applicants.

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

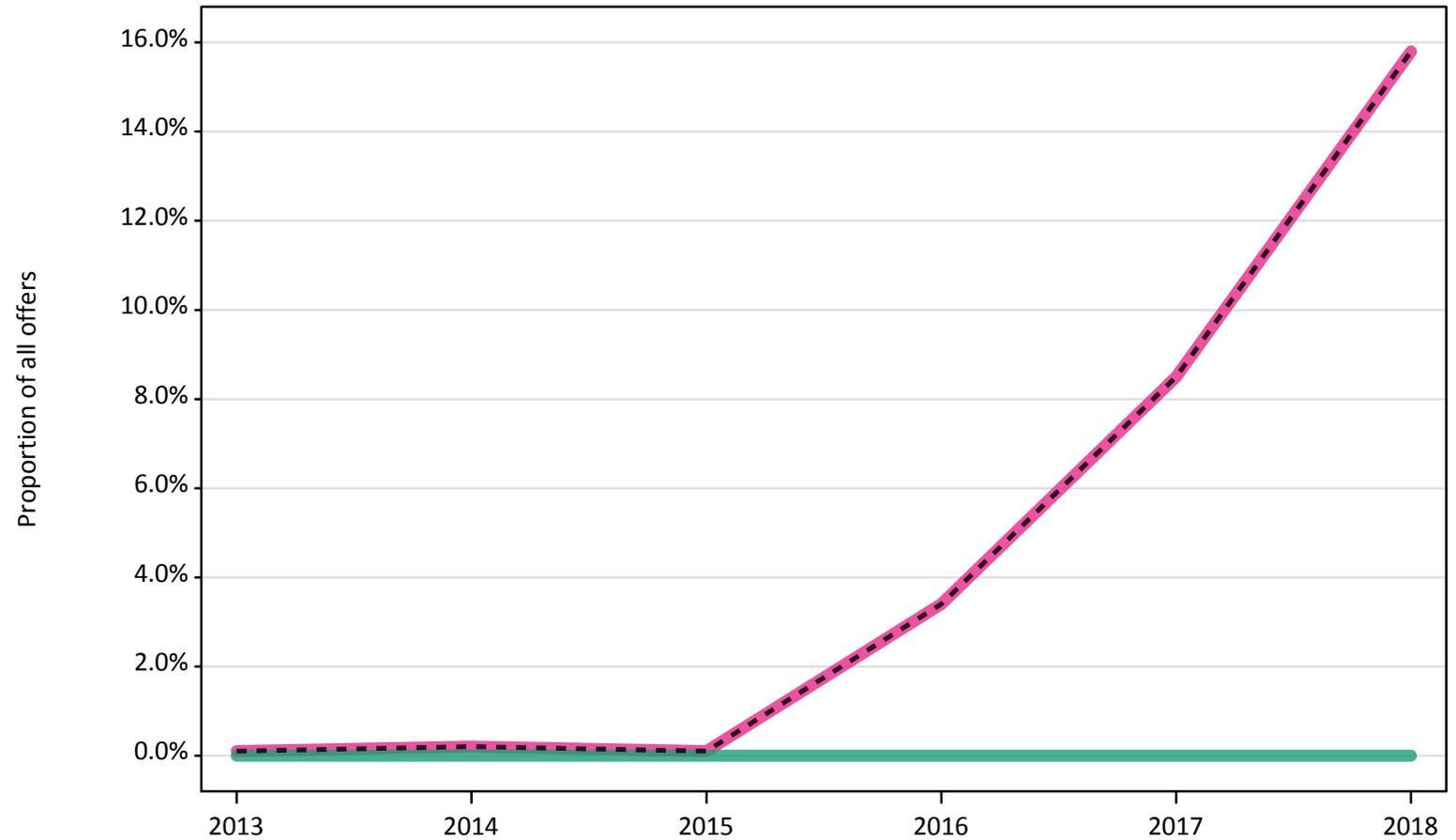
All offers made by the provider, subject to the coverage of this report. This includes conditional as well as unconditional offers to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

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	20	25	20	505	1,130	2,095
Conditional unconditional offers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offers with unconditional component	20	25	20	505	1,130	2,095
All offers (conditional and unconditional)	14,730	16,850	15,345	14,850	13,295	13,245

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	3.4%	8.5%	15.8%
Conditional unconditional offers	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Offers with unconditional component	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	3.4%	8.5%	15.8%

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