

## B20: unconditional offers

### **Bath Spa University's perspective on unconditional offers:**

*At Bath Spa University, we want the most talented people to join us and thrive. We feel that academic qualifications are only one way to show who applicants are and what they are capable of.*

*In the 2018/19 recruitment cycle, Bath Spa University began to trial a new way to recruit students, called '3, 2, 1, Go'. One of the elements includes offering applicants a 'guaranteed place'. This accounts for the sudden rise in 'offers with unconditional components' from less than 1% to 8%.*

*Initially, we assess applications in the usual way. Some are made conditional offers as appropriate, and others – in the fields of Art & Design and Music & Performance – are invited to provide a portfolio of work and/or attend an interview or audition, again in the usual way.*

*For those who are sent a conditional offer, we follow up and ask if they would like to be considered for a 'guaranteed place'. To benefit from this, applicants need to sign up for an interview with an academic expert who teaches on the course for which they have applied.*

*Through the interview process, academic staff explore the academic track record, personal motivation, talent, and potential of the applicants. At the same time, applicants can ask questions and present a holistic picture of their skills, ability, and passion for the subject.*

*Having completed the interview process, our expert teachers have a more rounded view of the applicant, and are in a better position to make an academic decision on whether the applicant will thrive at Bath Spa.*

*To accept a 'guaranteed place', if one is offered after the interview, the applicant is required to firmly accept the conditional offer. Bath Spa will then, in the knowledge that the applicant has been fully assessed, remove the academic conditions from the original offer.*

*We are aware of potential concerns that applicants with an unconditional offer may not be as motivated to fully achieve their potential in their final year at school or college. So, we have also introduced financial scholarships to encourage applicants to keep working hard. The first is a scholarship of £750 paid to students if they achieve at A level grades of AAB, or equivalent in other qualifications, and the second is a scholarship of £750 paid to students who do better than the grades predicted by their schools or colleges.*

*These scholarships will, we feel, incentivise applicants to keep pushing themselves and achieve the best learning outcomes they can, to arrive at university in the best possible position to succeed.*

## 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

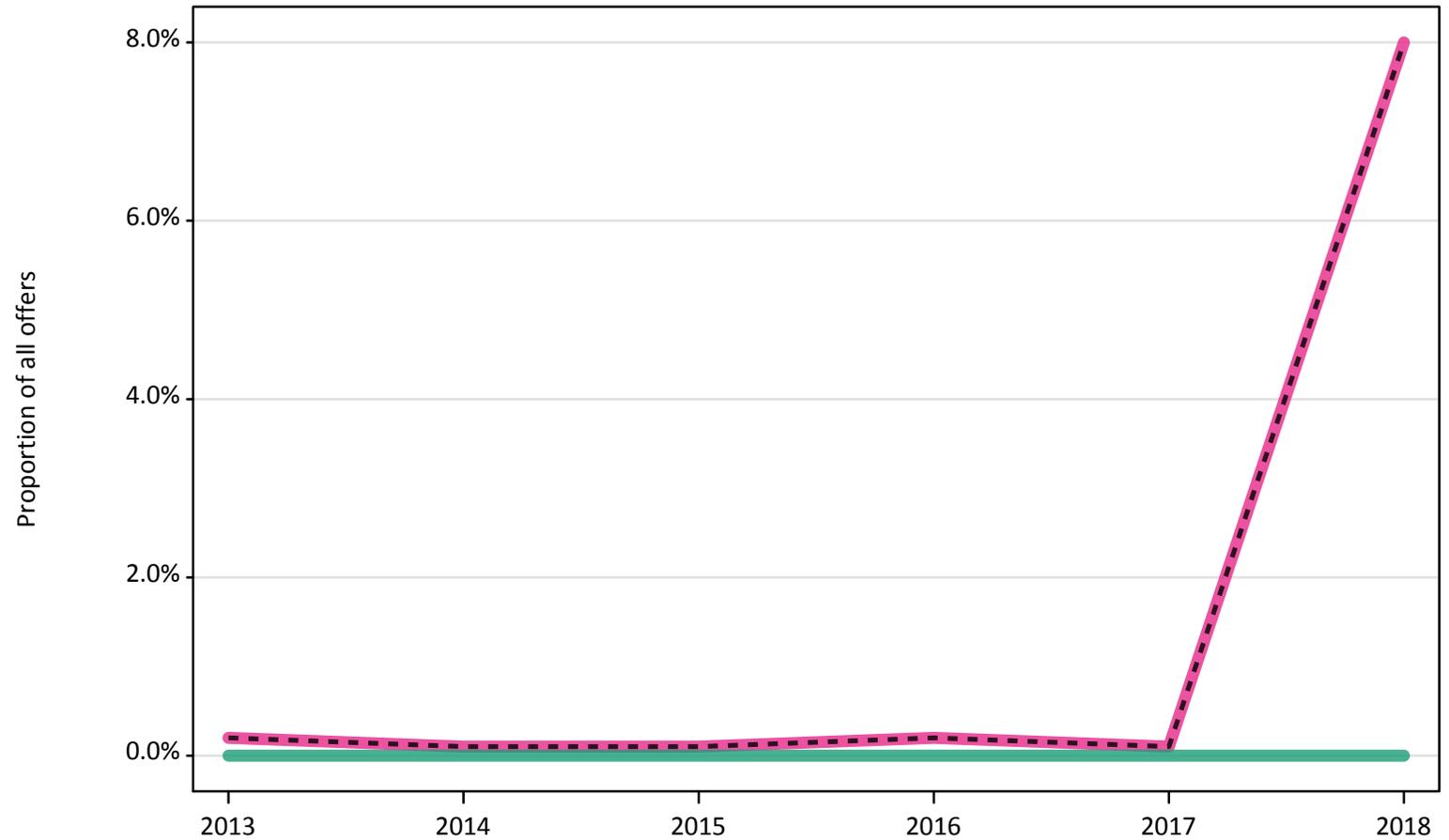
All offers made by the provider, subject to the coverage of this report. This includes conditional as well as unconditional offers to 18-year-old main scheme applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

**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	10	10	15	5	465
Conditional unconditional offers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offers with unconditional component	10	10	10	15	5	465
All offers (conditional and unconditional)	5,265	6,080	7,215	7,065	6,175	5,820

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unconditional offers	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	8.0%
Conditional unconditional offers	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Offers with unconditional component	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	8.0%

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