

UCAS END OF CYCLE REPORT 2019

CHAPTER 7: GEOGRAPHY

Entry rate of English 18 year olds and number of students accepted from outside the EU both increase significantly

- > Record entry rates for English and Welsh 18 year olds: 35% and 29.8% respectively.
- > Northern Ireland's 35.7% entry rate ties record from 2009 and 2013.
- > An all-time high of 44.5% of 18 year olds from London accepted into higher education.
- > 464,335 UK students accepted – up 1.1% on last year.
- > Accepted Chinese students increase by 22%, resulting in non-EU acceptances reaching a record of 45,140.



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UK students placed

35% of all 18 year olds from England, and 29.8% from Wales, were accepted through UCAS to start an undergraduate course in 2019. These are both new highs, with the rate for England growing by 1.3 percentage points, and Wales by 0.2 percentage points. Scotland¹ saw a small decrease in the 18 year old entry rate (of 0.2 percentage points) to 26.5%, following four years of increases. While not a new record (similar rates were recorded in 2009 and 2013), Northern Ireland has the highest proportion of 18 year olds starting an undergraduate course of the four countries of the UK – 35.7%, increasing by 0.5 percentage points on last year. Overall, the entry rate for all UK 18 year olds is 34.1%, and a new record.

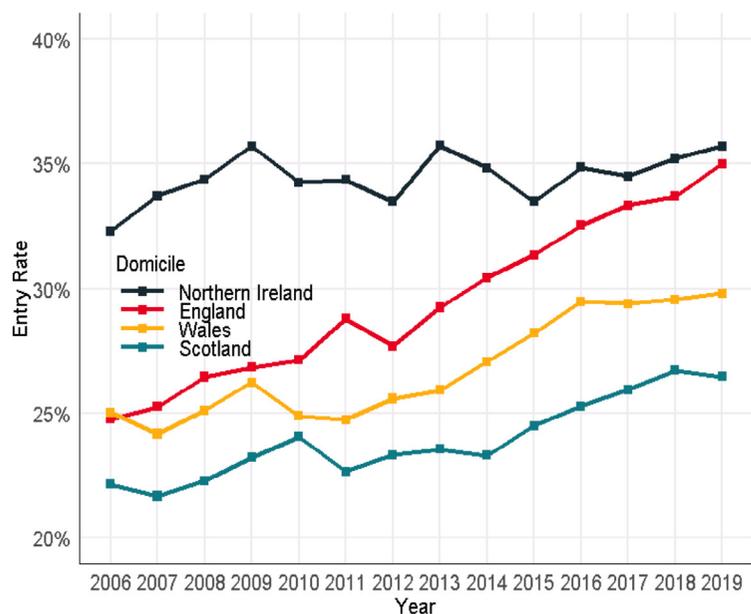


FIGURE 1: 18 year old entry rates for each country of the UK

Taking account of all ages, 464,335 students from the UK were accepted – a 1.1% year-on-year increase. This is despite there being 1.9% fewer 18 year olds (the largest single demographic group for admissions) in the UK's total population.

35%

RECORD ENTRY RATE OF 18 YEAR OLDS FROM ENGLAND.

¹ In Scotland, there is a substantial proportion of higher education that is not included in UCAS' figures. This is accounted for mostly by full-time higher education provided in further education colleges. These students represent around one third of young full-time undergraduate study in Scotland – this proportion varies by geography and background within Scotland. Accordingly, these figures on applications and application rates in Scotland reflect only those applying for full-time undergraduate study through UCAS. Within the next two years, we anticipate we will be able to extend our reporting on Scottish students by working with the Scottish Government, integrating additional datasets.

44.5%

LONDON HAS THE HIGHEST ENTRY RATE FOR ANY REGION OF THE UK, UP 2.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS ON 2018

English regions

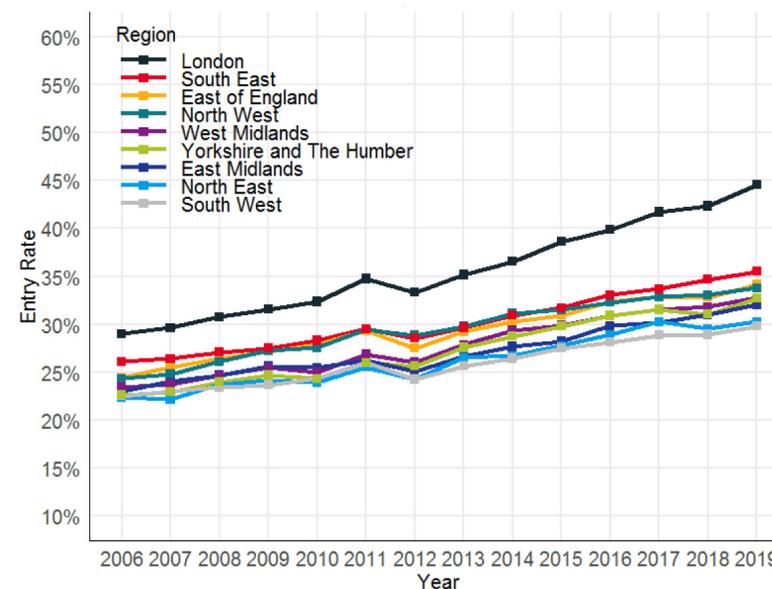


FIGURE 2: 18 year old entry rates for each region of England

Each region of England saw increases in the entry rate of 18 year olds. London continues to have the highest proportion of young people starting an undergraduate course, and this proportion has increased each year since 2013. In 2019, it increased by a further 2.2 percentage points to reach a record 44.5%. This year's increase has expanded the gap in entry rates between London and other regions after it narrowed slightly in 2018.

While the South West has the lowest entry rate as in previous years, it has increased by 0.9 percentage points to reach 29.8%, a new record for the region.

After falling entry rates in 2018, both the East of England and Yorkshire and The Humber have increased to establish new records for each region (34.2% and 32.7% respectively). The North East region's entry rate has increased to 30.2%, after falling in 2018, it now equals 2017's record.

International students

The number of students accepted from outside the EU grew by 6.9%, to a record 45,140. The largest contributor to this rise was China, with the number of applicants accepted from there rising to a new high of 12,415 – an increase of 2,235 students (+22%). Hong Kong saw a decrease in acceptances of 4.9% to 3,590, while the number from India increased by 14.9% to 2,770 accepted applicants – a new record for the country.



22%

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED FROM CHINA

According to Project Atlas⁴, in 2018 the UK was second (behind the USA) in hosting the most international undergraduate students. Australia and Canada have also increased their numbers of international students in recent years.

EU acceptances are broadly similar to last year – 31,765 (falling by 0.3%). Since the UK's referendum on EU membership in 2016 (when 31,350 students were accepted), the number of EU students has seen small fluctuations between a low of 30,700 (2017) and a high of 31,855 (in 2018). Within the current consistency in overall EU acceptance numbers, there is variation between countries. The largest country, France, has seen a year-on-year increase of 0.8%, to reach 3,000 acceptances. Germany decreased by 12.2% to 1,755, and Lithuania fell by 14.5% to 1,235, following four years of increases.

15%

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED FROM INDIA

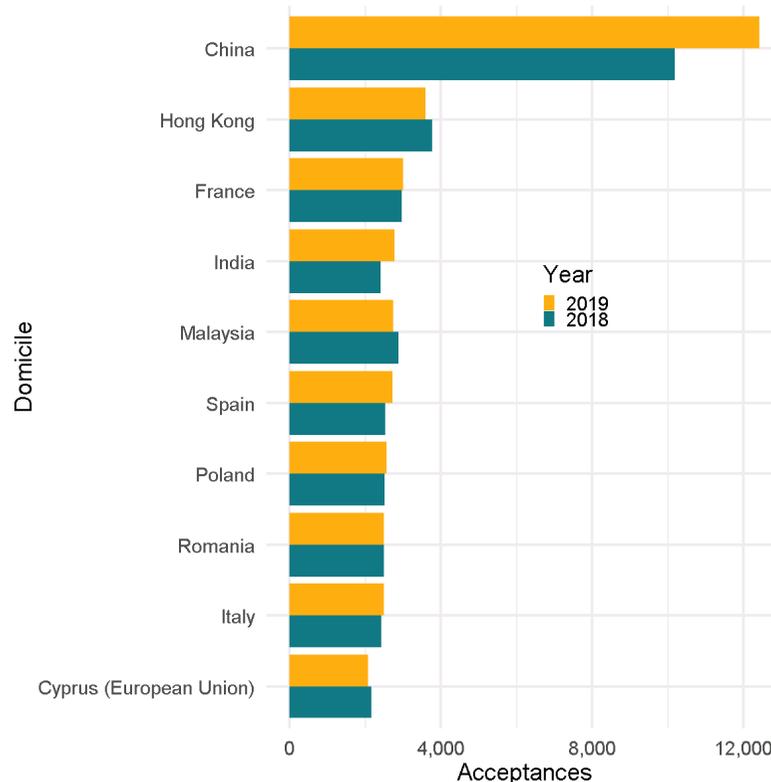


FIGURE 2: Top ten international countries based on 2019 acceptances

Acceptances to universities and colleges in each country

Universities and colleges in England accepted a total of 458,570 students, 2.1% more than last year, and a new record. Students from England account for 82.9% of those accepted, with 8.5% from outside the EU, 5.7% from other EU countries, and 2.8% from the rest of the UK. All these proportions are similar to recent years.

Of the 47,535 (-2.8% on 2018) people studying at Scottish universities and colleges, 71.7% are Scottish domiciled students, 11.1% are from other UK countries, 8.4% are other EU students, and 8.8% are international students from outside the EU. The fall in overall acceptances at Scottish universities and colleges comes following four years of increases.

In Northern Ireland, local students account for 90.4% of the total 10,680 acceptances (up 4.6% since 2018). There were 350 students accepted from the rest of the UK (3.3% of the total), and 415 from other EU countries (3.9%).

² www.ucas.com/corporate/news-and-key-documents/news/almost-four-ten-young-people-england-apply-university-new-record

³ www.iie.org/en/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Open-Doors-2019-Media-Information

⁴ www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Project-Atlas/Explore-Data/Infographics/Current-Infographics

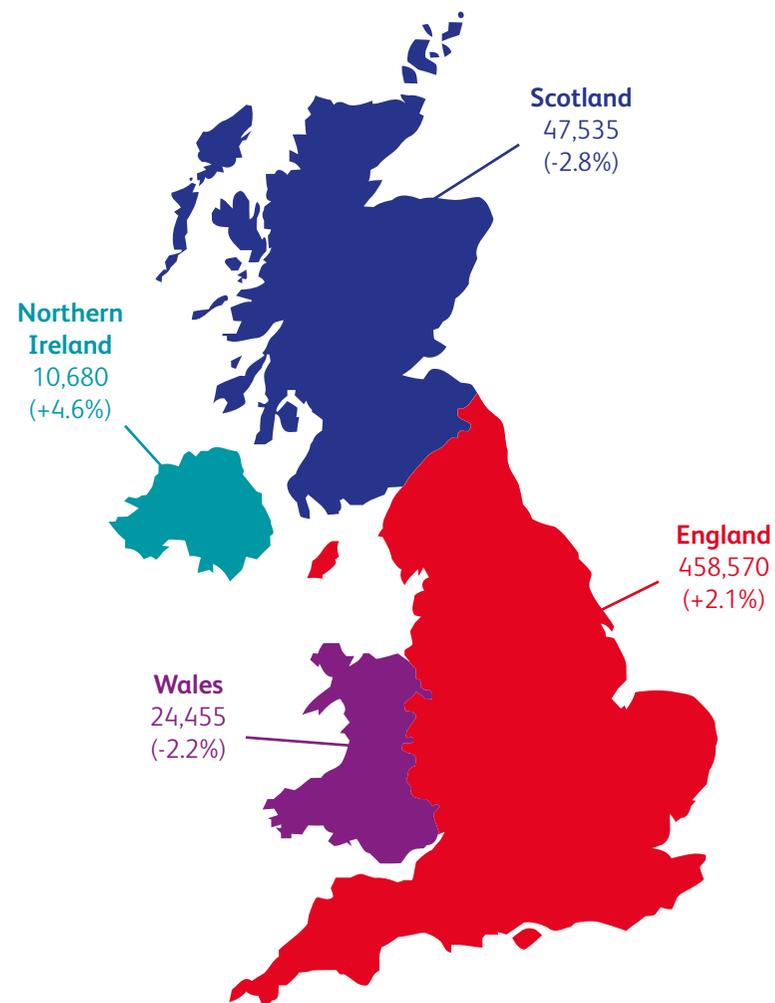


Explore all the end of cycle data in our interactive dashboard on ucas.com⁵

Definitions of terms used in this report are given in the glossary⁶.

Non-EU students totalled 255, representing 2.4% of students accepted to universities and colleges in Northern Ireland.

Welsh universities and colleges accepted 24,455 students (down 2.2%), and welcomed the highest proportion of students from other UK countries, with students from England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland representing 41.2% of acceptances. Welsh students represent 47.8% of acceptances to universities and colleges in their home country. International students accounted for a total of 11% of acceptances, with 4.3% from the EU, and 6.7% from outside the EU.



⁵ <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-data-resources-2019>

⁶ www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports/2019-end-cycle-report

FIGURE 4: Total acceptances into universities and colleges in each UK country



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UCAS, a company limited by guarantee, is registered in England and Wales.
Registered number: 2839815.

Registered charity number:
1024741 (England and Wales) and SC038598 (Scotland)

Publication reference: MD-5923

Published by: UCAS, Rosehill, New Barn Lane, Cheltenham, GL52 3LZ.