

# UCAS END OF CYCLE REPORT 2019

## CHAPTER 2: NURSING – SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS AND ACCEPTANCES

- > Applicants rise by 6.7% to 54,225.
- > A new record for acceptances – 30,390.
- > 10% increases in applicants aged 18, 19, and 35+.
- > Applicants from outside the EU rise by almost a third.
- > Applicants increase from all domiciles.

# 54,225

APPLICANTS, ENDING A DECLINE THAT BEGAN IN 2017.

## Overall applicants and acceptance

A record high of 30,390 people were accepted onto nursing courses in the UK in 2019.

The number of applicants has risen by 6.7%, to 54,225, ending a decline that began in 2017, driven by a decrease in the number of English applicants. Financial support for nursing students in England was reformed in August 2017, replacing bursaries with access to loans for new nursing, midwifery, and allied health students.

2019's applicant figures represent a bounce back, after initial declines in applicants following these funding changes. The rise in applicants also comes after recent recruitment campaigns by the NHS<sup>3</sup>, and growth in younger applicants, as more people are considering a career in nursing, particularly at age 18.

Explore all the end of cycle data in our interactive dashboard on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)<sup>1</sup>. Definitions of terms used in this report are available in the [glossary](#)<sup>2</sup>.

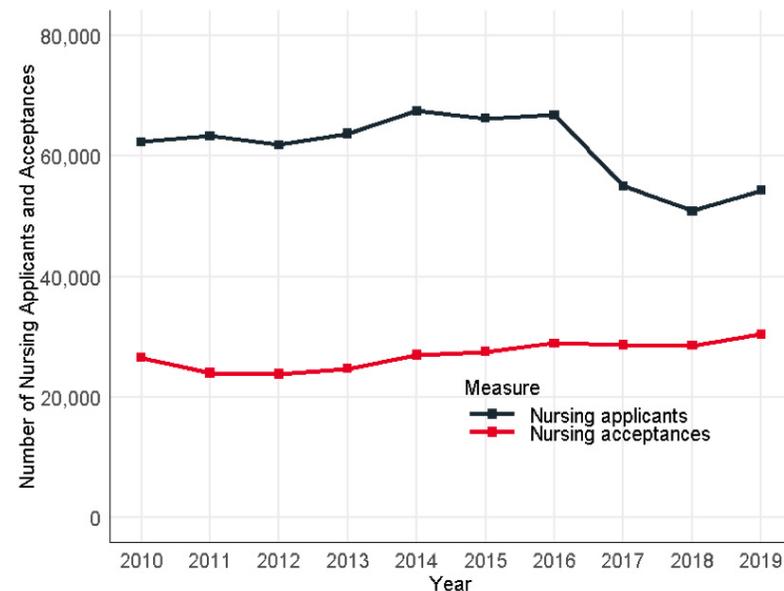


FIGURE 1: Applicants and acceptances to nursing courses

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-data-resources-2019>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports/2019-end-cycle-report>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/02/young-male-nursing-applicants-surge-after-we-are-the-nhs-recruitment-campaign/>

The insights presented here are based on applications to courses with the JACS 3.0 subject code B7 nursing. UCAS started collecting comparable data on nursing applications and acceptances in 2010. A nursing applicant is someone who has applied for at least one B7 course. .

# 10% INCREASE IN APPLICANTS AGED 18

## Age

### Applicants

The rise in applicants is driven by 10% increases in those aged 18, 19, and 35 or over. This suggests a change in demand following two years of falling applicant numbers after the changes in financial support in England.

There was a small increase of 0.2% in applicants aged 21 to 24, to reach 8,570, representing the first increase in five years.

### Acceptances

Students aged 18 were the single largest age group of acceptances (6,880), accounting for 22.6% of acceptances.

More people than ever aged 35 and over (5,780) were accepted onto nursing courses, a rise of 12.9% from 2018. This group accounted for 19% of all acceptances and is the second largest age grouping accepted onto nursing courses.

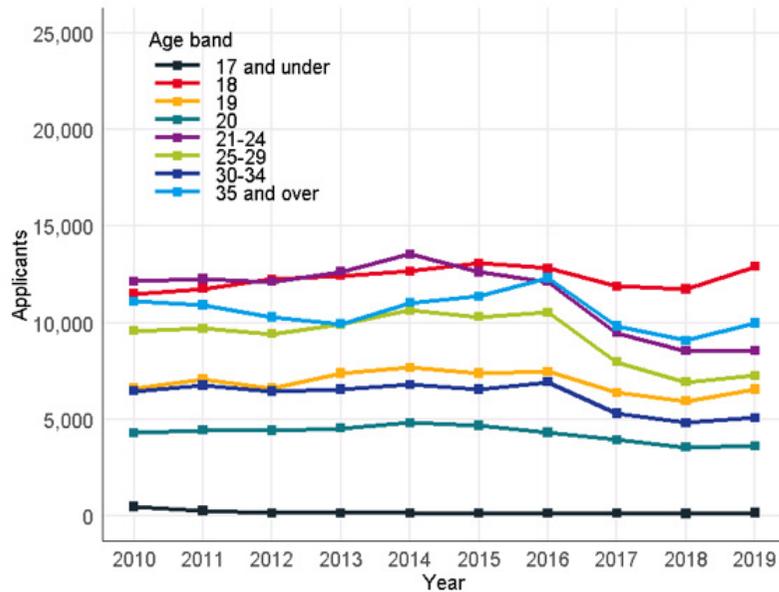


FIGURE 2: Nursing applicants by age group

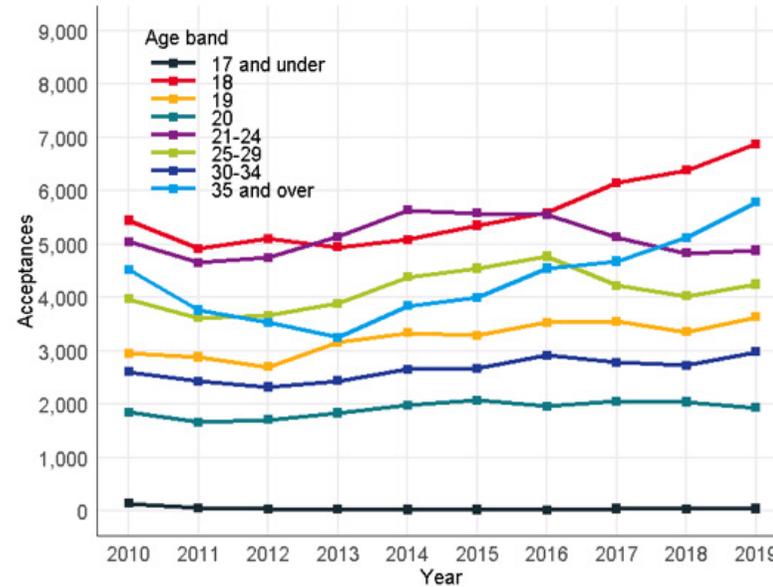


FIGURE 3: Nursing acceptances by age group



## Provider tariff group

All provider tariff groups saw an increase in main scheme applications in 2019 after several years of decreases, with medium tariff providers seeing the largest increase on 2018, up 6.3% (3,395).

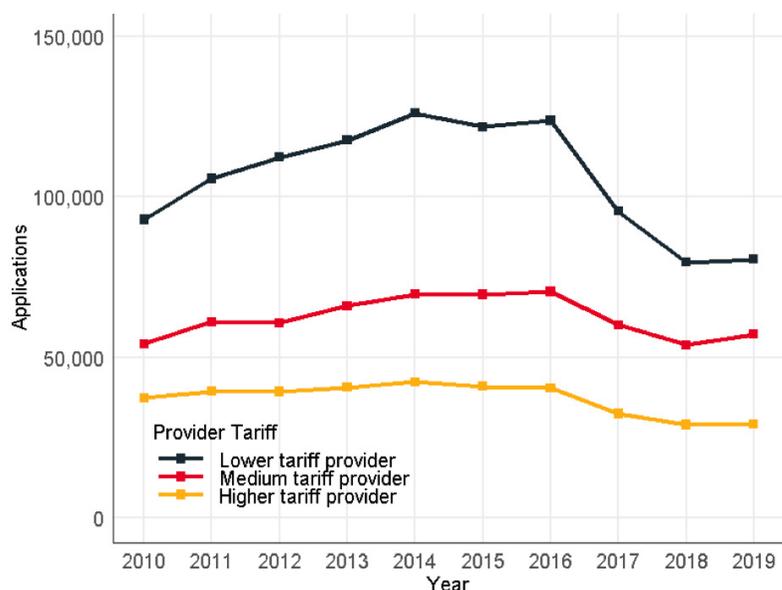


FIGURE 4: Main scheme nursing applications by provider tariff group

## Geography

### Applicants and acceptances

The largest number of applicants (39,665) and acceptances (23,060) in 2019 were from England. This means more than two thirds of people accepted onto nursing courses in the UK were from England. This was a record high, and a 6% increase on 2018.

Applicants increased from **all** other domiciles:

- > Scotland – 6,380 applicants, up 9.5% and a new record.
- > Wales – 3,290 applicants, up 6%
- > Northern Ireland – 2,620 applicants, up 9.2%
- > EU – 1,220 applicants, up 0.4%
- > Not EU – 1,050 applicants, up 32.9% and a new record.

The countries driving growth in applicants from outside the EU are Nigeria (100 more applicants than 2018), Ghana and India (30 more applicants each), and Zimbabwe (25 more applicants).

The number of acceptances also increased from every domicile, with the exception of the EU which remained at 410 people – no change from 2018.

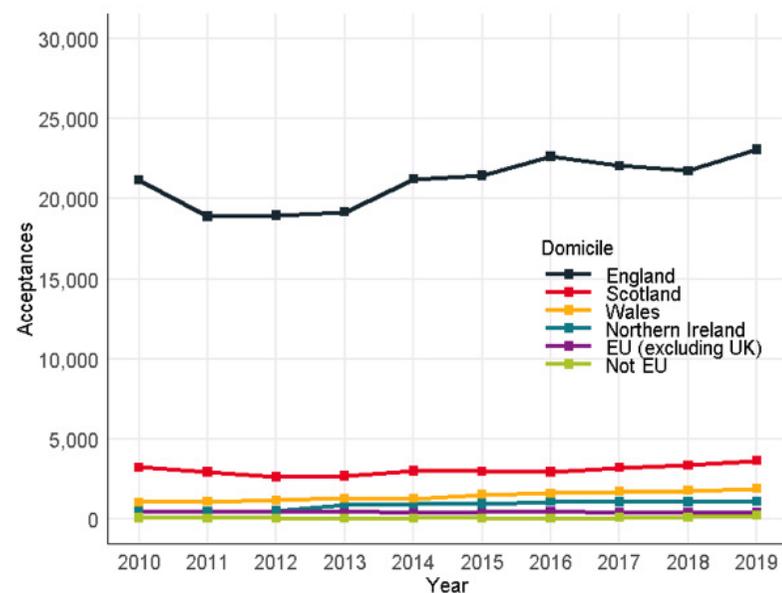


FIGURE 5: Nursing acceptances by applicant domicile

## Universities and colleges

Higher education providers in all four UK countries accepted record numbers of students.

COUNTRY	ACCEPTANCES (2019)	INCREASE FROM 2018
England	23,630	6.4%
Northern Ireland	910	6.4%
Scotland	4,040	8.5%
Wales	1,815	3.1%

## Gender

91.1% of people accepted onto nursing courses in 2019 were women (27,695 people), and 8.9% men (2,700 people). Nursing continues to be the subject with the largest gender imbalance<sup>4</sup>.

The number of men applying for nursing grew by 8.5% to 5,370, with the number of acceptances also growing since 2018 – by 7.1%, to 2,700.

Women's applicant and acceptance numbers also increased from 2018, with 3,000 more applying (up 6.5%, to 48,855), and a record high of 27,695 women accepted onto nursing courses (a rise of 6.4% on last year).

# 8.5%

**GROWTH IN MEN  
APPLYING FOR NURSING**



<sup>4</sup>Of subjects with more than 800 accepted applicants.



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