

Annex A: Selective provider definition

The table below lists the fifteen 'selective providers' referred to in the What happened to the COVID cohort? report. While 'higher tariff' providers are also referenced in the report, the 'selective providers' group is used to assess entry (and changes in entry) of disadvantaged applicants and other applicants to a smaller subset of providers with some of the highest achievement on entry.

These providers had the top average UCAS tariff points for UK domiciled full time first year entrants to undergraduate courses in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 based on the 'Widening participation in higher education' statistics published on the Explore education statistics site.¹

In 2020 this group of providers accounted for around 12% of all acceptances, and 13% of UK 18 year old acceptances. In 2019, these figures were 11% and 12% respectively.

Institution code and provider name
C05 University of Cambridge
O33 University of Oxford
I50 Imperial College London
S36 University of St Andrews
L72 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
D86 Durham University
G28 University of Glasgow
U80 UCL (University College London)
E56 The University of Edinburgh
S78 University of Strathclyde
B16 University of Bath
C80 Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London
W20 University of Warwick
A20 University of Aberdeen
B78 University of Bristol

The methodology document² associated with the publication notes that:

¹ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/widening-participation-in-higher-education>

² <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/methodology/widening-participation-in-higher-education-methodology>

‘The measure is not intended to be used to rank providers based on their selectivity or to judge their quality. In particular, some providers, such as those specialising in single subjects such as music and drama, are less likely to rely on UCAS tariff points for entry than more general providers. Judging selectivity based on UCAS tariff points alone is therefore likely to give a false impression.’

In line with this, the use of the term ‘selective providers’ in the [What happened to the COVID cohort?](#) report is used to reference the generally higher mean tariff on entry in among this provider group (in a similar manner to the higher/ medium/ lower tariff banding) – as opposed to providing a definitive ranking of providers.