

# READING THE TRENDS: EQUAL CONSIDERATION AND BEYOND

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# EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE

Data published today

# APPLICANTS AT THE EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE

+3.1%

## TOTAL APPLICANTS

619,360 applicants

+18,700 vs 2025

Usually around  
80% of the End of  
Cycle applicants

+4.8%

## UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

338,940 applicants

+15,580 vs 2025

Usually over 95% of  
the End of Cycle  
applicants

+5.1%

## INTERNATIONAL

124,830 applicants

+6,030 vs 2025

Usually over 75% of  
the End of Cycle  
applicants

-6.1%

## UK 21 AND OVER

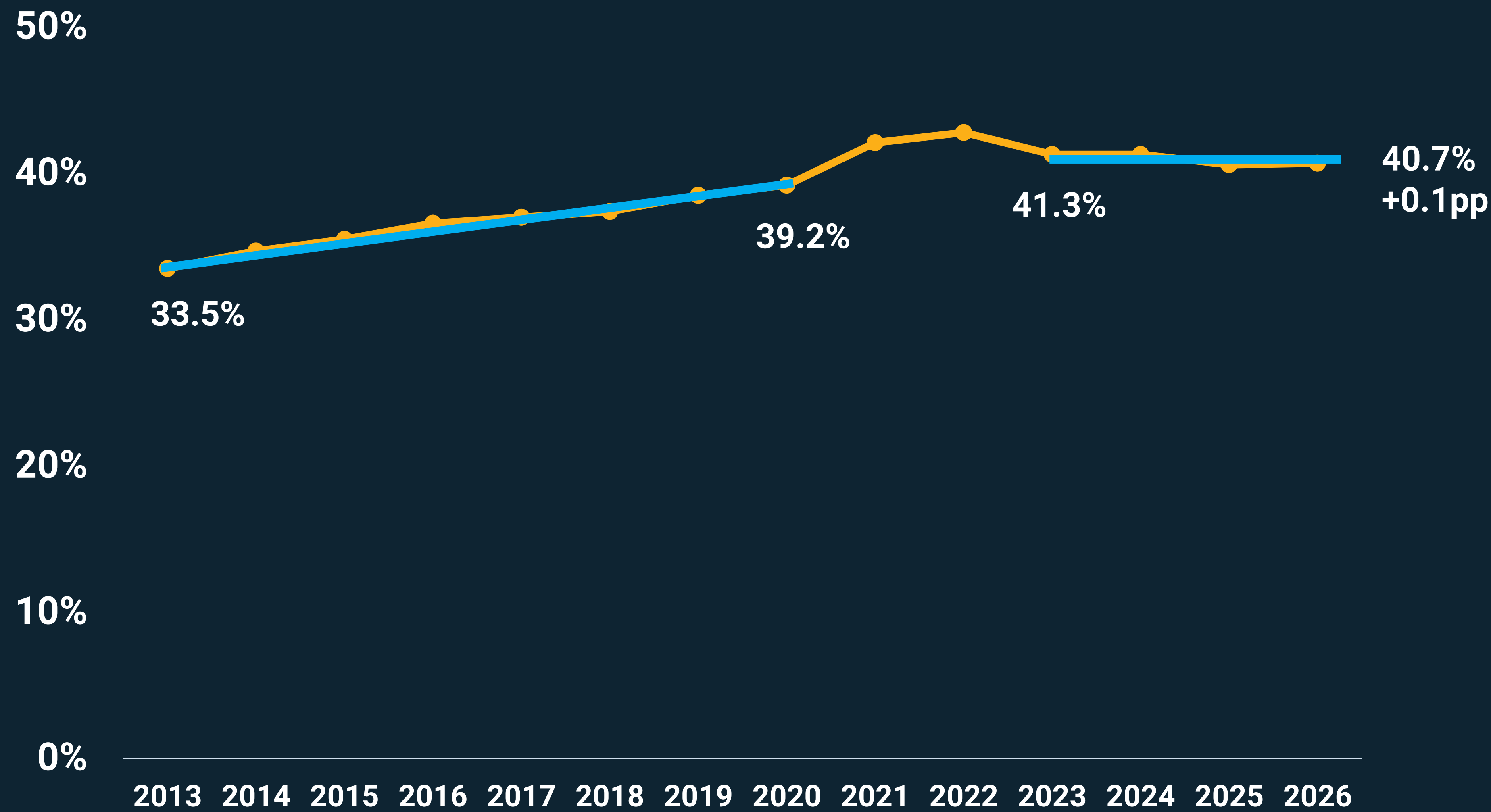
57,570 applicants

-3,710 vs 2025

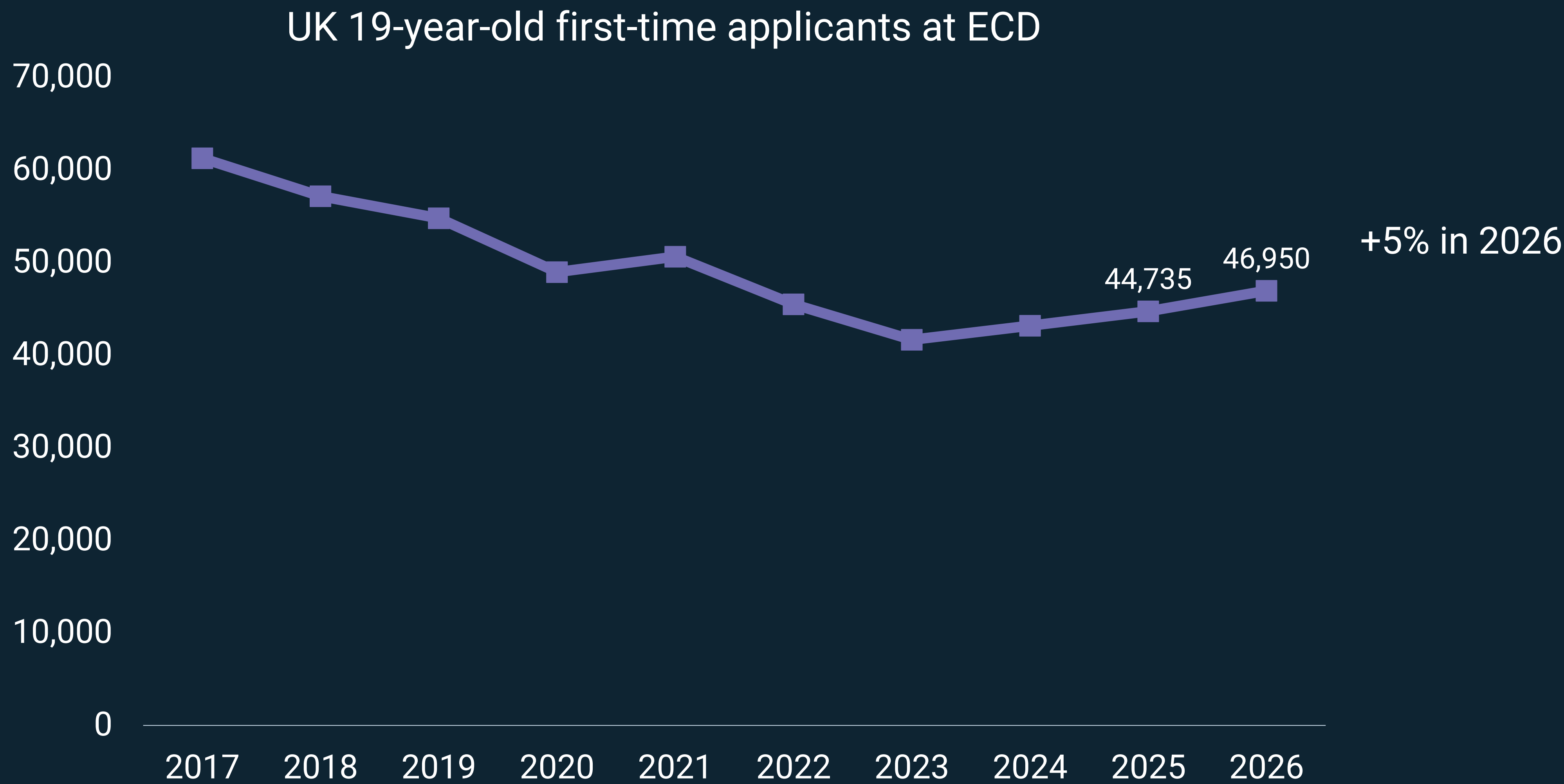
Usually less than  
half of the End of  
Cycle applicants

# DEMAND FROM UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

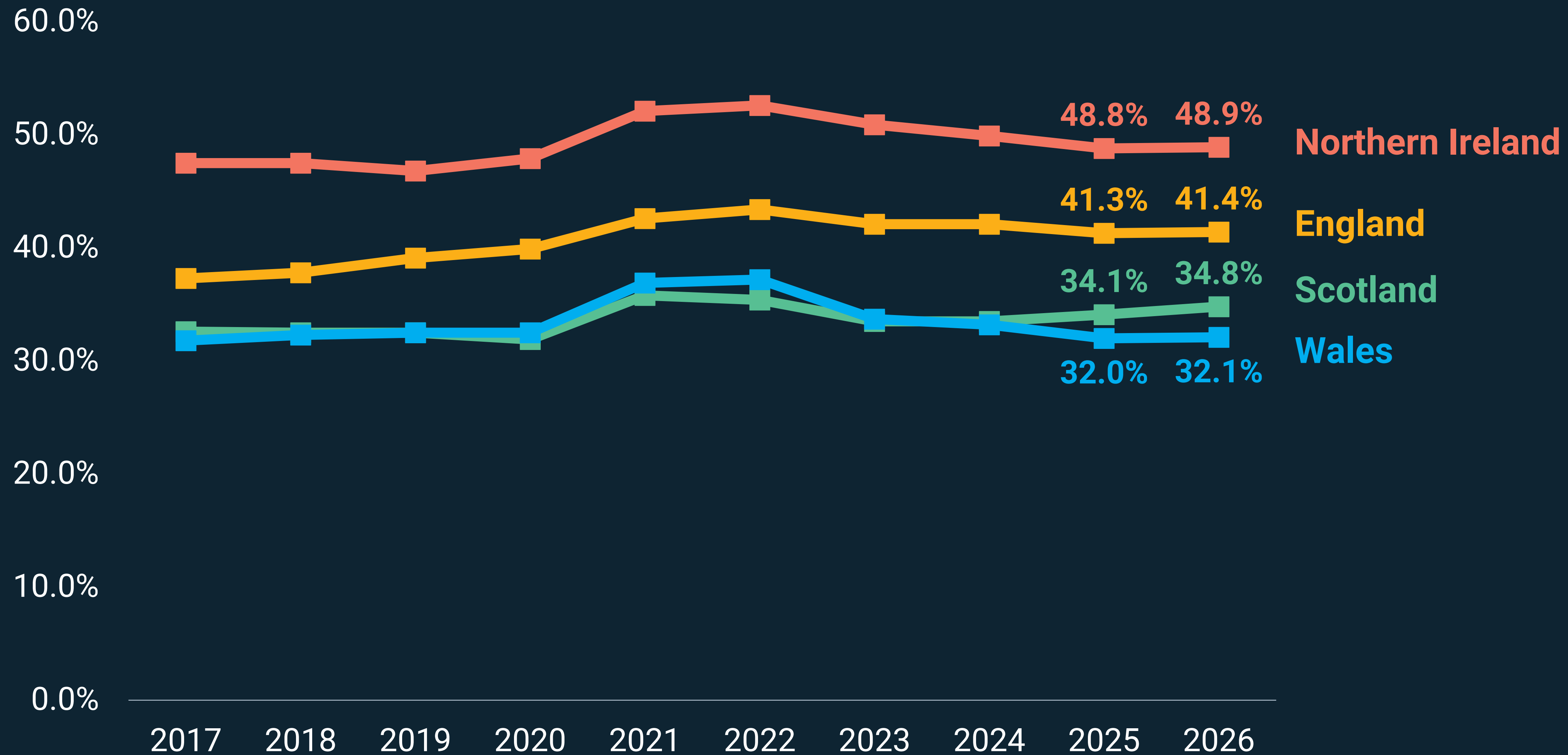
# PROPORTION OF UK 18 APPLIED BY ECD



# 19 YEAR OLDS APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME



# 18-YEAR-OLD APPLICATION RATES ACROSS THE UK



# THE FOUR NATIONS



# NORTHERN IRELAND

**Applicants from Northern Ireland** are up **5.8%** to 17,860, +980

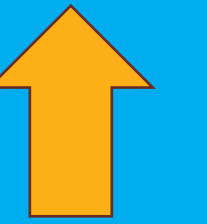


Mostly due to the increase from 18-year-olds, driven by population increase

**Providers in Northern Ireland** have received **10.0% more** applications



Applications from Northern Ireland to providers in Northern Ireland are up **7.6%**



**From the EU** to providers in Northern Ireland up **25.2%**



# SCOTLAND

**Applicants from Scotland are up 1.7% to 42,230, +710**



Partially due to 18-year-olds being more likely to apply and partially the increase in the population.

**Providers in Scotland have received 2.4% more applications**



**Applications from Scotland to providers in Scotland are up 3.2%**



**International applications to Scotland are up 1.4% and applications from the rest of the UK are up 0.8%**

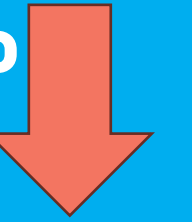


**Applicants from Wales are up 2.5% to 19,290, +470**



5.4% increase in 18-year-old applicants largely reflecting the population increase.

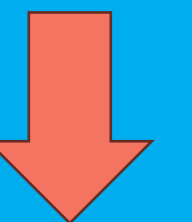
**Providers in Wales have received 0.7% fewer applications**



**Applications from Wales to providers in Wales are up 3.0%**



**International (not EU) applications to Wales are down 11.7% and applications from England are down 0.9%**



# ENGLAND

Applicants **from England** are up 2.6% to 415,160, +10,510



4.8% increase in 18-year-old applicants largely reflecting the population increase.

**Providers in England** have received 3.9% more applications



Applications from England to providers in England are up 3.1%

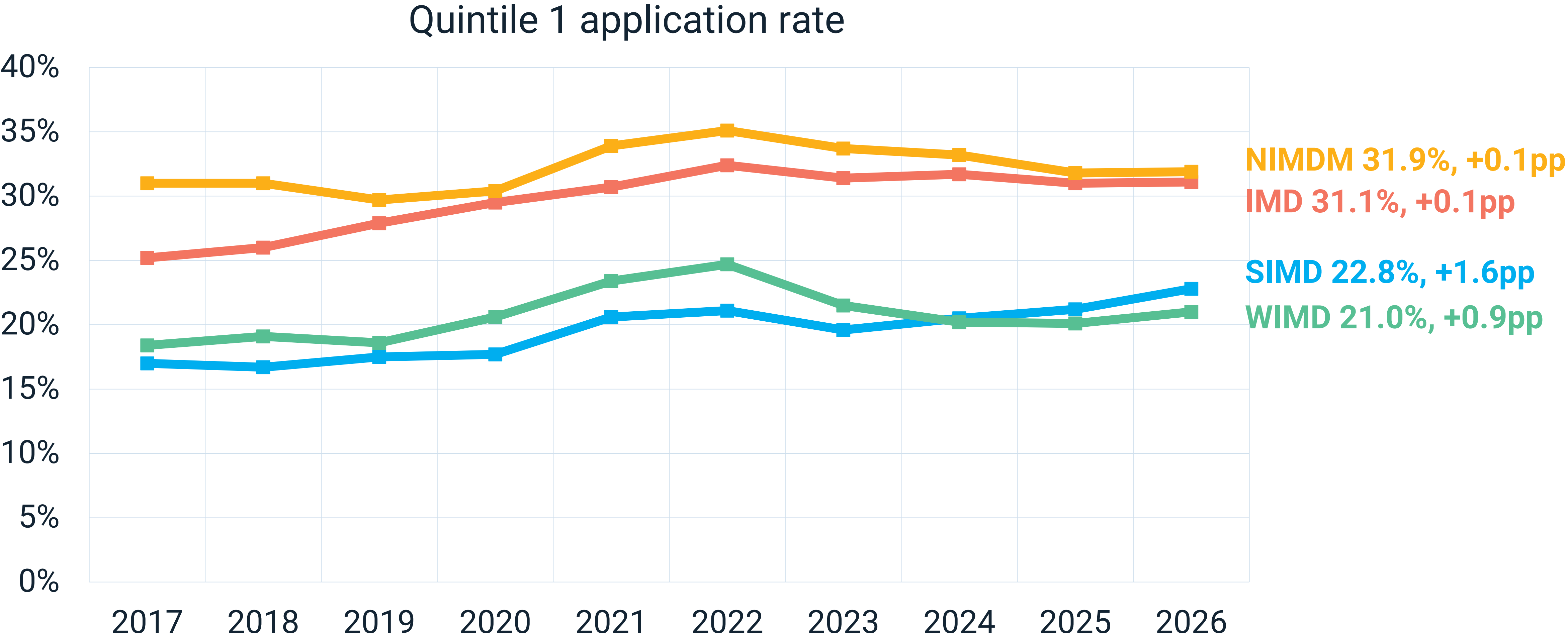


**International (not EU)** applications to England are up 7.6% and applications **from the rest of the UK** are up 3.2%



# DEMAND BY IMD ACROSS THE UK

# QUINTILE 1 APPLICATION RATES ACROSS THE UK



# UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES

Replacing tariff group of provider for 2026 cycle reporting

# UPDATED UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES

Smaller

Specialist

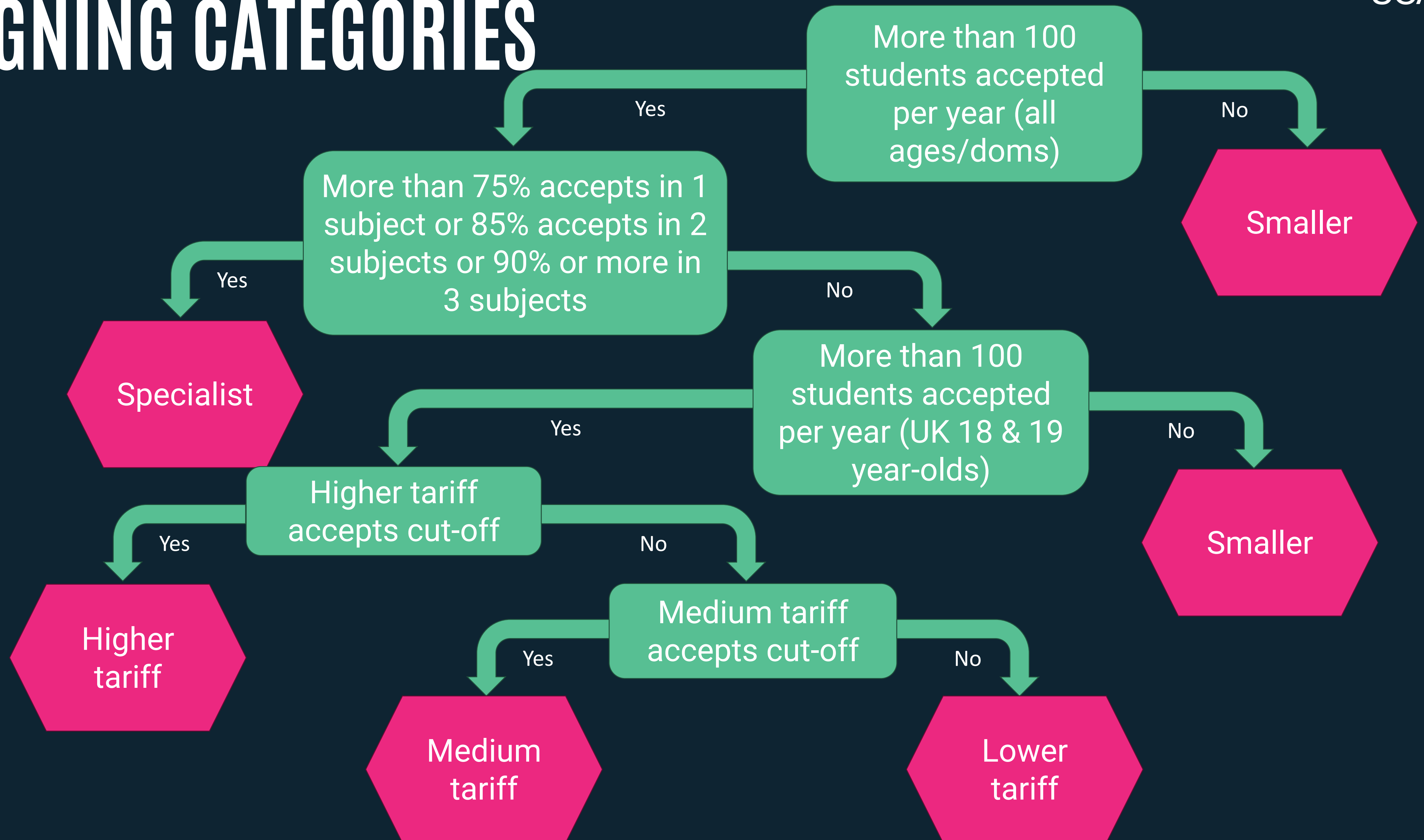
Lower tariff

Medium  
tariff

Higher tariff

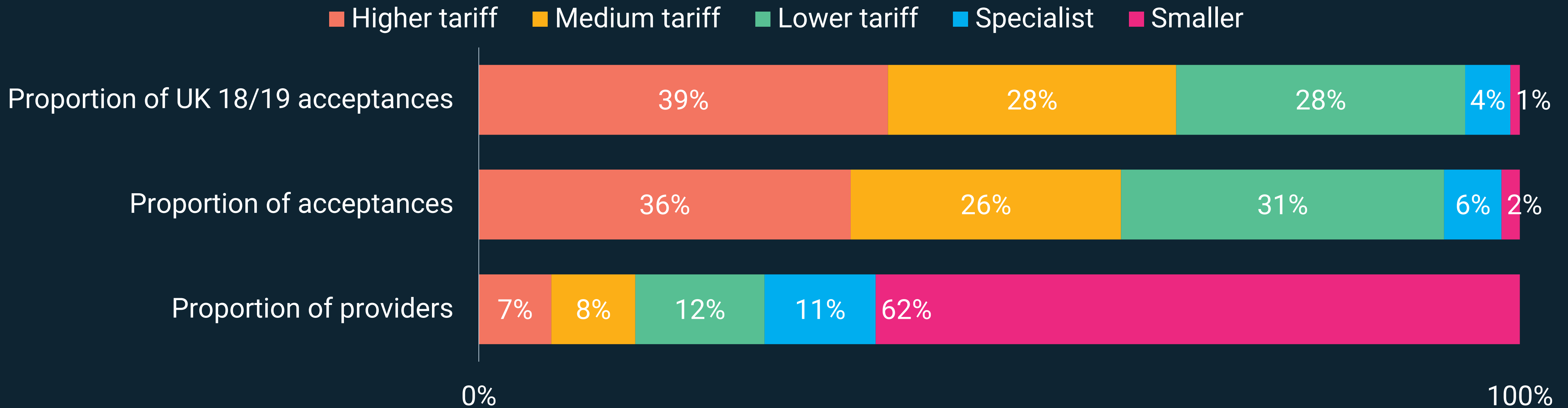


# ASSIGNING CATEGORIES

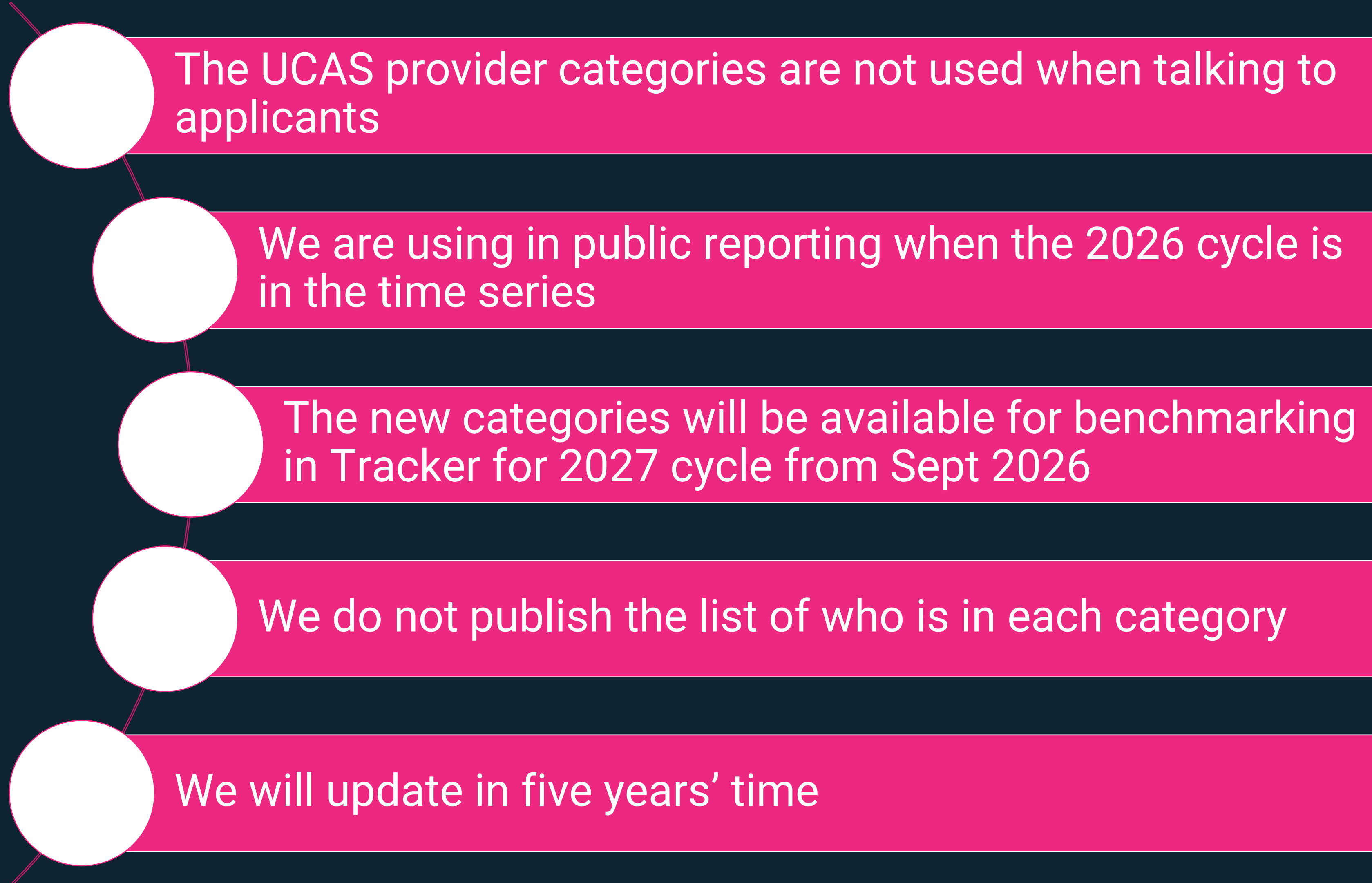


# WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE NEW CATEGORIES?

UCAS

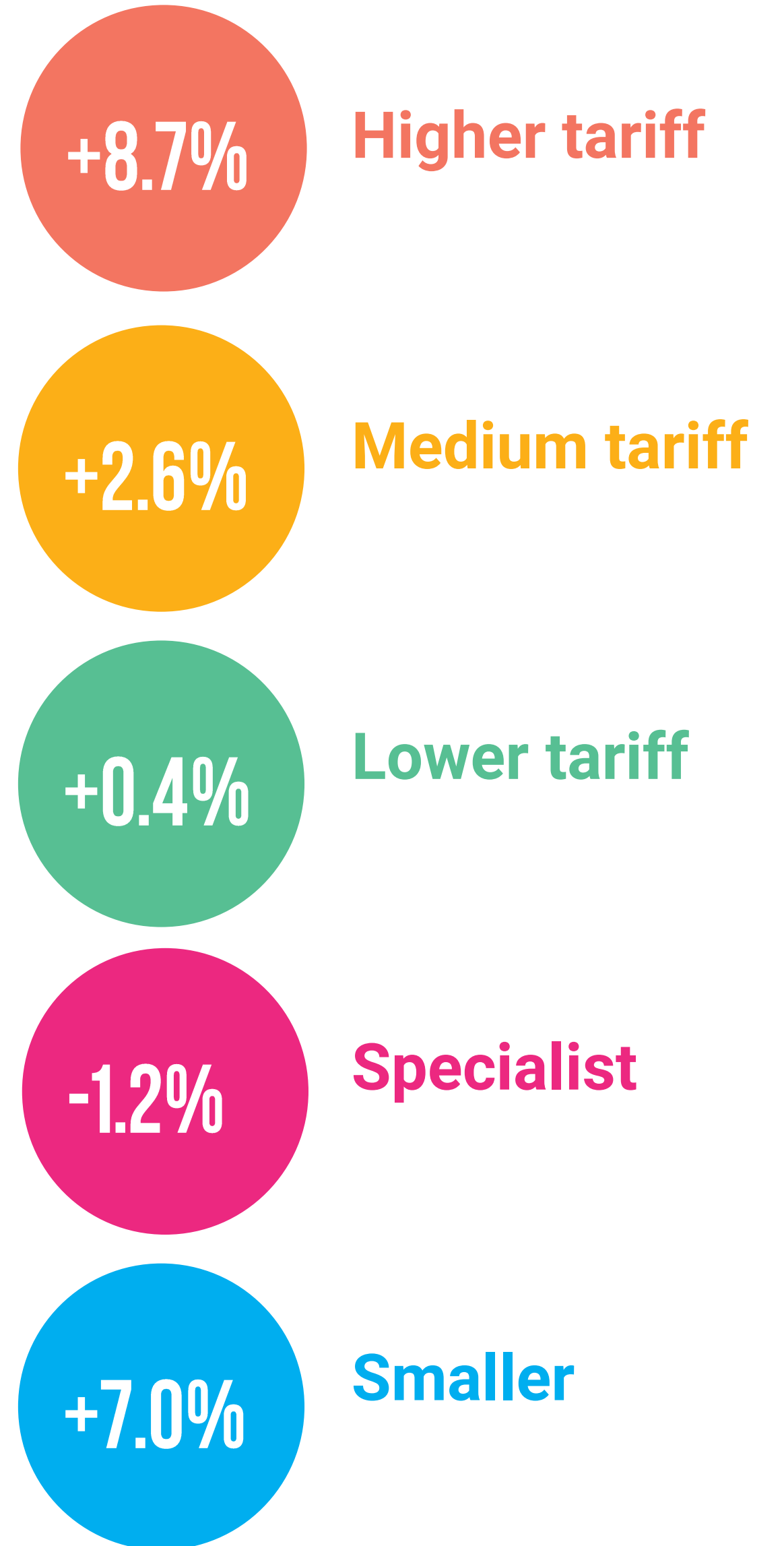
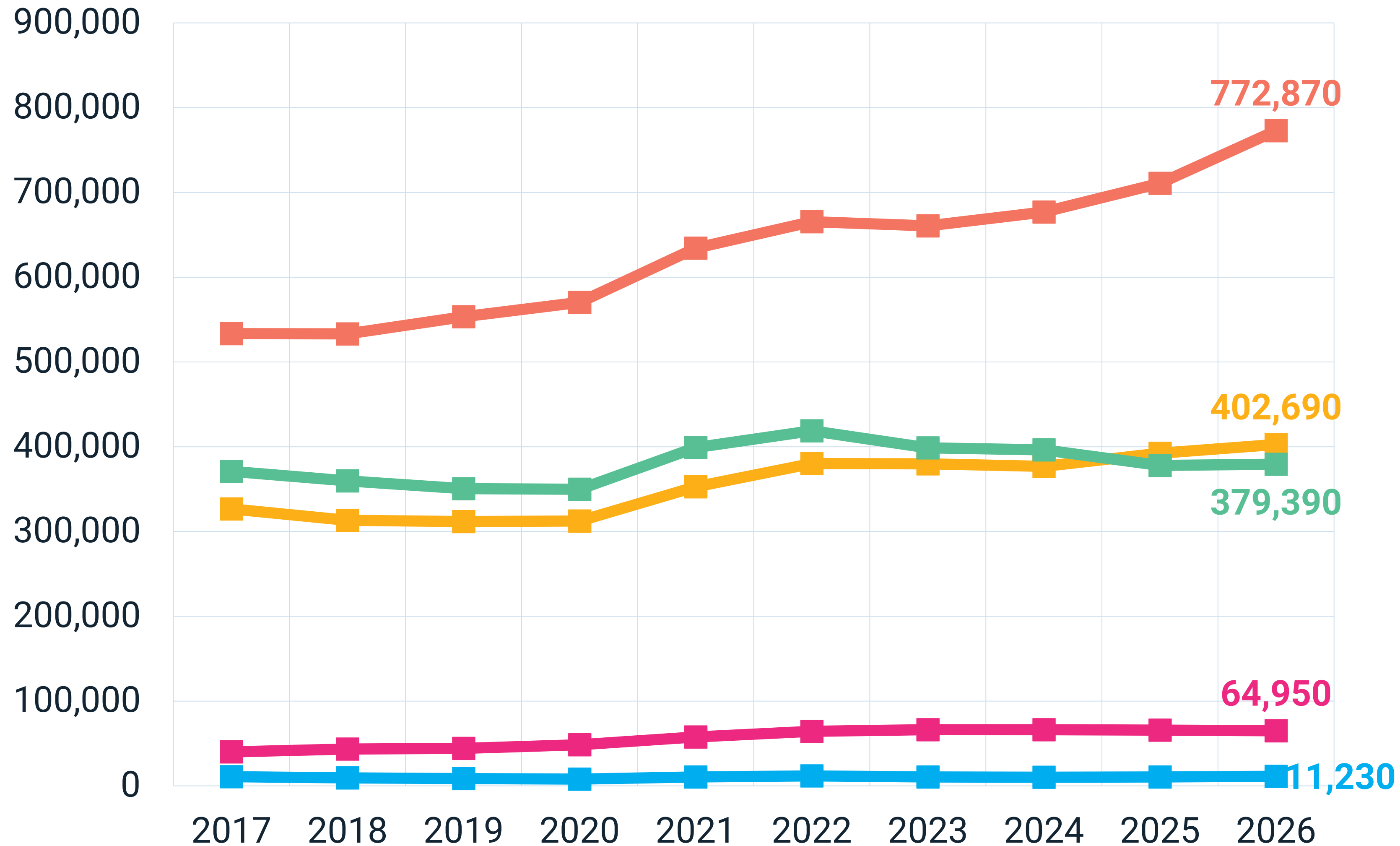


# PRINCIPLES



# UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES - UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

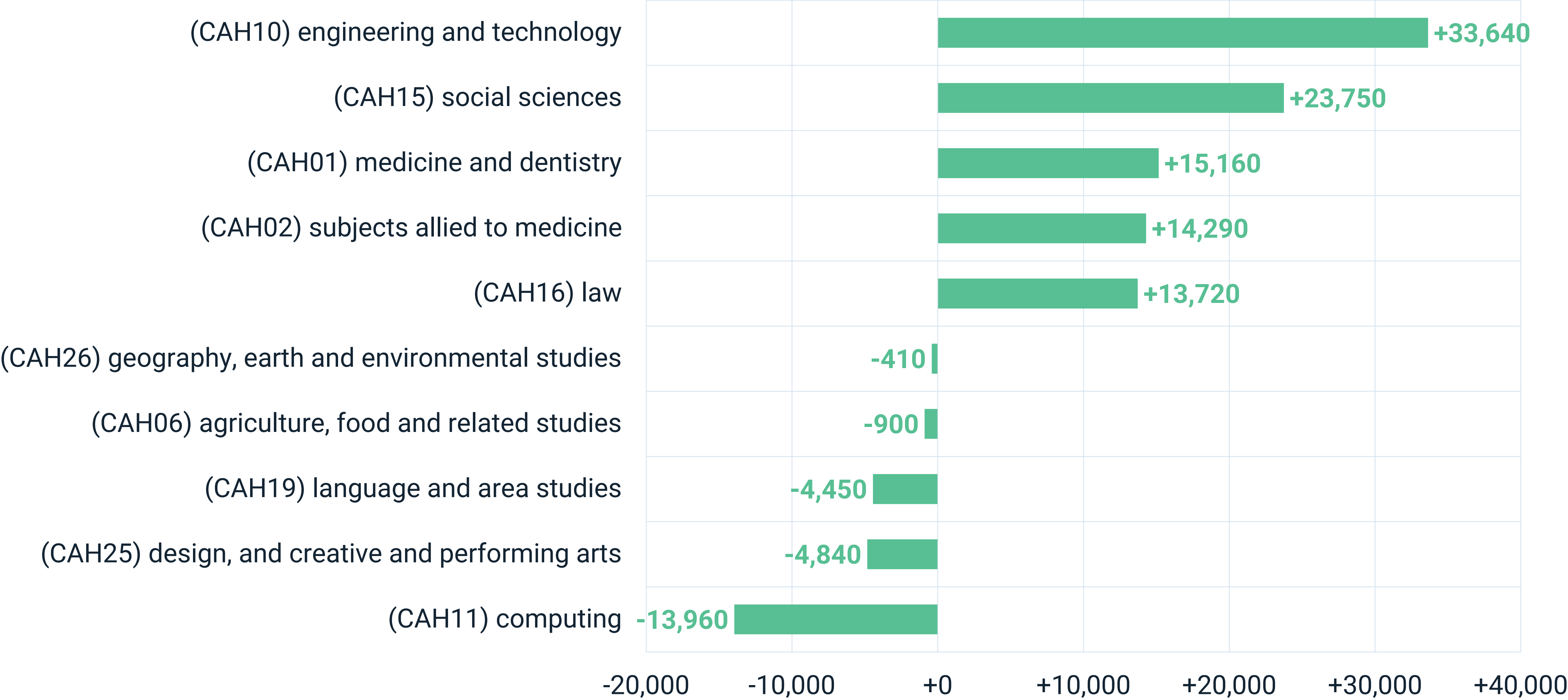
UK 18-year-old applications by UCAS provider category



# SUBJECT CHANGES

# ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY HAS THE BIGGEST GROWTH IN APPLICATIONS, AS COMPUTING CONTINUES TO FALL

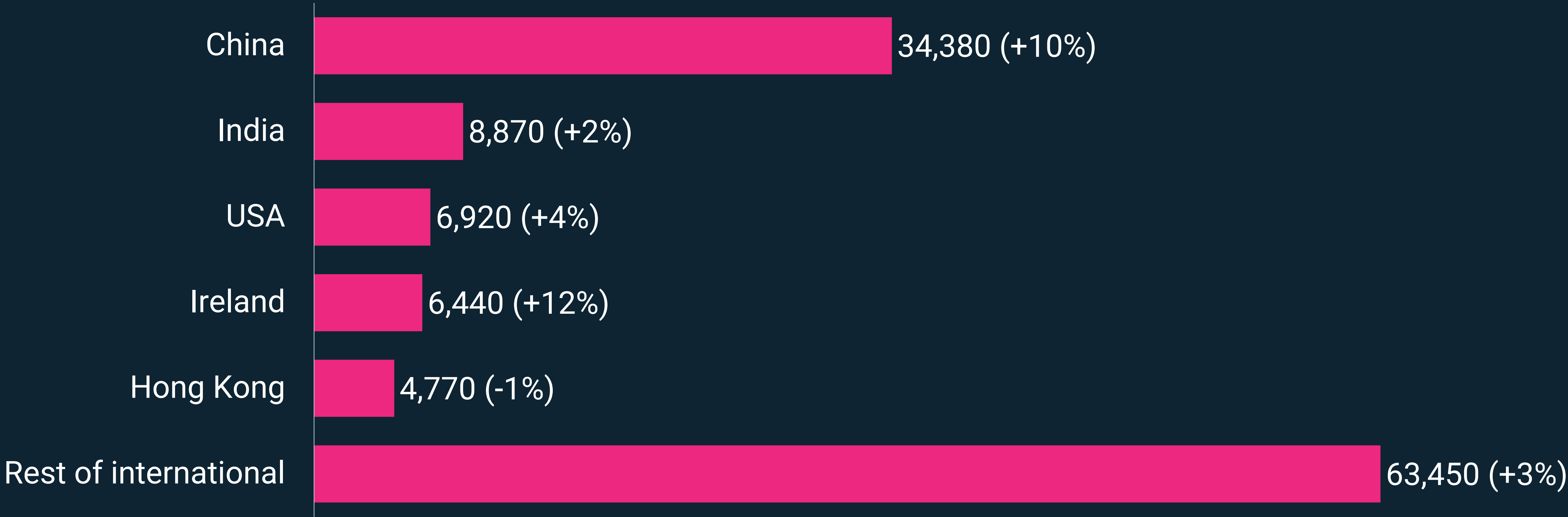
Applications by subject grouping (CAH1) – Biggest changes comparing 2025 to 2026 ECDs



# INTERNATIONAL

# UCAS UG INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS INCREASE BY 5.1%

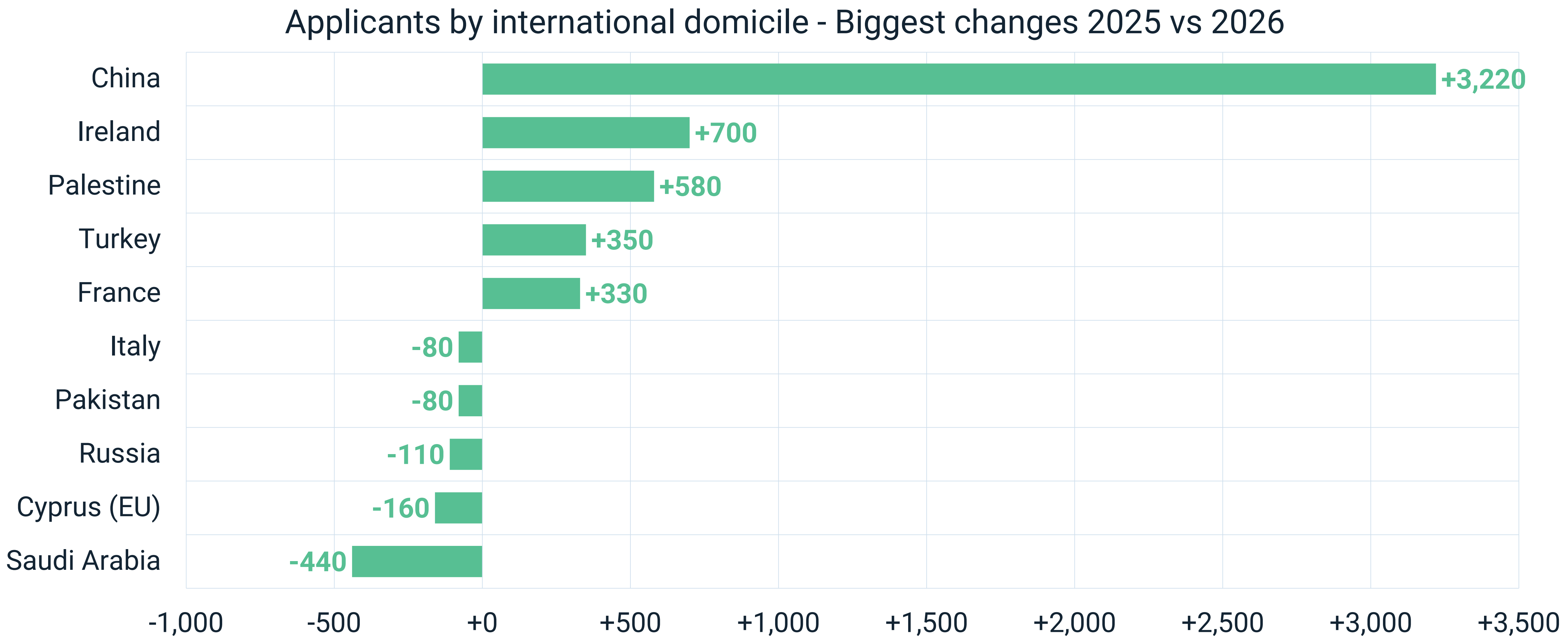
Applicants by international domicile





UCAS

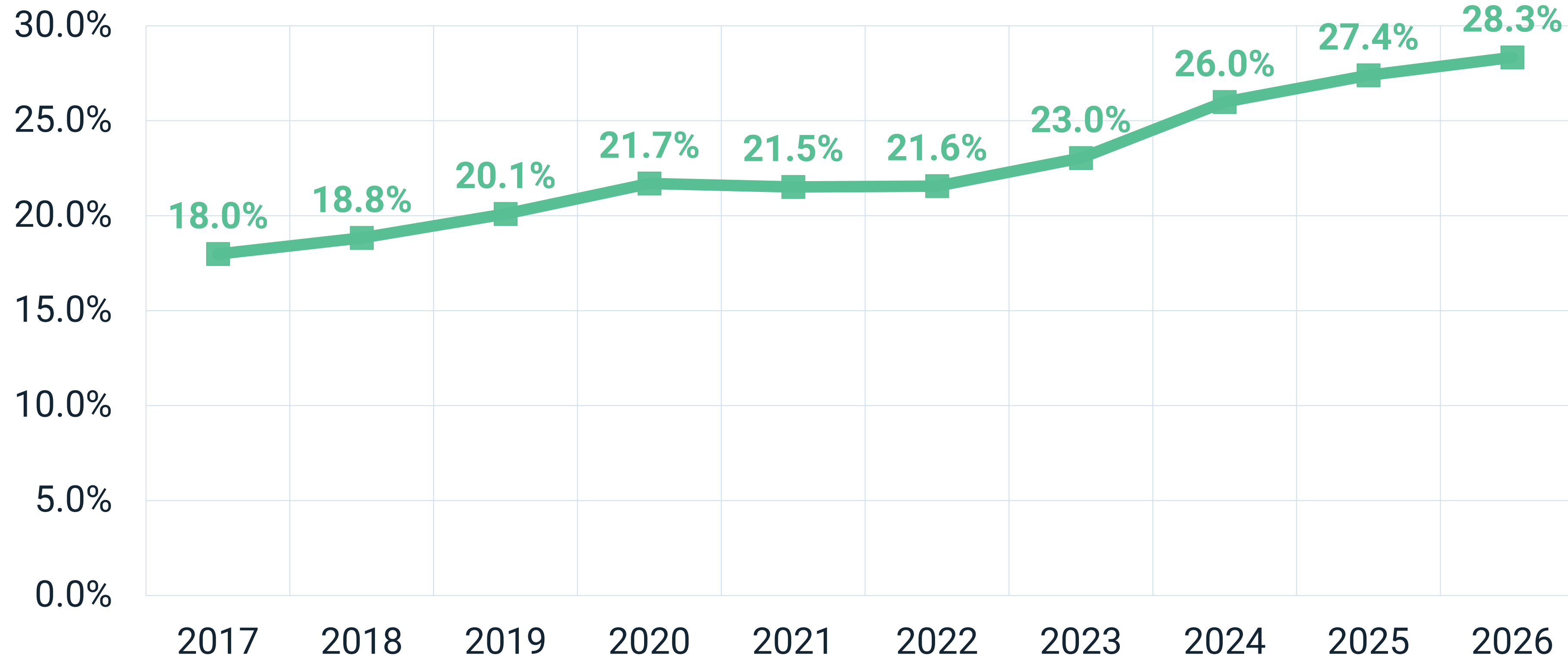
INTERNATIONAL DOMICILE BIGGEST CHANGES



# INTENTION TO LIVE AT HOME

# INCREASES IN PERCENTAGE OF UK18 APPLICATIONS WHERE INTENT IS TO LIVE AT HOME

Percentage of UK 18-year-old applications where an intention to live at home is declared



**+0.9PP**

Increase in the rate of declarations to live at home, 2026 vs 2025