

READING THE TRENDS: EQUAL CONSIDERATION AND BEYOND

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EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE

Data published today

APPLICANTS AT THE EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE



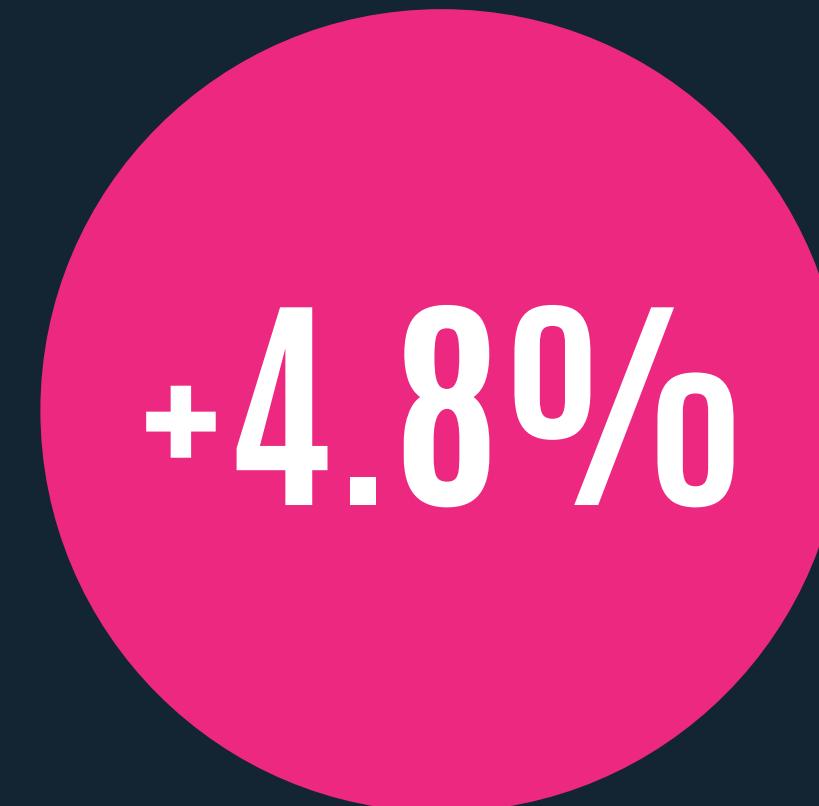
+3.1%

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

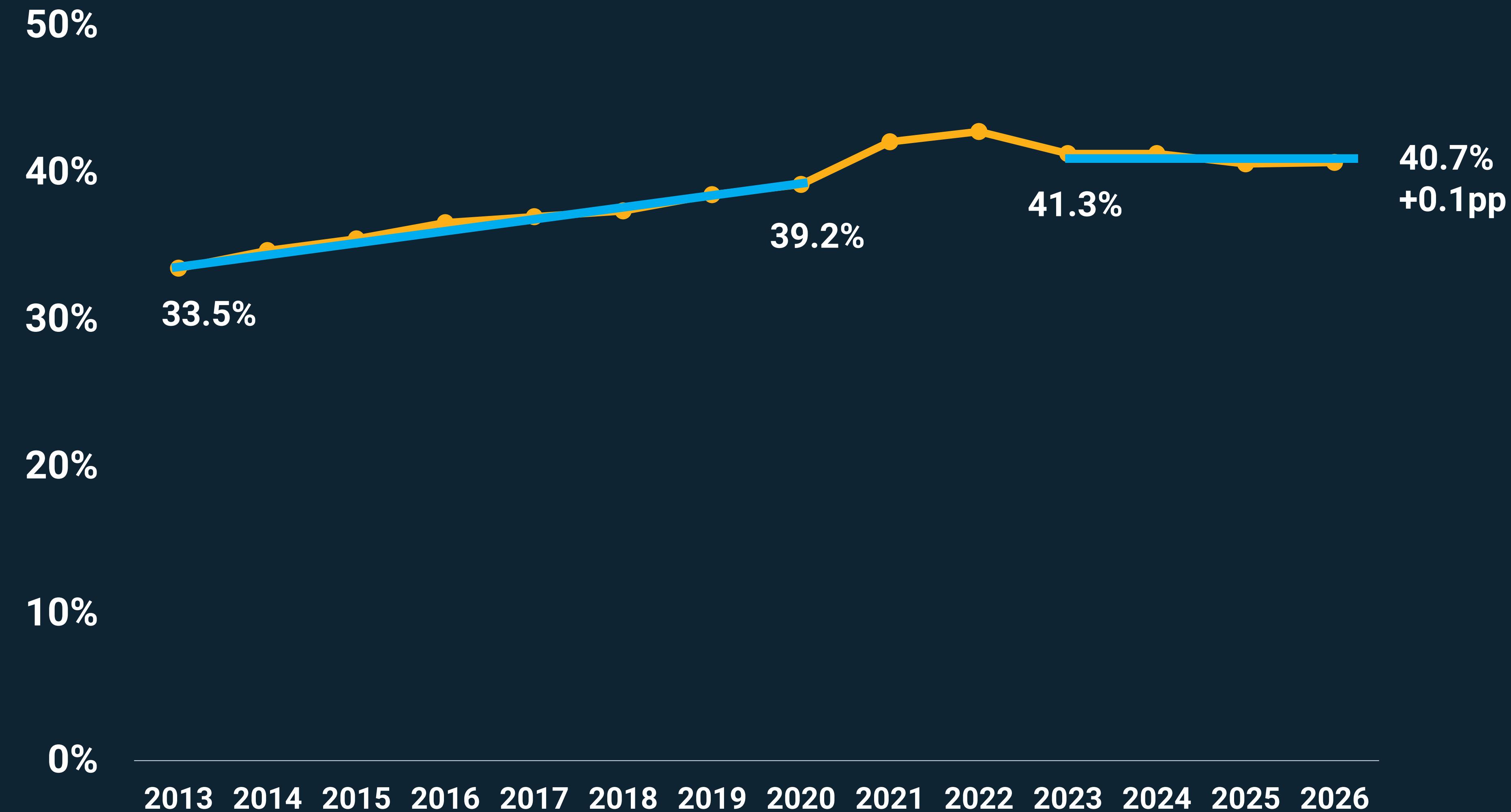
57,570 applicants

-3,710 vs 2025

Usually less than
half of the End of
Cycle applicants

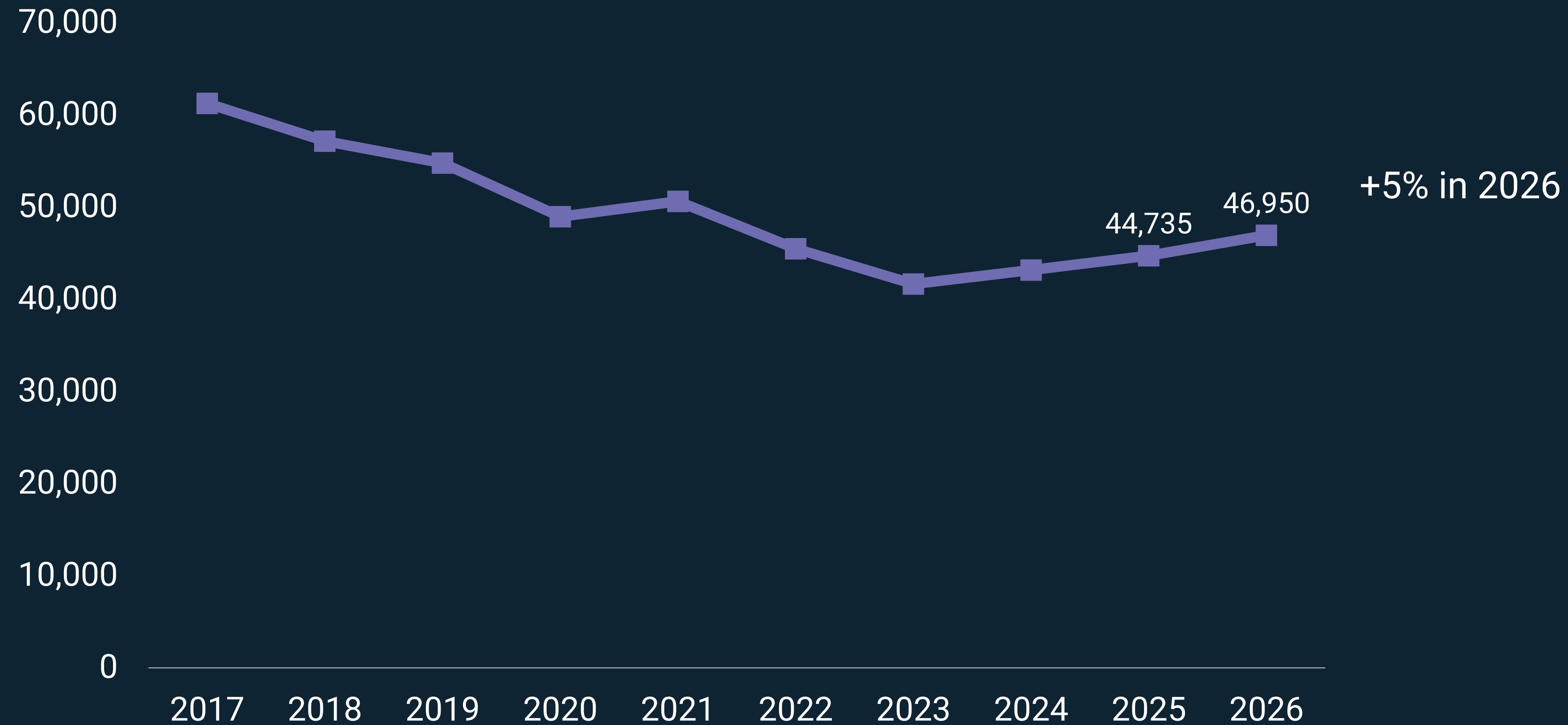
DEMAND FROM UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

PROPORTION OF UK 18 APPLIED BY ECD

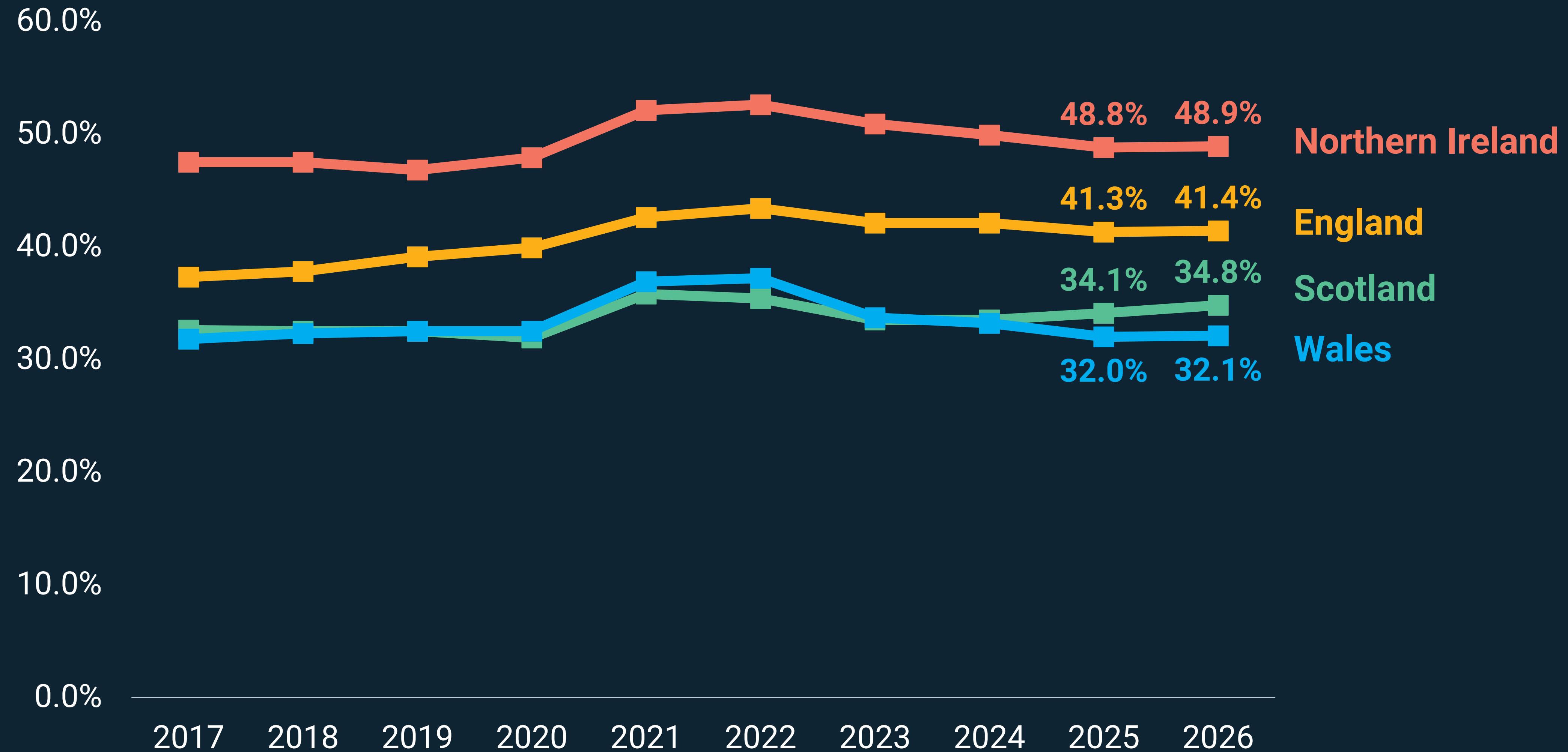


19 YEAR OLDS APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME

UK 19-year-old first-time applicants at ECD



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

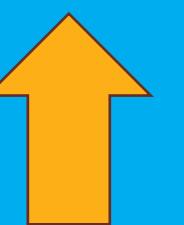


Mostly due to the increase from 18-year-olds, driven by population increase

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%

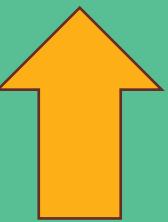


International applications to Scotland are up 1.4% and applications from the rest of the UK are up 0.8%



WALES

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



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

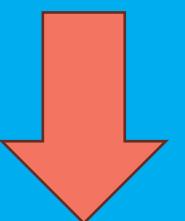
Providers in Wales have received 0.7% fewer applications



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%



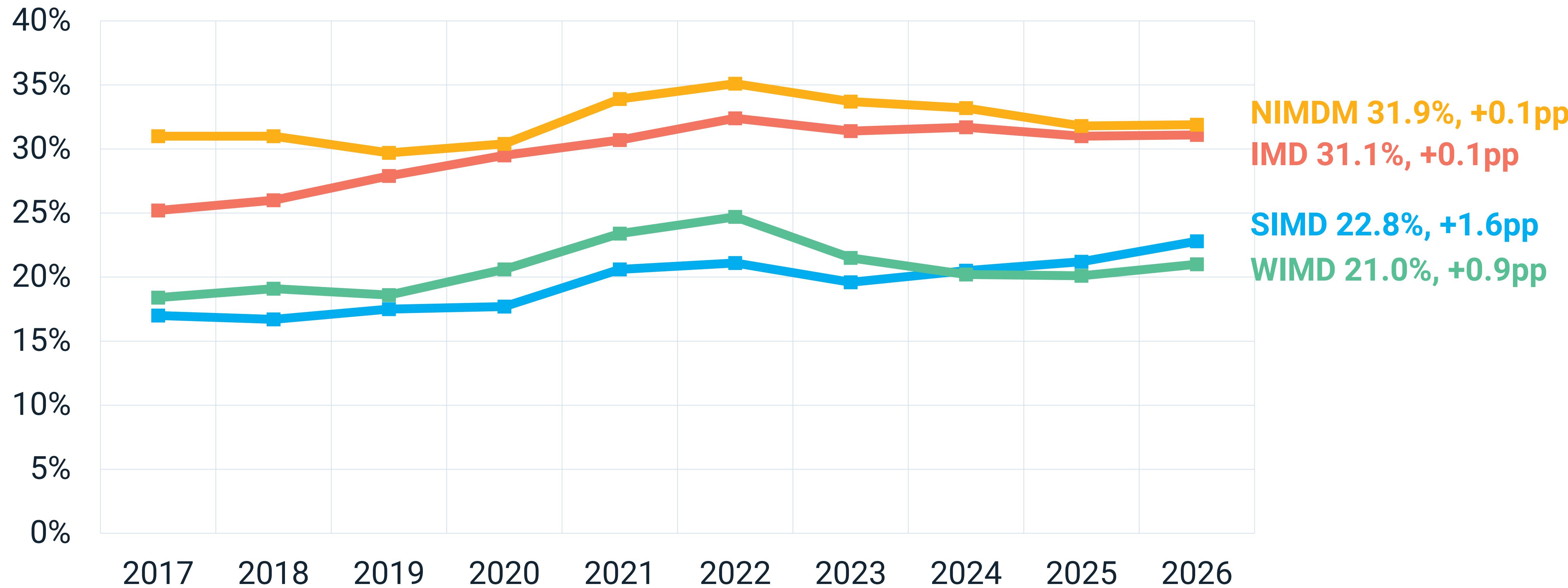
International (not EU) applications to England are up 7.6% and applications from the rest of the UK are up 3.2%



DEMAND BY IMD ACROSS THE UK

QUINTILE 1 APPLICATION RATES ACROSS THE UK

Quintile 1 application rate



UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES

Replacing tariff group of provider for 2026 cycle reporting

UPDATED UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES

Smaller

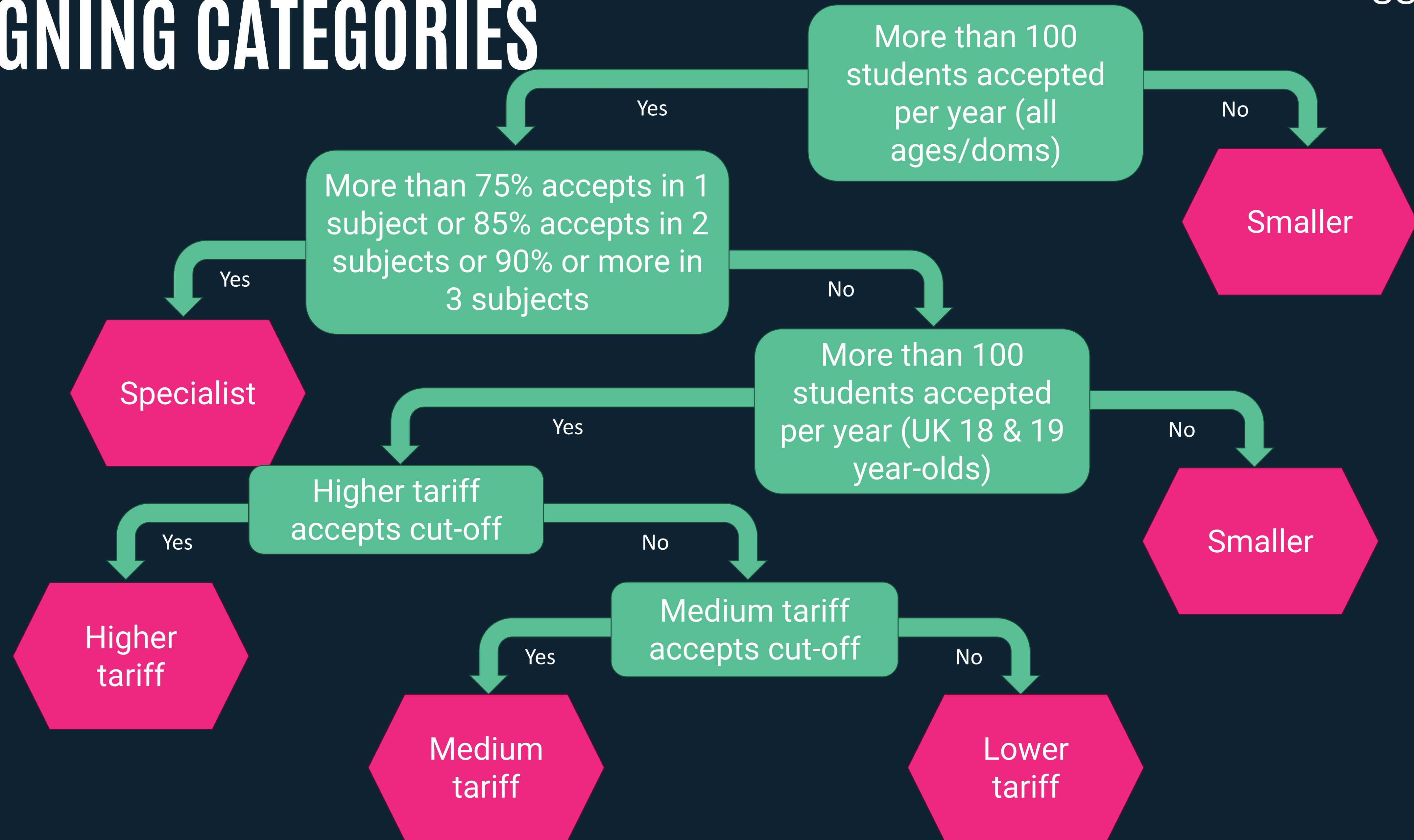
Specialist

Lower tariff

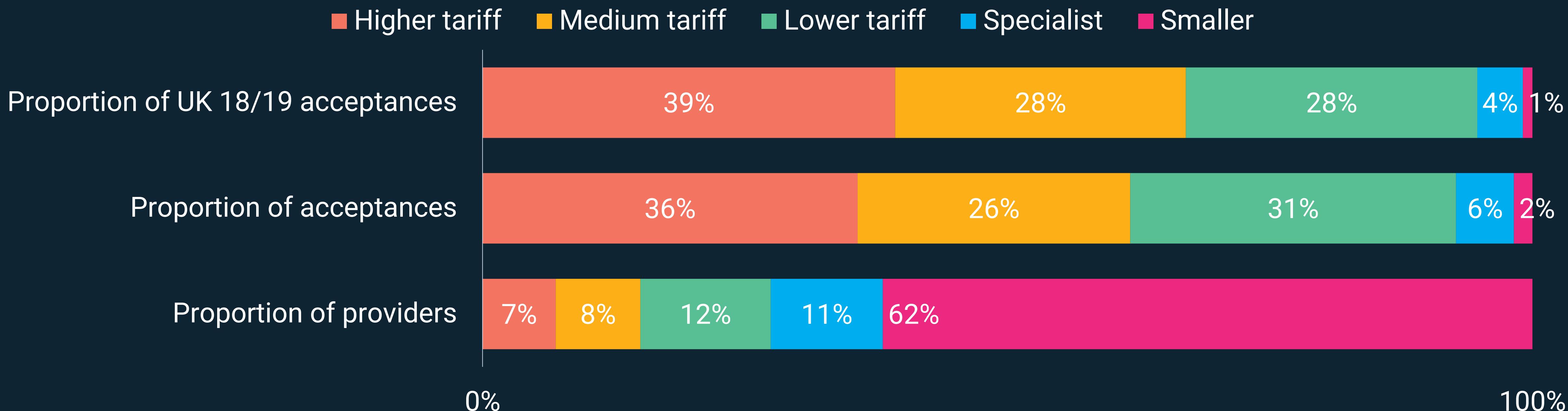
Medium
tariff

Higher tariff

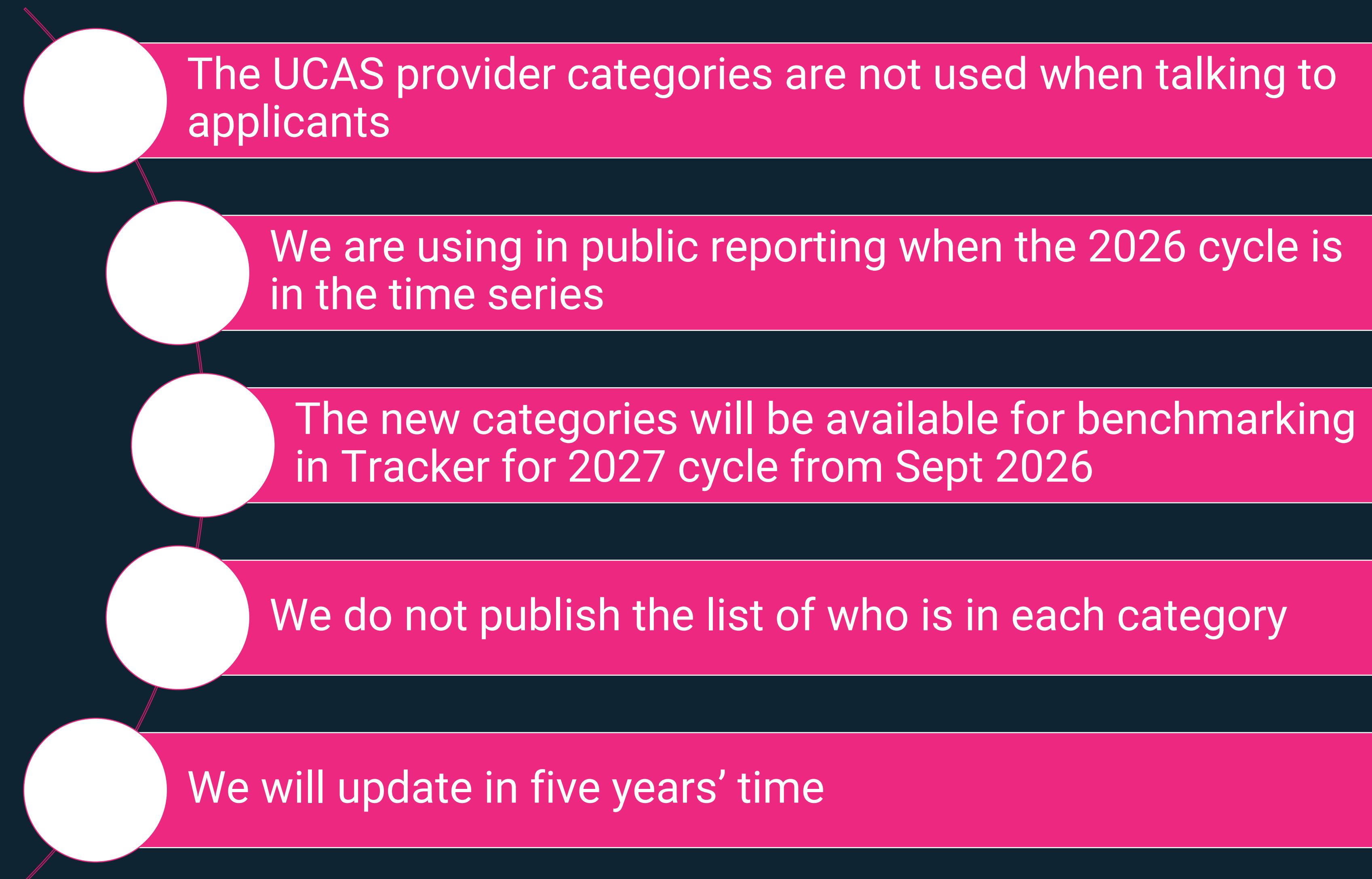
ASSIGNING CATEGORIES



WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE NEW CATEGORIES?



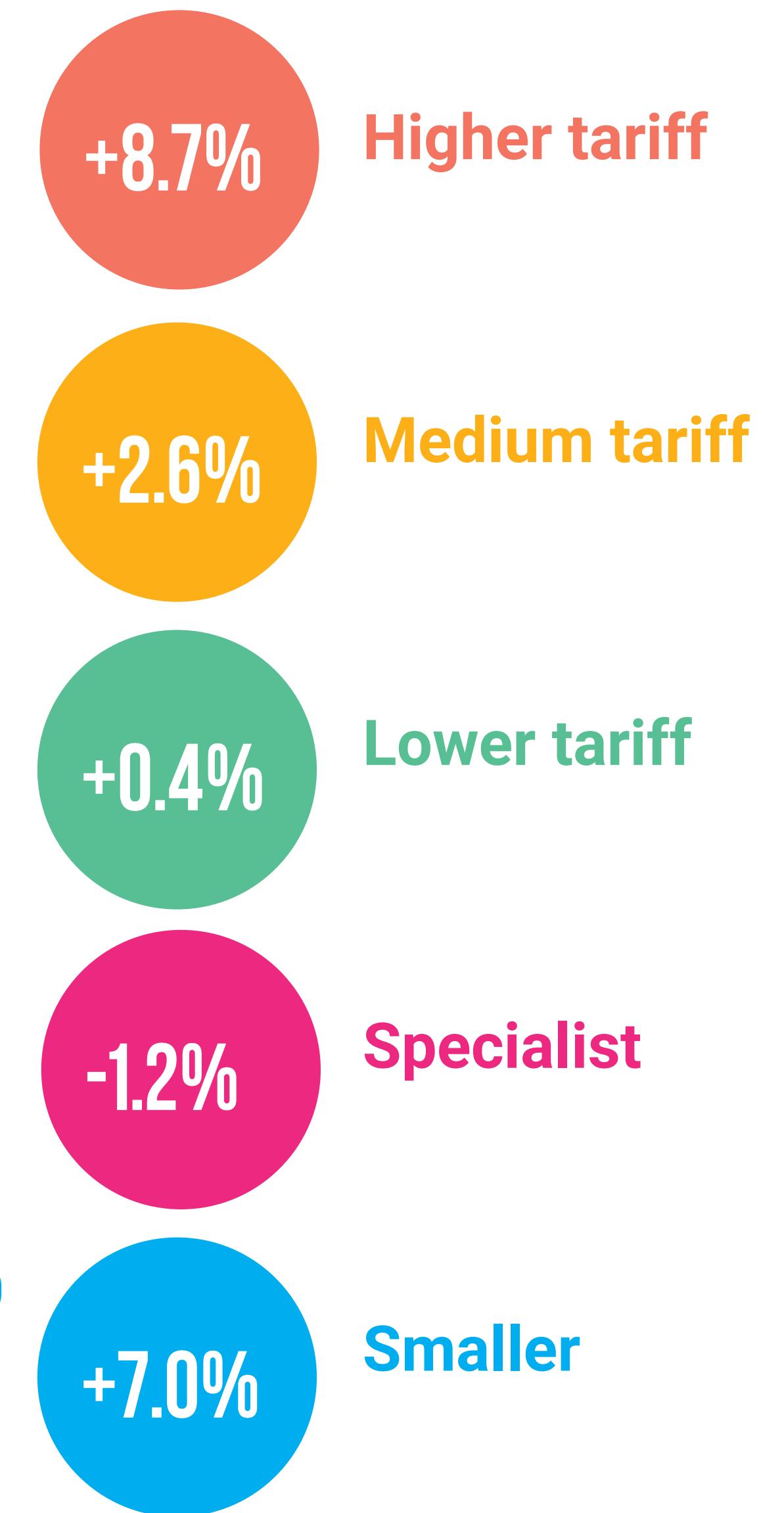
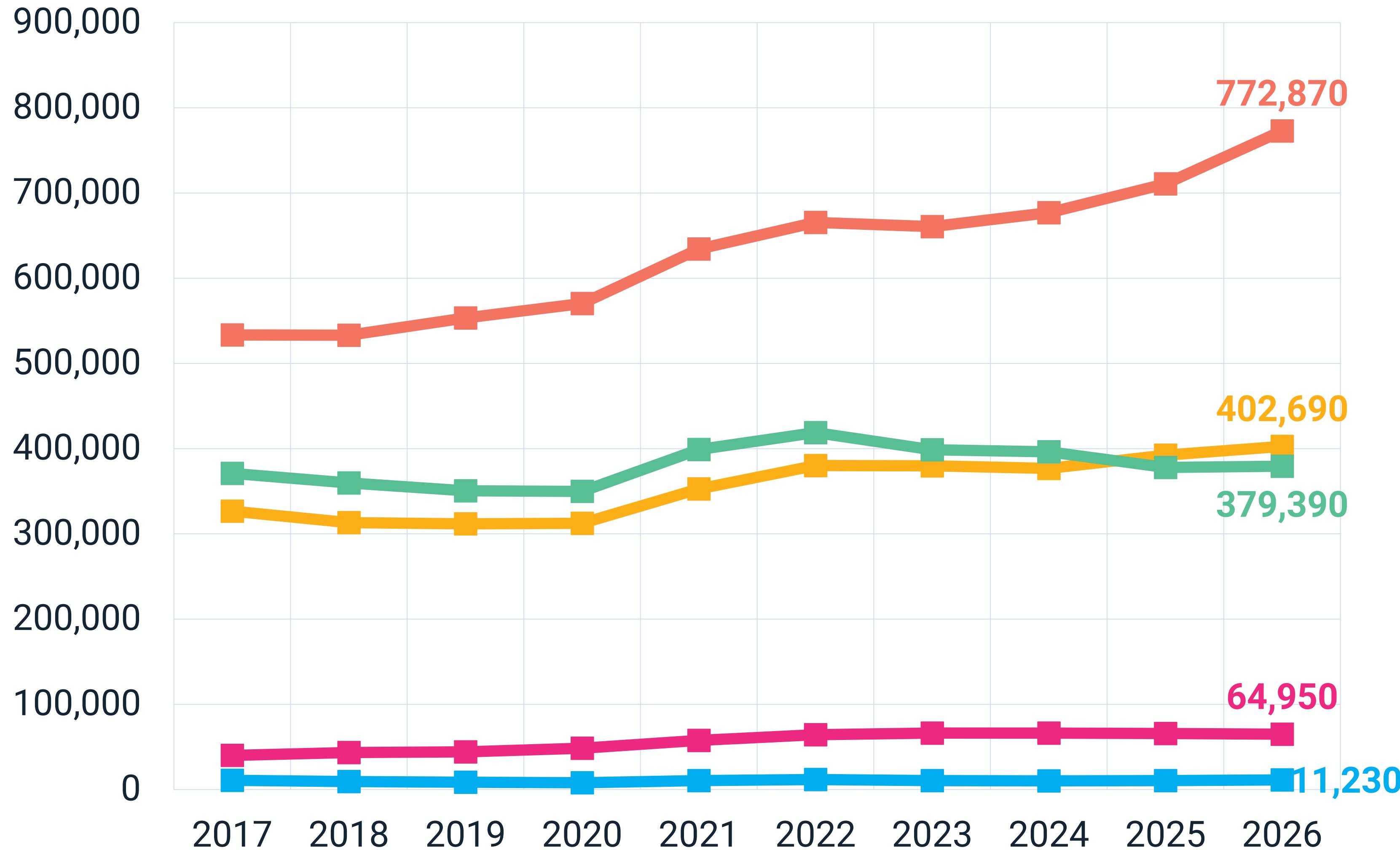
PRINCIPLES



- The UCAS provider categories are not used when talking to applicants
- We are using in public reporting when the 2026 cycle is in the time series
- The new categories will be available for benchmarking in Tracker for 2027 cycle from Sept 2026
- We do not publish the list of who is in each category
- We will update in five years' time

UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES - UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

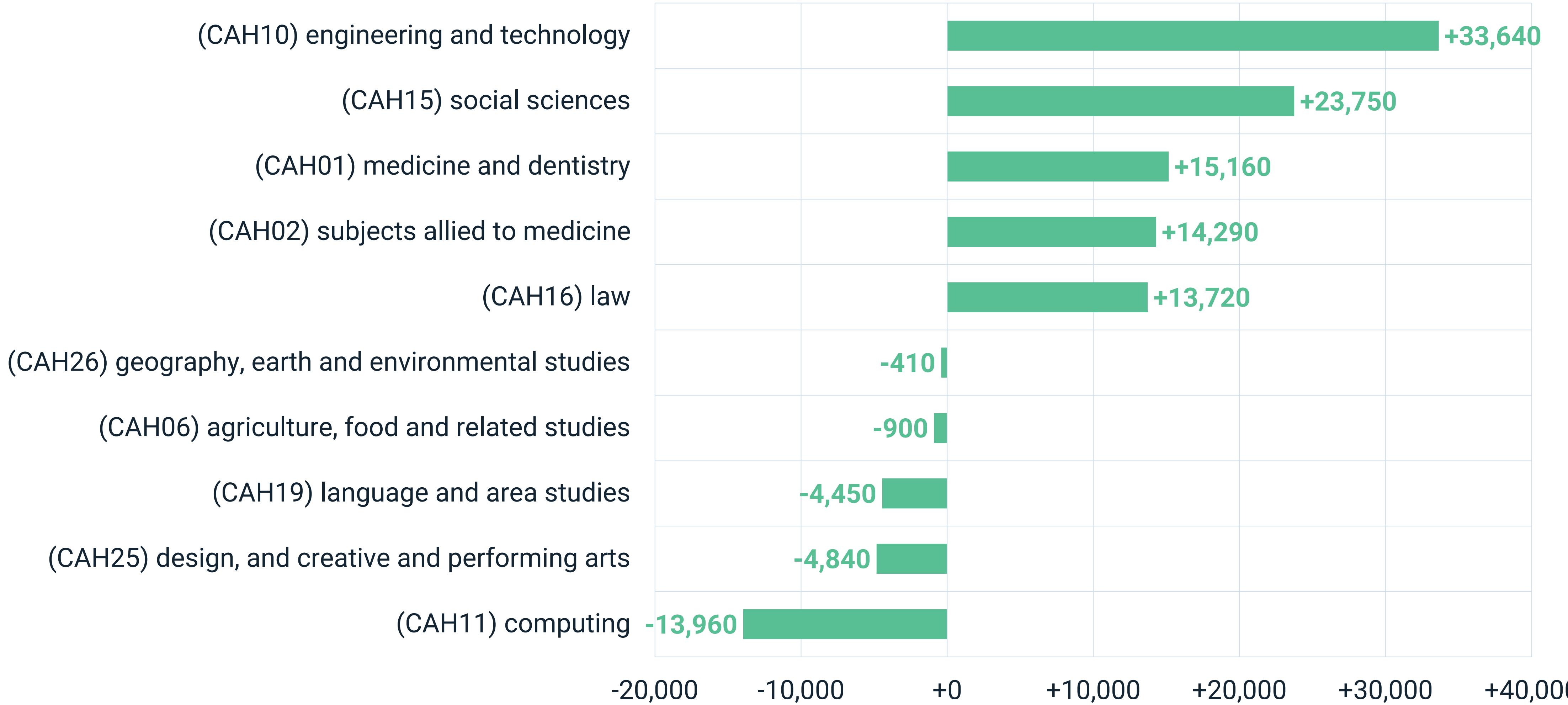
UK 18-year-old applications by UCAS provider category



SUBJECT CHANGES

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

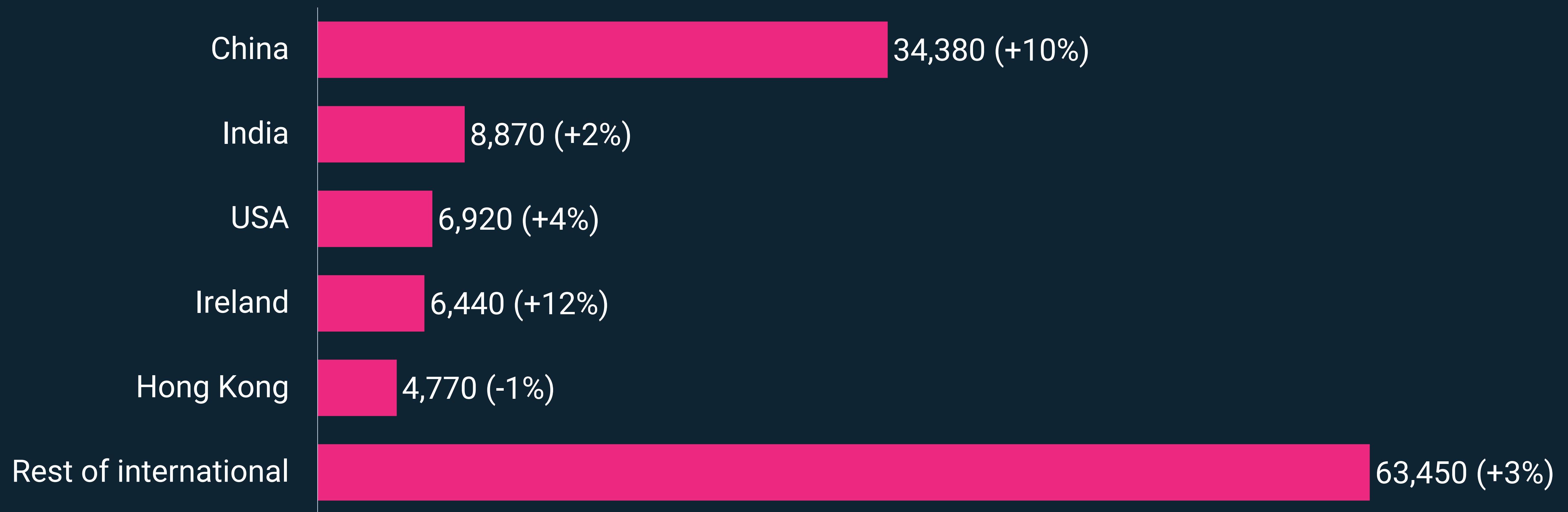
Applications by subject grouping (CAH1) – Biggest changes comparing 2025 to 2026 ECDs



INTERNATIONAL

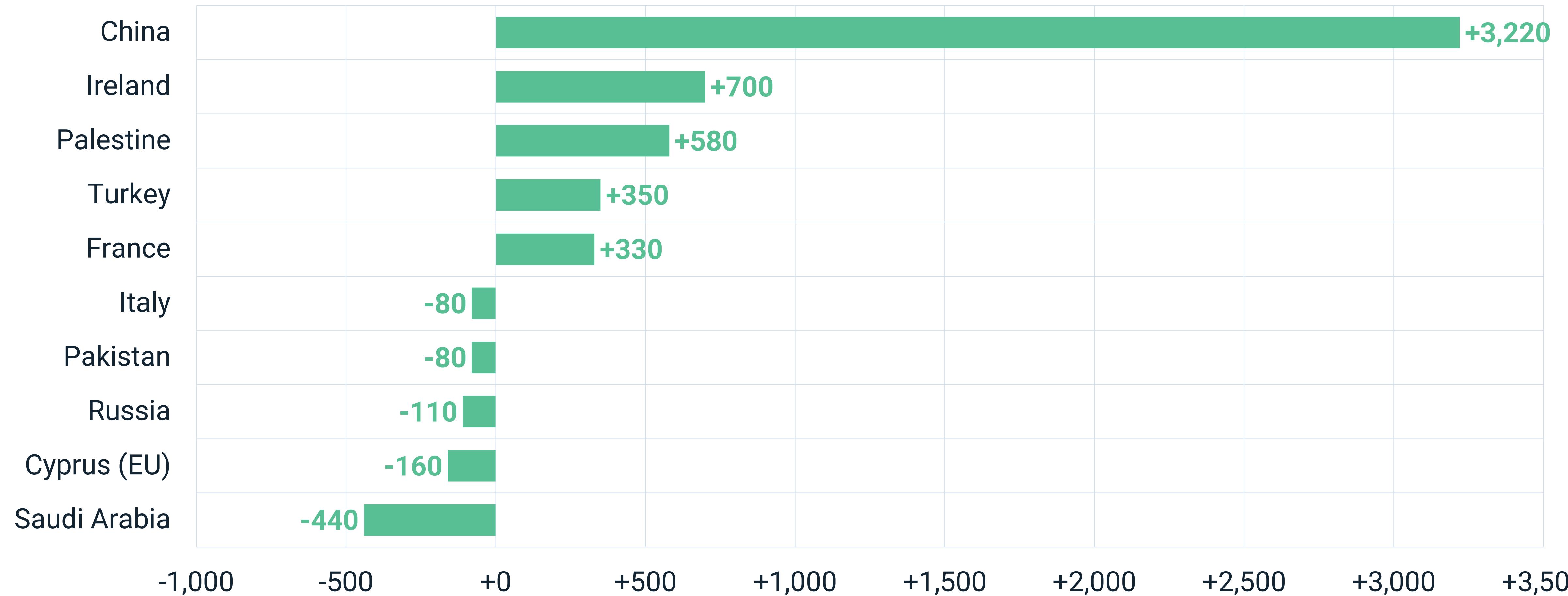
UCAS UG INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS INCREASE BY 5.1%

Applicants by international domicile



INTERNATIONAL DOMICILE BIGGEST CHANGES

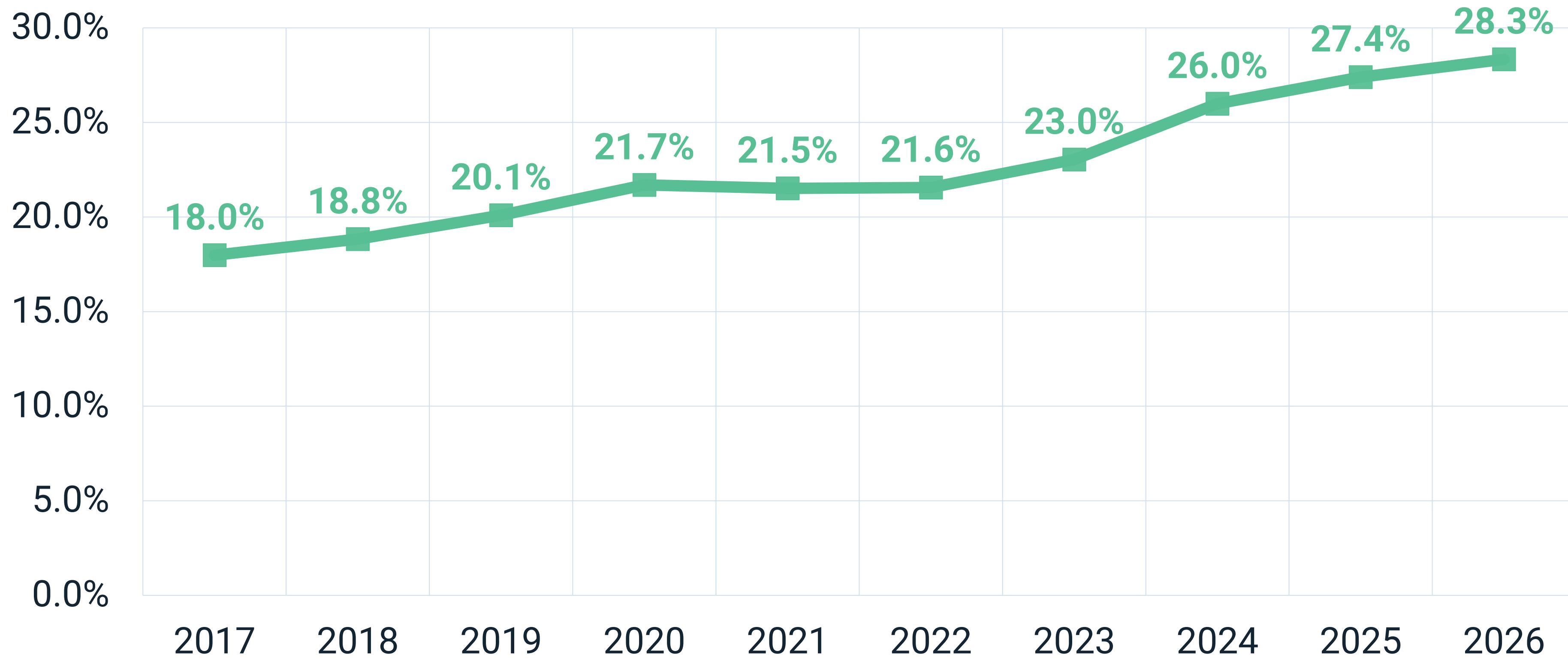
Applicants by international domicile - Biggest changes 2025 vs 2026



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