

# Definitions

## Acceptance route

The acceptance route with the following values attached to placed applications.

**Firm Choice:** where the applicant has been accepted to their first choice. **Insurance choice:** where the applicant has been accepted to their second choice.

**Main Scheme Clearing:** where an applicant was unsuccessful in the main scheme (i.e. applied before 30 June) and subsequently found a place using Clearing.

**Direct Clearing:** where the applicant has applied via Clearing without an initial application through the main scheme.

**Adjustment:** where applicants who have met and exceeded the conditions of their firm choice choose to take up an alternative offer - introduced in 2009.

**Extra:** where applicants who held no offers after using all of their main scheme choices, make additional choices.

**RPA:** where an application is submitted to UCAS by an institution when an unconditional firm has already been offered and accepted by the applicant.

Please note: 'Insurance choice' and 'Firm choice' values are based on the applicant's response to an offer as-at June deadline. There are 10,000 to 20,000 acceptances to a main scheme choice each year where the applicant has not responded, or is awaiting an offer, by June deadline. These acceptances are classified as 'Other Main Scheme Choice'.

## **Applicant Domicile (UK / EU / Not EU)**

Applicant's area of permanent residence summarised at a high level. This variable is derived from domicile as declared by the applicant and does not guarantee fee status. Split by the following values: 'UK', 'EU (excluding UK)' and 'Not EU'.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have been assigned as 'Not EU'.

## **Applicant Domicile (Low Level – Overseas Country Focus)**

Applicant's area of permanent residence, which broadly relates to country. The domicile is declared by the applicant by selecting from a list of available domiciles during the application process. In the interest of keeping a consistent time-series, the most recent label for each domicile is displayed across the time series, regardless of the domicile displayed to the applicant at the time of the application. For example, in the 2009 application cycle the label 'Virgin Islands (British)' changed to 'British Virgin Islands', however the report will display 'British Virgin Islands' across every application cycle going back to 2004.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are displayed as separate values, rather than being part of 'United Kingdom'.

## **Applicant Domicile (High Level)**

Applicant's area of permanent residence summarised at a high level, individual UK country, EU and not EU. This variable is derived from domicile as declared by the applicant and does not guarantee fee status.

Please note: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are assigned as 'Not EU'. See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

## **Applicant Domicile (Region)**

Applicant's declared domicile as region within the UK. Reported as 'North East', 'Yorkshire and The Humber', 'North West', 'East Midlands', 'West Midlands', 'East of England', 'London', 'South East', 'South West', 'Wales', 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland'.

See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

## **Age band**

Derived from date of birth declared by the applicant, age is aligned with the cut off points for school/college cohorts within the different administrations of the UK. For England and Wales ages are defined on the 31 August, for Northern Ireland on the 1 July and for Scotland on the 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants outside of the UK the cohort cut off for England and Wales has been used. Age then is grouped in the following bands: '17 and under', '18', '19', '20', '21 and Over'.

Please note: if the derived age is outside of the range 11-100 then it is set to 18 by default.

## **Age (Individual)**

Derived from date of birth declared by the applicant, age is aligned with the cut off points for school/college cohorts within the different administrations of the UK. For England and Wales ages are defined on the 31 August, for Northern Ireland on the 1 July and for Scotland on the 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants outside of the UK the cohort cut off for England and Wales has been used. Values are displayed for each age between 18 and 64. Please note: if the derived age is outside of the range 11-100 then it is set to 18 by default.

## **Sex**

Sex as declared by the applicant.

## **Ethnic Group (Summary Level)**

High level grouping of ethnic origin as declared by the applicant: 'Asian', 'Black', 'Mixed', 'White', 'Other', 'Unknown'.

## **Ethnic Group (Detailed Level)**

Low level grouping of ethnic origin as declared by the applicant: 'White', 'Asian – Bangladeshi', 'Asian – Chinese', 'Asian – Indian', 'Asian – Pakistani', 'Asian - Other Asian background', 'Black – African', 'Black – Caribbean', 'Black - Other Black background', 'Mixed - White and Asian', 'Mixed - White and Black African', 'Mixed - White and Black Caribbean', 'Mixed - Other mixed background', 'White', 'Other', 'Unknown'.

## **Disability Indicator**

Indicates whether the applicant has declared a disability on the application by selecting from a list of available options. These options include, but are not restricted to, learning difficulties, serious visual or hearing impairment, physical impairment, mental health conditions and long standing illness.

## **Holds A Level Qualification**

Indicates if an applicant has achieved an A Level or A Level Double Award qualification (at least one) as identified either on application or through awarding body linkage process.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. (I.e. if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving an A Level, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'A Level qualification not identified'.)

## **Holds BTEC Qualification**

Indicates if an applicant has achieved a BTEC qualification (at least one) as identified either on application or through awarding body linkage process. This applies to the following qualifications in the NQF framework: NQF National Awards, NQF National Certificate, NQF National Diploma and NQF Subsidiary Certificates, and the following qualifications in the QCF framework: QCF Subsidiary Diplomas, QCF Diploma, QCF Extended Diploma and QCF 90 Credit Diplomas.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. (I.e. if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving a BTEC, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'BTEC qualification not identified'.)

## **Holds SQA Qualification**

Indicates if an applicant has achieved an SQA higher or advanced higher qualification (at least one) as identified either on application or through awarding body linkage process.

Please note: This flag is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. (I.e. if an applicant applied in the 2008 cycle without achieving an SQA, but went on to obtain this qualification in 2009, the value for the applicant applying in 2008 would remain 'SQA qualification not identified'.)

## **Deferred Status**

Indicates if an application is deferred. Most applications are into the academic year that starts immediately at the end of the cycle, for example into the academic 2013-14 year from the 2013 application cycle. Applications can also be deferred for entry into the following academic year, for example into the 2014-15 academic from the 2013 cycle. These are called deferred applications.

## **Provider Country**

Where the provider is located within the UK. See the additional technical notes for coverage and trends for Scotland.

## **Subject Group (Summary Level)**

Classifies courses into a summary level of 26 subjects. Each course is assigned up to three valid JACS3 subject codes (e.g. G100 – Mathematics) and a course balance indicator by UCAS, which are available for review by the provider. The course is assigned a subject based on these JACS3 subject codes and balance indicator, it largely correlates to the first two characters of the subject codes. Where there are more than one JACS3 subject codes for a given course, and the balance indicator is dual or triple, the first two characters of each subject code are reported in combination to a relevant category (e.g. Course with dual balance indicator with JACS3 subject codes B940 = Counselling and C843= Counselling psychology is assigned a subject 'Y Combined sciences').

Please note: Between 2007 and 2011 the subject codes assigned to each course were from the JACS2.0 classification, therefore JACS3 versions of the subject categories have been approximated for 2007 to 2011 to allow a consistent time series.

## **Subject Group (Detailed Level)**

Classifies courses into a detailed level of 215 subjects. Each course is assigned up to three valid JACS3 subject codes (e.g. G100 – Mathematics) and a course balance indicator by UCAS, which are available for review by the provider. The course is assigned a subject based on these JACS3 subject codes and balance indicator, it largely correlates to the first two characters of the subject codes. Where there are more than one JACS3 subject codes for a given course, and the balance indicator is dual or triple, the first two characters of each subject code are reported in combination to a relevant category (e.g. Course with dual balance indicator with JACS3 subject codes L370 = Social Theory and M900 = Others in Law is assigned a subject 'Y Combs of soc studies/law').

Please note: Between 2007 and 2011 the subject codes assigned to each course were from the JACS2.0 classification, therefore JACS3 versions of the subject categories have been approximated for 2007 to 2011 to allow a consistent time series.

## **Deadline**

The deadline by which applications are required at certain points in the cycle. The number of applications by each Provider are cumulative totals across the following deadlines: October Deadline - 15 October 2013, January Deadline - 15 January 2014, March Deadline - 24 March 2014, June Deadline - 30 June 2014, End of Cycle - Close of the UCAS cycle.

## **POLAR3 Quintile**

Developed by HEFCE, POLAR3 classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in Higher Education. Each of these groups represents around 20 per cent of young people and is ranked from Quintile 1 (areas with the lowest young participation rates, considered as the most disadvantaged) to Quintile 5 (highest young participation rates, considered most advantaged). POLAR3 is based on the participation rates of young people between 2005 and 2009 who entered Higher Education between 2005-06 and 2010-11, therefore is most suitable for applicants aged 19 and under. These groups are assigned using the postcode declared by the applicant at the time of their application. If a UK postcode is invalid, considered unsafe for measurement or there is no link to Census geography possible then the applicant is classified as 'Not Assigned'.

Please note: POLAR3 is only relevant for applicants domiciled in the UK (as determined by definitions of domicile), therefore any applicants outside of this cohort are classified as 'Not Applicable'.

## **Number of Choices**

The number of main scheme choices made by each applicant. It is possible for an applicant to have 0 main choices, these are RPAs or applicants that have entered directly into clearing.

Please note: Up until 2008 the applicant could make 6 main scheme choices, this was reduced to 5 main scheme choices in subsequent years. Up until 2010 this contains Route B choices, which were referred out sequentially. Therefore, applicants may have Route B choices that would not have been referred out, but would still be counted.

## **Achieved A-level point score**

A points score attached to the highest 3 A-Level grades achieved by the applicant as identified either on application or through awarding body linkage process. The following points per grade are used in the calculation: A\* = 6, A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1. A Level Double Award grades are included, AS Level grades are not included. This value is not updated beyond the end of the application cycle for each applicant. (i.e. if an applicant applied in the 2010 cycle with one A Level grade 'C', but went on to obtain a further two A Levels in 2011, the value for the applicant applying in 2010 would remain 3.) This is only relevant for 18 year-old applicants domiciled in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, any applicants outside of this cohort will be assigned the value 'Not applicable'. These scores are calculated purely for analytical purposes and do not relate to the UCAS tariff.