

Additional technical notes for 2015 end of cycle data resources

The header page in the .pdf version of each data resource includes definitional notes for the variables and statistics in that data resource.

This note provides some additional technical notes and guidance for the data resources.

Coverage of UCAS data

For people living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, UCAS covers the overwhelming majority of fulltime undergraduate provision. Statistics relating to these countries in the data resources can be taken as being close to all recruitment to full-time undergraduate higher education.

In Scotland there is a substantial section of provision that is not included in UCAS' figures. This is mostly full-time higher education provided in further education colleges which represents around one third of young full-time undergraduate study in Scotland, and this proportion varies by geography and background within Scotland. Accordingly, the statistics on UCAS acceptances in these data resources reflect only that majority of full-time undergraduate study that uses UCAS.

Records of Prior Acceptance (RPAs)

Data resources that report total acceptances (rather than acceptances from applicants who applied before June 30) may include very late acceptances that are recorded through the 'Record of Prior Acceptance' entry route.

The number of these acceptances can vary from cycle to cycle and in 2014 there were around 2,000 fewer RPAs than in other cycles recorded for providers in Scotland. This variability may mean that the number of applicants and acceptances to Scottish UCAS providers in 2014 recorded through UCAS could be understated by compared to how applicants and acceptances have been reported in recent cycles.

The time series of applicants and acceptances who applied by the June 30th deadline does not include RPAs and so is unaffected by any variability in RPA use from year to year.

Disclosure control

Numbers in the data resources are rounded to the nearest five. Each number is rounded independently, so the sum of rounded categories may not add to the rounded sum of those categories, within or between data resources.

The listing of a category in an output table does not imply that data was recorded for that category. The csv data files contain only data items that are not rounded to zero. The omission of a category in these data files does not imply that the unrounded total was zero.

Ethnic group

The provider level data resources include new statistics on applications and acceptances by ethnic group. To ensure that the data reported have been collected consistently these resources only cover UK domiciled applicants who applied by the June 30 deadline. Ethnic group is as declared by the applicant.

The populations of different ethnic groups are different in size and can also vary by their age and geographical profile, and through time. These differences can be reflected in the distribution of applicants and acceptances at providers.

UCAS Analysis Notes 2014/01 and 2015/05 and the UCAS 2015 End of Cycle report include further analysis by ethnic group that includes population-referenced application and entry rates for young people living in England.

Context technical notes previously supplied by providers for the 2014 cycle

University of Huddersfield (H60): The data for H60 includes applications to University Campus Oldham (up to September 2012) and applications to University Campus Barnsley (up to September 2013). Following de-mergers in August 2012 and August 2013 respectively, applications to the former university campuses now appear under The Oldham College and Barnsley College. Data for September 2014 entry onwards reflects applications to the single Huddersfield campus.

Context technical notes previously supplied by providers for the 2013 cycle

University of Bedfordshire (B22): Between the 2011 and 2013 cycles there were changes in the institution under which acceptances to certain types of provision are counted. In the most recent cycles acceptances for these types of provision are counted against the individual partner institutions, whereas in the earlier part of this period they were included in the total for the University of Bedfordshire (B22).

University for the Creative Arts (C93): In the 2013 cycle a campus was closed which had previously had around 200 acceptances per cycle. Some of this provision has been transferred to other campuses of the institution and some withdrawn.

Queen's University Belfast (Q75): Nursing and Midwifery students were admitted through UCAS for the first time in the 2013 cycle. These acceptances total 436 for the 2013 cycle.