



Briefing: UCAS deadline applicant statistics for January 2018

Briefing Paper: Nursing applicants at the 15 January deadline – 5 February 2018

Today, UCAS has [published](#) data on undergraduate applications processed by UCAS ahead of the 15 January deadline.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

Overall application rate

Overall, there was a 0.9 per cent reduction in the total number of people applying to higher education, to 559,000, compared to the same figure in 2017. This figure reflects a 2.5 per cent fall in the 18-year-old population in the UK, and falling demand from 19-year-olds and the 25+ age groups.

EU and international applications rise

The number of applicants from the EU increased by 3.4 per cent to 43,510, and the number of international applicants increased to its highest ever number, by 11 per cent to 58,450.

Rise in rate of 18-year-olds applying

Application rates from 18-year-olds applying in **England** have reached a record high, having increased by 0.4 percentage points to 37.4 per cent.

The application rate for 18-year-olds applying in **Wales** also increased by 0.3 percentage points to 32 per cent, while rates in **Northern Ireland** were stable at 47.5 per cent.

In **Scotland**, the same rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 32.5 per cent. However, in Scotland, around one third of admissions are not processed through UCAS.

Women more likely to apply than men

In **England**, young women are 36 per cent more likely than young men to apply to higher education, a small increase from last year.

In **Scotland**, an increase in the rate of young men applying, and a decrease in the rate of young women applying, means that young women are now 56 per cent more likely to apply than men, a reduction compared to 2017.

In **Wales**, the difference in application rates in 2018 increased, with women being 48 per cent more likely to apply.

In **Northern Ireland**, women are 40 per cent more likely to apply than men, a slight increase compared to 2017.

More applicants from disadvantaged areas

Application rates for 18-year-olds living in disadvantaged areas in **England** increased to the highest levels recorded (22.6 per cent). The rate also increased in **Northern Ireland** (24.5 per cent), and remained constant in **Wales** (19.7 per cent).

The ratio of application rates between the most and least advantaged decreased, with advantaged UK 18-year-olds being 2.3 times more likely to apply than disadvantaged UK 18-year-olds, compared to figures at the same point in 2017.

Application rates of 18-year-olds living in disadvantaged areas in **Scotland**, decreased in 2018, to 16.7 per cent. This was the first decrease since 2008. The application rate for applicants living in the most advantaged areas in Scotland increased by 1.9 per cent, widening the gap between the most and least advantaged applicants.

Nursing figures

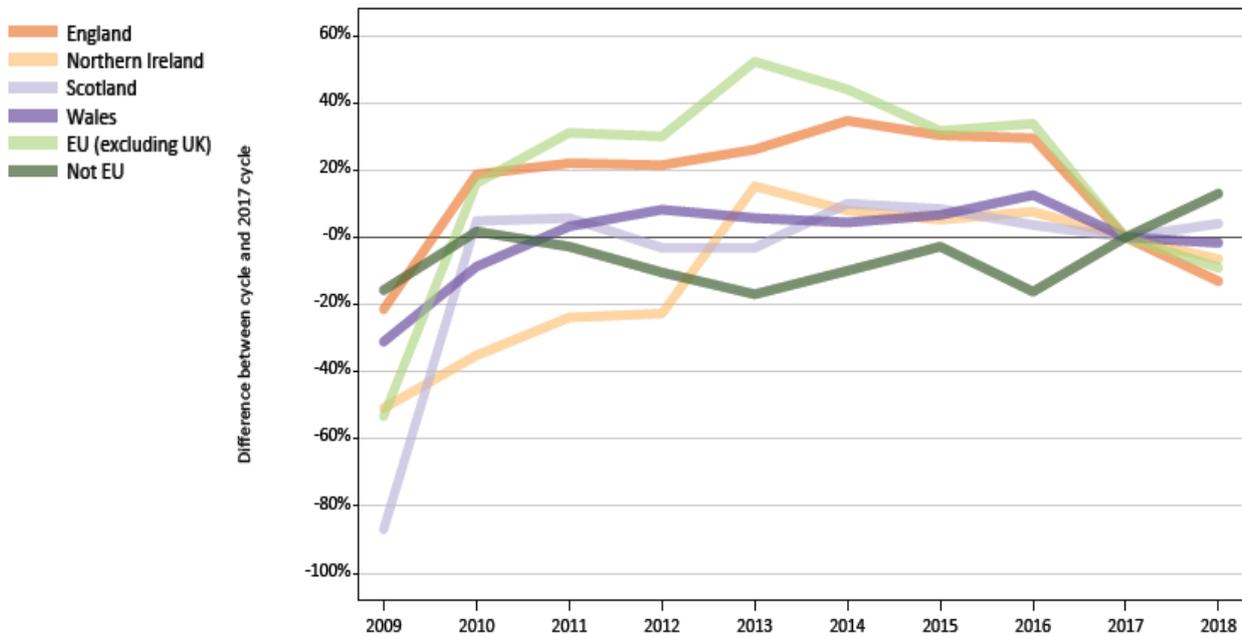
Application by country of provider

Compared to the 2017 cycle, the number of applicants for nursing courses overall, is down 10 per cent.

In **England**, the number of applicants decreased by 13 per cent, in **Northern Ireland** by 6 per cent, and in **Wales** by 2 per cent. In **Scotland**, the number of applications increased by 4 per cent.

The number of applicants from the **UK** decreased by 10 per cent and the number of **EU** (excluding the UK) applicants decreased by 9 per cent, whilst the number of **non-EU** applicants increased by 13 per cent. The trends for EU and non-EU applicants are broadly similar across England, Scotland and Wales with England having seen the sharpest decrease of EU applicants from a peak of 1,310 EU applicants in 2013 to 1,250 in 2016, 800 in 2017 and 630 in 2018.

Figure 1: Applications for nursing courses by provider country + EU and non-EU applicants



Applicants by domicile group

The number of applications from individuals resident in **England** fell by 13 per cent compared to 2017. Applications from individuals from **Northern Ireland** decreased by 6 per cent and those from **Wales** by 2 per cent. The number of applications from individuals from **Scotland** increased by 4 per cent.

First-time and reapplicants

The number of **first-time applicants** to nursing courses fell less than the number of applicants overall 6 per cent compared to 10 per cent, whilst the number of **reapplicants** fell by 28 per cent.

The number of **first-time applicants** from **England** decreased by 9 per cent compared to last year, and the number of first-time applicants from **Northern Ireland** by 4 per cent. However, the number of first-time applicants from **Wales** increased by 2 per cent and the number of first-time applicants from **Scotland** increased by 6 per cent. The number of first-time applicants from the **EU** (excluding the UK) was 6 per cent down and the number of **non-EU** first-time applicants increased overall by 15 per cent.

The number of **reapplicants** fell in all four countries compared to 2017: 32 per cent in **England**, 16 per cent in **Northern Ireland**, 6 per cent in **Scotland**, and 20 per cent in **Wales**. The number of reapplicants from the **EU** (excluding the UK) fell by 30 per cent and the number of **non-EU** reapplicants by 5 per cent.

Applications from 19-year-olds

Whilst the number of 19-year-old applicants resident in **Wales** increased modestly by 3 per cent compared to last year, this includes a 26 per cent increase in the number of first-time applications from 19-year-olds and a 29 per cent decrease in the number of 19 year old reapplicants.

By contrast, the number of 19-year-old first-time applicants resident in **England** fell almost as sharply as the number of 19-year-old reapplicants with 13 and 15 per cent respectively.

First-time applications from 19-year-olds resident in **Northern Ireland** increased by 1 per cent, whilst the number of 19-year-old reapplicants fell by 18 per cent.

The number of first-time applications from 19-year-olds resident in **Scotland** increased by 10 per cent and the number of 19-year-old reapplicants fell by 1 per cent.

Applicants aged 20 and over

The number of applicants resident in **England** aged 20 and over fell more sharply than the number of 18 and 19 year old applicants. It fell by 15 per cent for those aged 20 – 25 and by 19 per cent for those aged 25 and over.

The number of applicants resident in **Northern Ireland** aged 20 fell by 2 per cent (although the overall number remained the same). It fell by 16 per cent for those aged 21 – 25 and by 9 per cent for those aged 25 and over.

By contrast, the number of applicants resident in **Scotland** aged 20 increased modestly by 2 per cent, for those aged 21 – 25 and by 4 per cent, and for those aged 25 and over by 9 per cent.

The number of applicants resident in **Wales** aged 20 fell by 4 per cent and for those aged 21 – 25 by 3 per cent (although overall numbers are small). It increased modestly by 2 per cent for those aged 25 and over.

Male and female applicants

The number of **male** applicants to nursing courses fell more sharply than the rate of female applicants with a 16 and 9 per cent decrease respectively. Whilst the number of 18-year-old male applicants increased by 5 per cent, the number decreased for all other age groups, especially for men aged 25-29 (-21 per cent), men aged 30-34 (-26 per cent) and men aged 35 and over (-23 per cent).

By comparison, the number of **female** applicants aged 18 decreased moderately by 3 per cent, whilst the number of female applicants from all other age groups decreased by between 11 and 16 per cent.

Due to the low number of male applicants, one should be careful not to place too much emphasis on developments by age group for the four nations of the UK. The same applies to the breakdown of EU and non-EU applicants by age group and sex. A few deviations from the national picture are worth noting though:

- In **Scotland**, the sharpest rise (by 21 per cent) in the number of applicants came from females aged 35 and over.
- Similarly, in **Wales** the number of female applicants rose most sharply for those aged 30-34 (by 12 per cent) and those aged 35 and over (by 11 per cent).
- In **England**, the number of applications from all age groups for both sexes decreased with the exception of male 18-year-olds for whom the number of applications increased by 12 per cent compared to 2017.

For more information contact:

Dorothea Baltruks, Senior Policy Officer, dorothea.baltruks@cod-health.ac.uk