



Briefing: Confirmed places for nursing undergraduate courses on A level results day 2018

Briefing Paper: Confirmed places for nursing courses – 16 August 2018

On A level results day, UCAS has [published](#) data on confirmed places on A level results day.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

Decrease in overall acceptance rate but higher entry rate for 18-year-olds

In total, more than 353,960 people from across the UK have been accepted so far this year – a 2 per cent decrease compared to A level results day 2017.

In **England**, a record 27.9 per cent of the 18-year-old population have been accepted through UCAS. In **Wales** 26.3 per cent of young people will be starting an undergraduate course, also a record. In **Northern Ireland**, the entry rate is 28.1 per cent. **Scottish** students received their exam results last week, and 25.9 per cent of all 18-year-olds have now been accepted.

A total of 411,860 have been placed on an undergraduate course, so far. This is a 1 per cent decrease on A level results day last year, although comes alongside a 2.5 per cent drop in the number of 18-year-olds in the UK population. Of those accepted, 88 per cent will be studying their first choice course.

A record 16.1 per cent of people from the most **disadvantaged backgrounds** have been accepted, a rise of 0.4 percentage points on 2017. However, the gap between the most and least advantaged groups remains the same as last year.

26,400 **EU students** have been accepted to study in the UK, which is an increase of 1 per cent on A level results day 2017, alongside a record 31,510 students from **outside the EU** (an increase of 4 per cent).

Nursing figures

Placed applicants by route

Compared to the 2017 cycle, the number of placed applicants for nursing courses overall is down 2 per cent with a total of 21,030 placed applications. The number of placed applicants from outside the EU is 18 per cent higher (100 applicants in total) than in 2017, whilst the number of placed applicants from the EU (excluding the UK) is 11 per cent lower.

Figure 1: Placed main scheme applicants to nursing from all domiciles: A level results day

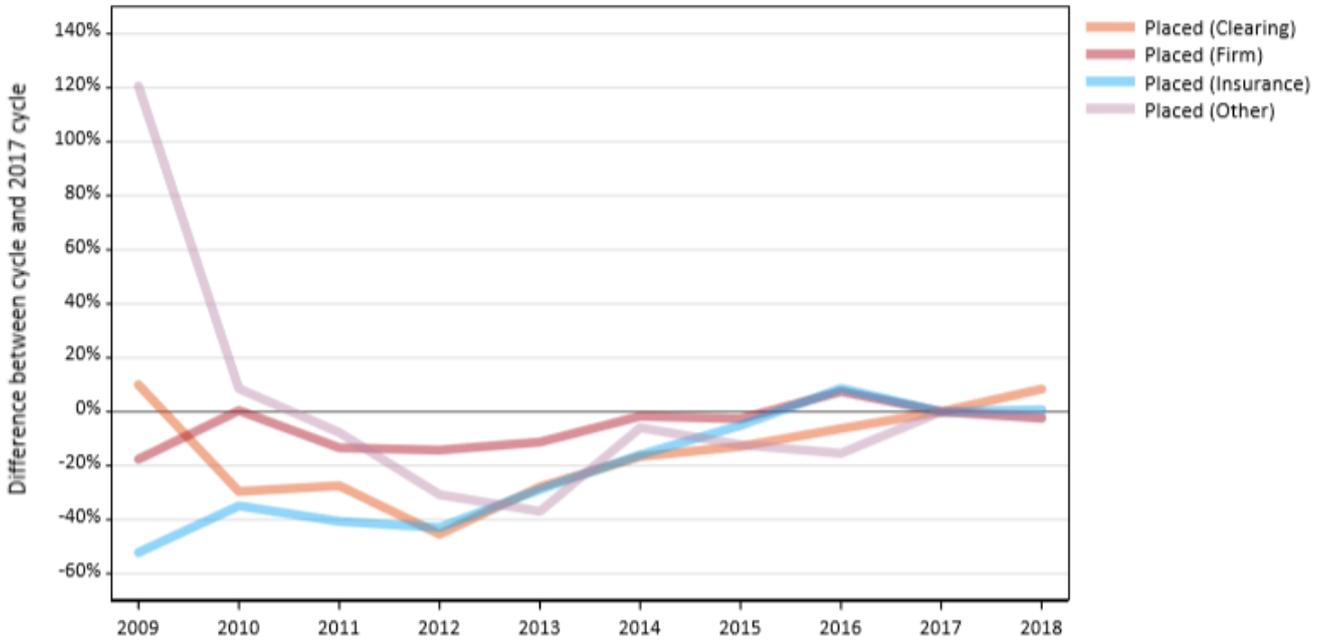
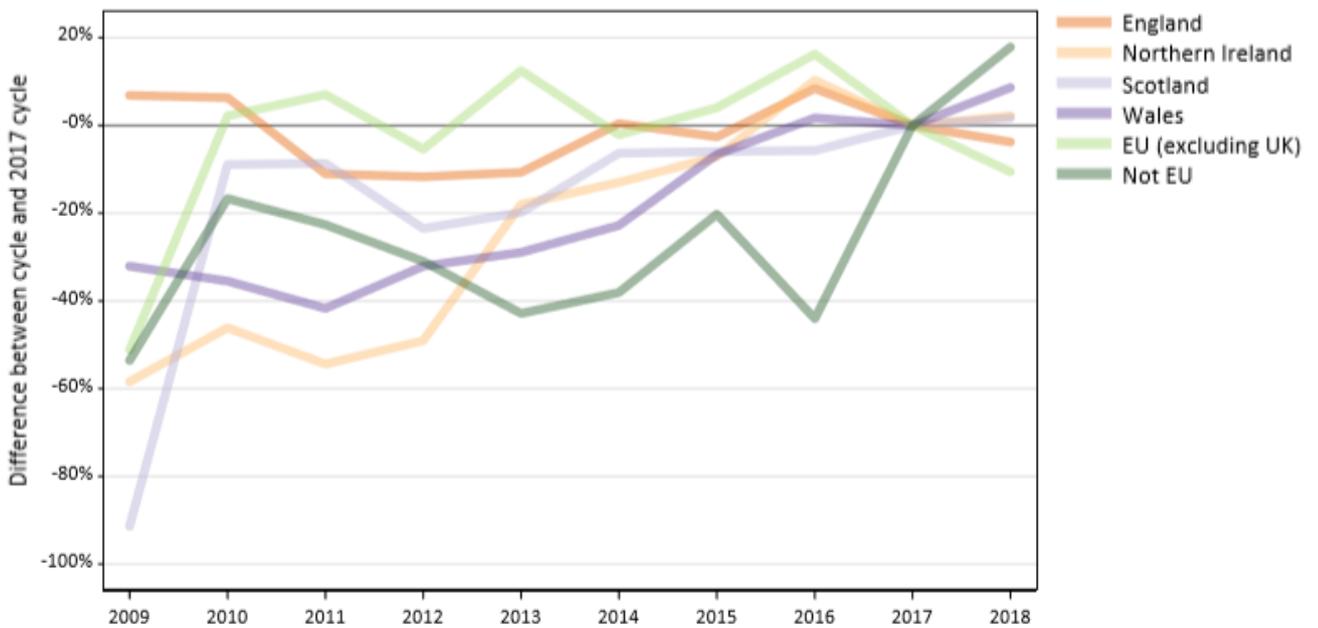


Figure 2: Placed applicants to nursing at A level results day: providers in the UK



The number of main scheme applicants that were placed through Clearing is 8 per cent higher than last year. The number of placed applicants that came through the firm route is 2 per cent lower than last year

and the number of placed applicants that came through the insurance remained the same (although it makes up a slightly higher proportion than last year due to the overall decrease in the number of placed applicants).

Main scheme applicants not currently placed

The number of applicants to nursing courses who are holding an offer but are not currently placed is 8 per cent higher than it was in 2017. 14,540 applicants are free to be placed in Clearing, which is 23 per cent fewer than last year.

The number of applicants to nursing courses from the EU (excluding the UK) not currently placed with a holding offer is 4 per cent higher than in 2017, whilst the number of them free to be placed in Clearing is 12 per cent lower. The number of applicants from outside the EU not currently placed with a holding offer is 52 per cent higher and the number of those free to be placed in Clearing is 7 per cent higher than last year.

Placed and not currently placed applicants by domicile group

The overall number of placed applicants from **England** is 4 per cent lower than in 2017. The number of applicants who came through Clearing is 6 per cent lower, that for the firm route is 4 per cent lower and that for the insurance route is 4 per cent lower. The number of not currently placed applicants with holding offers is 8 per cent higher than last year whilst the number of those free to be placed in Clearing is 29 per cent lower. The number of applicants who were placed direct to Clearing remained the same.

The overall number of placed applicants from **Northern Ireland** is 2 per cent higher than in 2017. The number of applicants who came through Clearing has remained the same, whilst that for the firm route is up 3 per cent and for the insurance route up 13 per cent. The number of not currently placed applicants with holding offers is 24 per cent higher than last year whilst the number of those free to be placed in Clearing is 20 per cent lower.

The overall number of placed applicants from **Wales** is 9 per cent higher than in 2017. The number of applicants who came through Clearing has remained the same, whilst that for the firm route is up 9 per cent and for the insurance route doubled (although numbers are very small). The number of not currently placed applicants with holding offers is 5 per cent lower than last year whilst the number of those free to be placed in Clearing is 1 per cent lower.

The overall number of placed applicants from **Scotland** is 2 per cent higher than in 2017. The number of applicants who came through Clearing increased by 117 per cent (although numbers are small), whilst that for the firm route and the insurance route remained the same. The number of not currently placed applicants with holding offers is 17 per cent higher and the number of those free to be placed in Clearing is 2 per cent higher than last year.

Placed applicants by domicile and age group

The proportion of 18-year-olds who are placed on nursing courses as a proportion of the 18-year-old population has increased in all four nations by between 0.6 per cent (England) and 1.3 per cent (Northern Ireland). However, there is a clear difference in changes in the number of applicants by age group between the four nations with similar developments in England and Wales that differ from Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The number of placed applicants **aged 18** from England and Wales has increased by 6 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. By comparison, the number of placed applicants aged 18 from Scotland and Northern Ireland has decreased by 12 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

The number of placed applicants **aged 19** from England and Wales has decreased by 10 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. By comparison, the number of placed applicants aged 18 from Scotland and Northern Ireland has decreased by 5 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.

The number of placed applicants **aged 20-24** from Northern Ireland and Scotland has remained the same but is up 5 per cent for placed applicants from Wales and down 8 per cent for applicants from England.

The number of placed applicants **aged 25 and over** from England is 5 per cent lower than in 2017. By contrast, the number of placed applicants in that age group from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland has increased by 13 per cent, 9 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Placed applicants by domicile and sex

Overall, the number of placed applicants to nursing courses has decreased by 2 per cent for both men and women compared to 2017. Given the small number of **men** entering nursing courses, changes for this group for the four nations are marginal. Changes in the number of **women** entering nursing courses are therefore in line with overall developments described above.

For more information contact:

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