



# Briefing: UCAS deadline applicant statistics for June 2020

## Briefing Paper: Nursing applicants at the 30 June deadline – 9 July 2020

UCAS has published data on undergraduate applications processed by UCAS ahead of the 30 June 2020 deadline. It shows an unprecedented 15% increase in the total number of applicants to nursing courses in the UK compared to 2019. About 7,800 more people applied to study nursing than in 2019.

- There was an 17% increase overall in **English domiciled applicants**, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** rose by 16%, the number of **Welsh domiciled applicants** rose by 5% and there was a 6% decrease in **Northern Irish domiciled applicants**.
- The number of applications for nursing courses received by providers in **Scotland** increased by 9%, for those based in **England** by 14%, and for those based in **Wales** by 4%.
- Across the UK, there was an 8% increase in applicants aged 18, no significant difference in the number of applicants aged 19, a 10% increase in the number of applicants aged 20-24, and a 17% increase in the number of applicants aged 25-29. The largest growth in applicant numbers could be seen for applicants aged 30-34 (+25%) and for applicants aged 35 and over (+35%).
- The number of **male** applicants to nursing courses increased slightly more than the rate of **female** applicants with a 26% and 14% increase respectively.

## Headlines for the whole higher education sector

### Overall application rate increases

Overall, there was a 2.3% increase in the total number of people applying to higher education, to 652,790, compared to the same figure in 2019.

### Increase in 18-year-old applications

The percentage of 18-year-olds who apply to go to university has continued to increase in most parts of the UK and now stands at 40.5%. London continues to have the highest percentage of 18-year-olds applying for university at 53.6%. The rate in England has increased to 41.3% and to 48.2% in Northern Ireland compared to 33.6% in Wales and 32.3% in Scotland.

### Increase in mature applications

The number of UK applicants aged between 30-34 increased for the first time in five years. This can partly be attributed to a rise in nursing applicants in this age group.

### International applications rise despite Covid-19 restrictions

Despite travel restrictions and lockdowns, the number of applicants from outside the EU has increased by 10% compared to 2019. This includes a 24% increase in applicants from China and a 23% increase in applicants from India. The number of applicants from the EU has decreased by 2% compared to 2019.

### Increase in BAME applicants

Whilst the number of White UK-domiciled applicants has remained the same, the number of Black UK-domiciled applicants has increased by 6%, the number of Asian applicants by 5% and the number of applicants from a mixed background by 5% compared to 2019.

This trend is even more pronounced for applicants resident in Scotland, where the number of Black applicants increased by 14%, the number of Asian applicants by 6% and the number of those from a mixed background by 5% whilst the number of White applicants decreased by 1%.

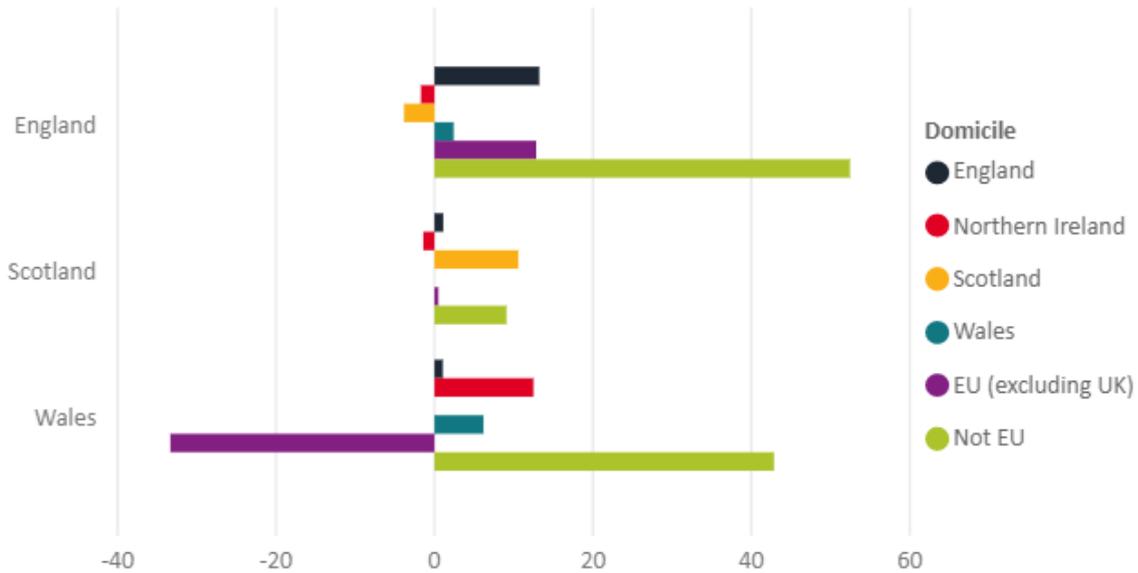
## Nursing figures

The overall number of applicants to UK undergraduate nursing courses ahead of the 30 June deadline has **increased by 15%** from 42,820 to 45,430. This is marginally higher than the total number of nursing applicants across the UK in the 2017 cycle (45,090).

### Applications by country of provider

The number of applications for nursing courses received by providers in **Scotland** increased by 9% (21,710 in 2019; 23,640 in 2020), for those based in **England** by 14% (129,670 in 2019; 147,250 in 2020), and for those based in **Wales** by 4% (9,680 in 2019; 10,080 in 2020).

Figure 1: The percentage change in the number of applications by country of provider



### Applicants by domicile group

There was a 17% increase overall in **English domiciled applicants** compared to 2019, rising from 36,810 to 42,970. Similarly, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** rose by 16% (6,160 in 2019; 7,130 in 2020), and the number of **applicants domiciled in Wales** rose by 5% (3,130 in 2019; 3,290 in 2020). By contrast, the number of **applicants domiciled in Northern Ireland** decreased by 6% (2,610 in 2019; 2,500 in 2020).

The overall number of applicants from the **UK** increased by 15% (48,700 in 2019; 55,900 in 2020) and the number of **EU** (excluding the UK) applicants increased by 6% (1,190 in 2019; 1,260 in 2020), whilst the number of **non-EU** applicants increased by 41% (990 in 2019; 1,400 in 2020).

Applications from **EU** (excluding UK) applicants to providers in England have increased by 7% (730 in 2019; 780 in 2020). The number remained the same for providers in Scotland (740) and it decreased by 27% for providers in Wales (150 in 2019; 110 in 2020).

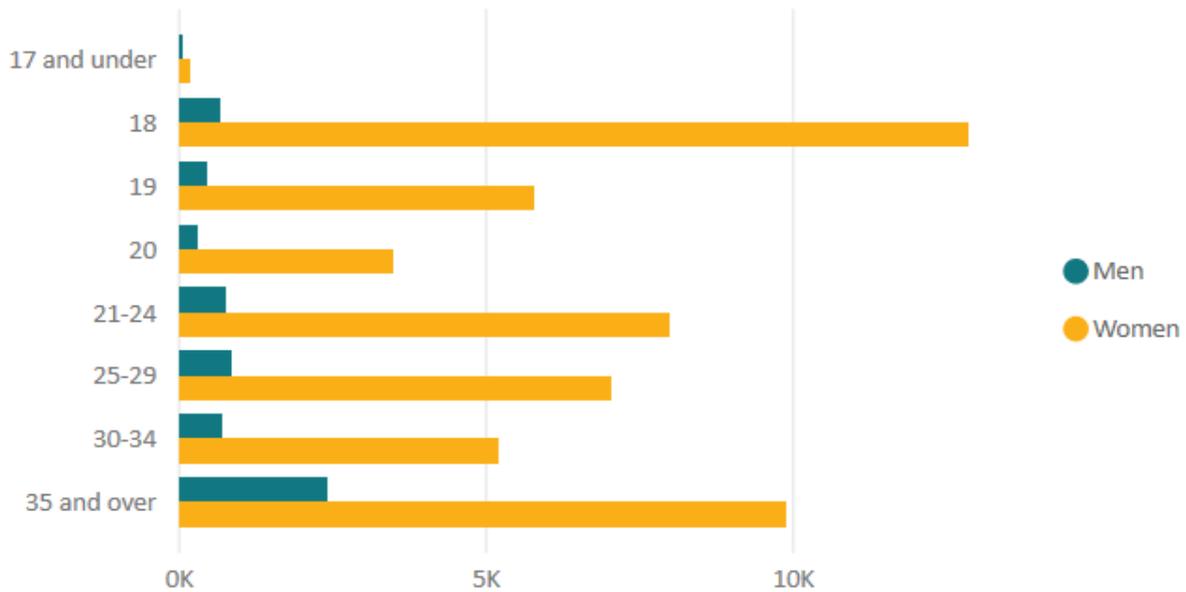
Providers in England did receive 47% more applications from **non-EU** applicants than last year rising from 900 to 1,320. Scottish providers saw a 16% increase (190 in 2019; 220 in 2020) and providers in Wales a 50% increase in applications (60 in 2019; 90 in 2020) from **non-EU** applicants.

### Applicants by age

The number of applicants to nursing courses has increased for every age group except 19-year-olds compared to 2019. Across the UK, there was an 8% increase in applicants aged 18 (12,490 in 2019; 13,530 in 2020), no significant difference in the number of applicants aged 19 (6,250 in 2019; 6,230 in 2020), a 10% increase in the number of applicants aged 20 (3,460 in 2019; 3,790 in 2020), a 10% increase in the number of applicants aged 21-24 (7,950 in 2019; 8,760 in 2020), and a 17% increase in the number of applicants aged 25-29 (6,750 in 2019; 7,890 in 2020). The largest growth in applicant numbers could be

seen for applicants aged 30-34 (+25% from 4,710 in 2019 to 5,890 in 2020) and for applicants aged 35 and over (+35% from 9,100 in 2019 to 12,290 in 2020).

Figure 2: Number of applicants to nursing courses by age and gender ahead of 30 June 2020 deadline



### *Applicants aged 18 by domicile*

The number of 18-year-old applicants resident in **England** was 9% higher than in 2019, rising from 9,200 to 10,060. Similarly, 18-year-old **Welsh domiciled applicants** increased by 10% (from 630 to 660) and **Northern Irish domiciled applicants** by 3% (from 960 to 990). There was a 2% decrease in the number of 18-year-old applicants resident in **Scotland** (1,300 in 2019; 1,280 in 2020).

### *Applicants aged 19 by domicile*

The overall number of 19-year-old applicants decreased slightly. The number of 19-year-old applicants domiciled in **England** remained stable (4,390 in 2019; 4,410 in 2020). It decreased by 5% from those domiciled in **Northern Ireland** (420 in 2019; 400 in 2020) and by 14% for those domiciled in **Wales** (420 in 2019; 360 in 2020). There was a 5% increase from 19-year-old **Scottish domiciled applicants** (580 in 2019; 610 in 2020).

### *Applicants aged 20 by domicile*

The number of 20-year-old applicants resident in **England** was 10% higher than in 2019, rising from 5,660 to 6,230, and the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** was 20% higher, rising from 350 to 420. The number of 20-year-old applicants resident in **Wales** and **Northern Ireland** remained stable.

### *Applicants aged 21-24 by domicile*

The number of 21-24-year-old applicants resident in **England** was 10% higher than in 2019, rising from 2,460 to 2,710, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** was 19% higher, rising from 990 to 1,180, and the number of applicants domiciles in Wales rose by 5% from 550 to 580. The number of 21-24-year-old applicants resident in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 5% from 370 to 350.

### *Applicants aged 25-29 by domicile*

The number of 25-29-year-old applicants resident in **England** was 16% higher than in 2019, rising from 4,770 to 5,540, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** was 27% higher, rising from 970 to 1,230, and the number of applicants domiciles in Wales rose by 8% from 520 to 560. The number of 25-29-year-old applicants resident in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 12% from 250 to 220.

### *Applicants aged 30-34 by domicile*

The number of 30-34-year-old applicants resident in **England** was 28% higher than in 2019, rising from 4,710 to 5,890, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** was 16% higher, rising from 740 to 860, and the number of applicants domiciled in Wales rose by 21% from 340 to 410. The number of 21-24-year-old applicants resident in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 16% from 190 to 160.

### *Applicants aged 35 and over by domicile*

The number of applicants aged 35 and over resident in **England** was 40% higher than in 2019, rising from 9,100 to 12,290, the number of **Scottish domiciled applicants** was 26% higher, rising from 1,180 to 1,490, and the number of applicants domiciled in Wales rose by 4% from 480 to 500. The number of applicants aged 35 and over resident in **Northern Ireland** decreased by 14% from 210 to 180.

## **Male and female applicants**

The number of **male** applicants to nursing courses increased slightly more than the rate of **female** applicants with a 26% and 14% increase respectively. The number of **male** applicants **aged 18** was only marginally higher than in 2019, whilst the number of **male** applicants **aged 35 and over** increased by 47% and male applicants aged 30-34 by 38%.

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 variations are worth noting though:

- In **England**, there was increase in the number of male applicants (3,640 in 2019; 4,540 in 2020) to nursing courses and female applicants (33,160 in 2019; 38,440 in 2020) with a 25% and a 16% increase respectively.
- In **Scotland**, the increase in male applicants was higher than the increase in female applicants with 37% and 14% respectively. This brings the number of Scottish domiciled male applicants to 740 which is the highest it has been in the last decade.

- In **Wales**, whilst there was a 22% increase in the number of male applicants compared to 2019 bringing the total to 280. The number of female applicants domiciled in Wales increased by 4%.
- In **Northern Ireland** there was a slight decrease in both male and female applicants.

### First-time and reapplicants

- The number of **first-time applicants** to nursing courses was 16% higher than in 2019 to 50,500, and the number of **reapplicants** increased by 12% to 8,050.
- The number of **first-time applicants** from **Northern Ireland** was 7% lower than last year (2,160 in 2019; 2,000 in 2020), whilst the number of those from **Scotland** was 16% higher (5,190 in 2019; 6,040 in 2020), the number of those from **England** was 17% higher (31,740 in 2019; 37,200 in 2020) and the number of those from **Wales** was 7% higher (2,630 in 2019; 2,820 in 2020). The number of first-time applicants from the **EU** (excluding the UK) was 6% up (1,080 in 2019; 1,140 in 2020) and the number of **non-EU** first-time applicants was 46% higher (900 in 2019; 1,310 in 2020).
- At the same time, the number of **reapplicants** from **Wales** fell by 6%, whilst it increased for reapplicants from **England** by 14%, from **Scotland** by 12%, and from **Northern Ireland** by 11%. The number of reapplicants from the **EU** (excluding the UK) rose slightly whilst the number of **non-EU** reapplicants remained very small.

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